

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Trafficking in Human Beings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/debtext/110509-0003.htm#11050939000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration and Asylum Law

Dr Julian Huppert (Cambridge) (LD): What her policy is on measures to ensure that children born overseas to unmarried male British citizens before 2006 are treated in a manner equivalent to those born after 2006. [54328]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am grateful to my hon. Friend for reminding the House of this odd hangover from previous legislation. Children born overseas to unmarried British fathers before July 2006 were unable to acquire citizenship by descent from their father. However, the UK Border Agency will register such people as British citizens if an application is made before their 18th birthday.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Julian Huppert: I thank the Minister for those comments. He was also sympathetic when my hon. Friend the Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) raised this matter two years ago. Will he seek a legislative opportunity to correct this situation by statute rather than rely on discretion, which may or may not be applied to children who may or may not be inside the country?

Reply from Damian Green: As I said, my hon. Friend makes a valid point. There is, however, an established registration route for children born to British unmarried fathers under section 3 of the British Nationality Act 1981, which allows the Home Secretary to register any child under the age of 18 as a British citizen, and this discretion has been used for many years. Of course those who are not able to register because they are over the age of 18 can instead naturalise as British citizens if they are resident in the UK and meet the requirements for naturalisation. As he says, any change to the nationality law would have to be made through primary legislation and there is no appropriate vehicle before the House at the moment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/debtext/110509-0001.htm#11050912000022>

Immigration

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle the abuse of the immigration system through sham marriages. [54340]

Reply from Damian Green: We have taken a number of steps to tackle this problem, targeted enforcement action led to 155 arrests last year and the dismantling of several organised facilitation groups. We are working closely with registrars and clergy, and have agreed procedural changes with the Church of England to allow greater scrutiny. We will publish a wider consultation on family migration later this year to strengthen further our approach.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/text/110509w0002.htm#11050940000004>

Student Visas

John Howell: What estimate she has made of the likely effect of her policy on student visas on the number of visas issued in the 12 months following its implementation. [54319]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The policy will be fully implemented by the end of 2012. From then on, the estimated reduction is about 70,000 main applicant visas a year, plus a further reduction in student dependants of about 20,000.

John Howell: I thank the Minister for that response. Will he add to it by telling us what responses he has received from universities on the student visa changes?

Reply from Damian Green: This is an important point because, when we proposed this radical change the universities were understandably worried. Following our announcement, however, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the university sector. Indeed, Universities UK has said that the reforms "will allow British universities to remain at the forefront of international student recruitment."

I am delighted that the policy has been so welcomed by the sector.

Alun Michael: In view of the importance of overseas students to the finances of British universities and to the wider UK economy, does the Minister agree with the Home Affairs Committee that students should not be counted within migration numbers?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The problem with the approach of the Home Affairs Committee, which, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, I always take very seriously, is that this is not my definition or the Government's definition; it is an international United Nations definition that an immigrant is someone who moves to and settles in a country for more than a year. Any attempt to solve the immigration crisis that the Government inherited simply by changing the definitions would not be credible with the British public. People know that we have an immigration problem, and they want stern, robust action to be taken to solve it. That is what the Government are providing, and it is much more effective than changing definitions.

Robert Halfon: Is the Minister aware that, according to a number of stories, in addition to bogus colleges, there are colleges that engage in corrupt practices such as asking students for money in return for certificates? Will the Government take steps to crack down on those colleges as well, as they are often licensed by the Home Office?

Reply from Damian Green: Indeed we will. My hon. Friend makes a good point. This is about not just bogus colleges colluding with bogus students but bogus colleges conning would-be genuine students, both of which need to be stamped out. In the past 12 months we have revoked 21 tier 4-sponsored licences and suspended more than 70. We are also increasing our enforcement activities to drive out the widespread abuses we have found.

Gerry Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary and the immigration Minister have told us that the policy of reducing the number of student visas is an integral part of their overall policy to reduce net migration by tens of thousands by 2015, but the reality is that the policy is in tatters. The Home Secretary and the Minister say that that is the policy, but the Business Secretary and the Lib Dems say that it is not. The Prime Minister said recently:

"No ifs, no buts. That's a promise we made to the British people."

Will that promise be kept, given the agenda and proposals on visitors and relatives, and will he get the Lib Dems' agreement?

Reply from Damian Green: I think there was a question in the middle of that. I am happy to assure the hon. Gentleman that we will of course meet our commitment to reduce net immigration to the tens of thousands by the end of this Parliament. If he is going to talk about confusion, he should talk to the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper), who said that immigration was coming down in the last years of the Labour Government, although the figures that we have published show that it was going up. The points-based system without a limit was not solving the immigration crisis that her Government created, and this Government are taking effective action across the board that will resolve the crisis that we inherited.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/debtext/110509-0001.htm#11050912000016>

Student Visas

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect of her policy on student visas on the number of visas issued in the 12 months following its implementation. [54341]

Reply from Damian Green: The policy will be fully implemented by the end of 2012. From then on the estimated reduction is of the order of 70,000 main applicant visas a year, plus a further reduction in student dependents of about 20,000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/text/110509w002.htm#11050940000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of foreign students have overstayed since the Certificate of Acceptance of Studies/General Student Visas system was implemented. [54033]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK in breach of immigration controls, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally. The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but is not yet fully rolled out. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a complete travel history record on all passengers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/text/110509w0003.htm#11050940000017>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Gordon Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation she has undertaken with (a) further education colleges and (b) other interested parties on the effects of the proposed differential between students studying at further education colleges and universities in respect of hours of eligibility for part-time work. [54899]

Reply from Damian Green: A public consultation on proposals for reform of the student route was conducted by the Home Office; this consultation closed on 31 January 2011. All the responses received during the consultation period shaped the final policy decisions that were taken, including on the ability for students to work during their studies. Full details of the final policy changes we are making to tier 4 are set out in the document “Student Visas—Statement of Intent and Transitional Measures”, which was published on 31 March 2011. Copies are available in the House Library.

Gordon Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether international students studying higher education courses at further education colleges will be allowed to work for 20-hours a week on the same basis as their university counterparts under the proposed new regulations. [54901]

Reply from Damian Green: In summer 2011, we will make the next set of changes to the student immigration system following on from the recent consultation on the route, including changes to the ability for students to work. Students sponsored by publicly-funded further education colleges will be given permission to work of 10-hours per week during term-time, and full-time during vacations. Students studying at privately funded providers of further and higher education, and at English language schools will not be granted permission to work at any time during their studies. This is set out in the document “Student Visas—Statement of Intent and Transitional Measures”, which was published on 31 March 2011. Copies are available in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110510/text/110510w0003.htm#11051093000028>

Immigration

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are inconsistencies in the decisions of immigration judges and in the procedures of immigration bail hearings; and, if so, what plans they have to improve the situation.[HL8830]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The decision whether to grant bail, and if so, on what terms and on what procedure to adopt, is a matter for the judgment of immigration judges of the First-tier Tribunal in the individual cases that come before them in accordance with tribunal rules and guidance issued by the chamber president. Immigration judges have to make difficult judgments, on limited information, often in respect of people whose identity cannot be verified and whose links to the community may be fragile. Nevertheless, they aim to refuse bail only in cases where there is both statutory authority and a demonstrated justification for doing so. I understand that the president of the Upper Tribunal and the president of the First-tier Tribunal are working together to provide further guidance to immigration judges to help ensure that this aim is acknowledged and applied throughout the jurisdiction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110512w0001.htm#11051252000374>

Asylum Seekers

Stephen Phillips: What progress her Department has made in reducing the number of bogus asylum seekers. [54333]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): A system that makes timely decisions and removes people who have no right to stay in the UK is the biggest deterrent to false claims. The Government are committed to increasing the speed and quality of the processing of asylum claims, and the UK Border Agency is making faster decisions and removing people more quickly.

Stephen Phillips: I am grateful to my right hon. Friend for that answer. Bogus asylum claims result in a huge cost to the taxpayer through asylum support. What will the Government be doing to reduce the amount of money spent on asylum support?

Reply from Theresa May: I am happy to tell my hon. and learned Friend that we have reduced the cost of asylum support by more than £100 million from the 2009-10 total, delivering substantial savings to the taxpayer. That is the result of action that has been taken to ensure that we clear up the legacy of old asylum cases, speed up the processing of asylum claims and remove more quickly those not entitled to protection. Our asylum improvement project aims to go further.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/debtext/110509-0001.htm#11050912000024>

Asylum

Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of (a) providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers, (b) processing asylum applications and (c) deporting unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last three years. [53143]

Reply from Damian Green: The cost of providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers in each of the last three years is given in the following table. It is not possible to provide the cost of processing asylum applications without incurring disproportionate cost.

It is also not possible to provide the cost of deporting asylum seekers as the UK Border Agency does not record these costs separately. The National Audit Office report 'Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency', published on 23 January 2009 and available to view at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

provides a range of upper- and lower-end cost estimates for people who are detained or removed in different circumstances (for example, for a single

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

undetained adult who is removed after exhausting his/her appeal rights, the process will cost between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support costs, and between £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support costs). A copy of this report is available in the House Library.

<i>Cost of accommodation and support for asylum-seekers</i>			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Initial accommodation	19.0	14.9	8.5
Dispersed accommodation	127.8	123.0	99.7
Section 4 support	90.8	101.9	55.7
Cash support	69.0	68.1	55.6
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children	142.1	150.7	114.9
One-Stop Service	—	10.1	10.2
Wraparound	—	—	4.1
Total	448.7	468.7	348.7

Note: The figures for 2010-11 are unaudited and are subject to possible adjustment. Figures-for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are taken from the audited accounts of the UK Border Agency.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 312W, on asylum, in which month of 2011 the UK Border Agency expects to conclude the backlog of legacy asylum claims; and what instructions have been issued to UK Border Agency staff on how to respond to enquiries by claimants on the conclusion of their claims. [53697]

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. The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all the outstanding “legacy” cases. A small unit has been set up in the North West region. This will continue concluding those cases that have been reviewed but not concluded. They will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that should come to light. Claimants have details of the case team dealing with their application. To improve the service that the UK Border Agency provides whilst minimising the impact of calls on productivity, claimants can contact the case team in writing or via a dedicated e-mail inbox with enquiries relating to their claims.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people (a) applied for asylum, (b) were granted asylum on initial decision, (c) were granted exceptional leave to remain on initial decision, (d) were granted humanitarian protection on initial decision, (e) were granted discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, (f) were refused either asylum, exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, (g) appealed their initial decision, (h) were granted asylum on appeal, (i) were granted some form of protection after appeal, (j) were refused asylum or other protection after appeal, (k) were the subject of enforced removals, (l) were the subject of notified voluntary departures, (m) were the subject of assisted voluntary returns and (n) were former asylum seekers who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities in each year from 1997 to 2010. [54493]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The number of people who applied for asylum, were granted asylum on initial decision, were granted exceptional leave to remain on initial decision, were granted humanitarian protection on initial decision, were granted discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, were refused asylum, exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain on initial decision—(a) to (f)—is provided in the following table:

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110510/text/110510w0002.htm#11051093000016>

Illegal Immigrants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted leave to remain after (a) 10 years legal residence and (b) 14 years illegal residence in the UK in each year between 1997 and 2010. [54384]

Reply from Damian Green: The following table shows the number of people granted leave to remain after making a long residency application for (a) 10 year legal residence and (b) 14 years illegal residence in the UK covering the period 1 April 2003 to the 31 December 2010. The figures are separated by the year in which a decision was made.

The provision to grant indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the basis of 14 year long term residence, along with that of 10 year long term residence, was introduced into the immigration rules in April 2003. Therefore we are unable to provide data prior to this date.

<i>Number of individuals granted leave to remain</i>			
	<i>(a) 10 year legal residence</i>	<i>(b) 14 year illegal residence</i>	<i>Total</i>
2003 (from April)	2,043	952	2,995
2004	2,260	781	3,041
2005	2,581	730	3,311
2006	3,391	799	4,190
2007	2,411	949	3,360
2008	2,148	902	3,050
2009	3,042	2,061	5,103
2010	4,759	1,774	6,533
	22,635	8,948	31,583

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110510/text/110510w0003.htm#11051093000031>

Immigration: Detention

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals are currently held in immigration detention; from which countries they arrived; and what was (a) the cost, and (b) the average length of detention, for each of the past three years for which figures are available.[HL8829]

Reply from Earl Attlee: The requested items of information are unavailable.

However the latest published figures show that as at 31 December 2010 2,525

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

people were detained in immigration removal centres solely under Immigration Act powers. It is not possible to say which countries they arrived from. The average direct cost of holding someone in an immigration removal centre for 2010-11 was £105 per day. Rather than calculate the average statistic for time spent in detention, the Home Office presents the data as ranges because this is a more informative overview and is not subject to distortions by a small number of cases with large values. The table below shows the length of detention of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers at immigration removal centres as at the last snapshot date in each of the past three years.

Length of detention ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	As at 27 December 2008	As at 31 December 2009	As at 31 December 2010
7 days or less	205	180	215
8 to 14 days	195	160	185
15 to 28 days	270	395	370
29 days to less than 2 months	475	510	555
2 months to less than 3 months	245	300	260
3 months to less than 4 months	165	230	200
4 months to less than 6 months	240	280	220
6 months to less than 1 year	295	325	265
1 year or more	150	210	255
Total	2,250	2,595	2,525

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

⁽²⁾ Figures include dependants.

⁽³⁾ Relates 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.

⁽⁴⁾ 2 months is defined as 61 days; 4 months is defined as 122 days; 6 months is defined as 182 days.

^(M) Management information.

The Home Office publishes statistics on detention, 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 Science, Research and Statistics website at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics>.

Q1 2011 figures will be available on 26 May 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110510w0001.htm#11051071000806>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

System 'getting better' says immigration minister

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/system-getting-better>

Managing migration while respecting human rights law

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

New Publications

House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee: Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201012/ldselect/ldmerit/144/144.pdf>

Children entering detention (M)(1) held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age and place of initial detention, February and March 2011

<http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-0757.zip>

International Organization for Migration Glossary on Migration (new edition)

<http://www.west-info.eu/files/iom.pdf>

News

100 images of Migration Competition

<http://www.migrationmuseum.org/competition/>

Probe into Scottish university visa scam

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/probe-into-scottish-university-visa-scam-1.1100947>

Immigration team sent to detain woman was not told she was pregnant

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/13/immigration-team-detain-woman-pregnant>

Public report 300 immigration abuses every day

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8509356/Public-report-300-immigration-abuses-every-day.html>

Overseas relatives of British families to lose visit visa appeal rights

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/09/overseas-relatives-british-families-visa-appeal>

UK slashes number of trusted English language testers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/may/10/tefl-international-education-news>

Europe moves to end passport-free travel in migrant row

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/12/europe-to-end-passport-free-travel>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

New Publication

Living together Combining diversity and freedom in 21st-century Europe

<http://book.coe.int/ftp/3667.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Schools: Race Equality

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidential factors were considered when assessing the race equality impact of the current Education Bill. [HL8685]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The Government considered a wide range of evidence in developing the policies reflected in the Education Bill and in considering their impact on race equality. The equality impact assessment, published at the time of the introduction of the Education Bill, summarises these factors. It draws on data from the national pupil database and from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, on studies based on those data, and on independent reports, such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission report How fair is Britain?

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence exists and is used to assess the race equality impact for black pupils attending academies. [HL8686]

Reply from Lord Hill of Oareford: The department published an equalities impact assessment for the academies programme in 2010. It included an assessment of the intake to academies by ethnic group and an assessment of the Key Stage 4 results of pupils by ethnic group. The equalities impact assessment is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/inclusionandlearnersupport/inclusion/equalityanddiversity/x0063621/equality-impact-assessments-carried-out-since-may-2010>.

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the available evidence for under-achieving in education by black pupils in academies and in other schools. [HL8687]

Reply from Lord Hill of Oareford: The department published an equalities impact assessment for the academies programme in 2010. Please see the link to the current assessment below: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/inclusionandlearnersupport/inclusion/equalityanddiversity/a0063621/equality-impact-assessments-carried-out-since-may-2010>.

In December 2010, the department published a Statistical First Release titled GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2009-10. The publication can be downloaded from the department's website at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000977/index.shtml>.

A detailed breakdown of the national results for each cohort between 2006 and 2010 by ethnic group and by other pupil characteristics is available in the Excel version of table 1 in this publication, and is available from the same departmental webpage: http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000977/SFR37_2010.xls.

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the available evidence of the number of exclusions for black pupils attending academies compared to other schools. [HL8688]

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Hill of Oareford: The department published an equalities impact assessment for the academies programme in 2010. It included a comparison of the exclusion rates in academies and other schools by ethnic group.

Below is the link to the equalities impact assessment on the department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/inclusion%20andlearnersupport/inclusion/equalityanddiversity/a0063621/equality-impact-assessments-carried-out-since-may-2010> .

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110511w0001.htm#11051181000240>

Schools: Race Equality

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence was used to assess the race equality impact for black school pupils who are prevented from making appeals against their permanent school exclusions and are consequently disproportionately represented in pupil referral centres.[HL8689]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): We do not have data on the proportion of appeals lodged, or the proportion that are successful and lead to reinstatement, for any specific ethnic group. The information available to us, and of which we took account was:

in 2008-09, there were 6,550 permanent exclusions (down from 8,130 in 2007-08, a fall of 19.4 per cent); in only 60 cases did an appeal result in the independent appeal panel ordering reinstatement; and permanent exclusions of black pupils fell from 700 to 540, a reduction of 23 per cent. Black pupils are still overrepresented statistically among those permanently excluded, but the gap is narrowing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110512w0001.htm#11051252000388>

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what subjects the cross-governmental ministerial level group on Gypsies and Travellers has discussed; and what have been its decisions.[HL9002]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Ministerial Working Group on preventing and tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers is looking at ways to address issues which have an adverse impact on these communities including better engagement between Gypsies and Travellers and service providers; a community-led promotion of small privately owned site development; identifying ways to improve health outcomes; a community-led proposal to raise Gypsy and Traveller educational aspirations and encourage greater parental engagement and support for children to remain in the education system; better access and engagement with employment and benefits services; and improving access to financial products and services.

The Ministerial Working Group will provide a progress report to the Cabinet Committee on Home Affairs in the summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110511w0001.htm#11051181000229>

Equality (continued) News

Campaign to help ethnic families

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/real-lives/campaign-to-help-ethnic-families-1.1100422>

BBC producer's public service views 'on par with religion'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/bbc/8501819/BBC-producers-public-service-views-on-par-with-religion.html>

Election results 2011: equalities and diversity in Holyrood, Cardiff Bay and Stormont

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/may/09/scottish-parliament-northern-ireland-welsh-assembly-election-results-diversity>

The judiciary is becoming more diverse, but too slowly

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/may/09/judiciary-becoming-diverse-slowly>

British forces ethnic breakdown: get the data

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2009/mar/01/military-race>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-00007 Bob Doris: Fighting Sectarianism and Anti-Irish Racism—That the Parliament expresses its concern at reports of racist and sectarian intimidation and high-profile related incidents in Scottish football; believes that these incidents must be investigated thoroughly; would welcome a partnership approach to tackle racism and sectarianism, and pledges to develop a long-term consistent strategy for tackling sectarian-motivated behaviour that will endure long after the latest set of media headlines have faded from memory, both in football stadiums and across Glasgow and Scottish society.

No direct weblink is currently available, but the Motion is included in the Business Bulletin

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-11/bb-05-13f.htm>

Press Release

OSCE human rights office launches new hate crimes training programme for law enforcement officers

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/77522>

News

Jail vow to tackle religious hate

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13399728>

Celtic fan jailed for monkey taunt at El Hadji Diouf

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Celtic-fan-jailed-for-monkey.6766710.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Sheriff forced to adjourn trial of students accused of anti-semitism

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Fife/article/13875/sheriff-forced-to-adjourn-trial-of-students-accused-of-anti-semitism.html>

Bigotry has no place in football

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/bigotry-has-no-place-in-football-1.1101157>

Fans warned on sectarian singing as tensions grow

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/fans-warned-on-sectarian-singing-as-tensions-grow-1.1101422>

Alex Salmond: sectarianism in Scottish football 'will be eradicated'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/8509548/Alex-Salmond-sectarianism-in-Scottish-football-will-be-eradicated.html>

Dennis Canavan hits out over bigotry

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Dennis-Canavan-hits-out-over.6768412.jp>

Kirk admits it persecuted Travellers

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Kirk-admits-it-persecuted-Travellers.6768393.jp>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Release

Tricia Marwick MSP elected as the Scottish Parliament's first female Presiding Officer

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-11/pa11-012.htm>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Election 2011

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-11/SB11-29.pdf>

News

Scotland's 129 MSPs sworn in after SNP win

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13351212>

SNP MSP Tricia Marwick elected presiding officer

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13362676>

Elaine Smith MSP and John Scott MSP elected as Deputy Presiding Officers

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-11/pa11-013.htm>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Forced Marriage

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to aid victims of forced marriages to determine and regularise their marital status. [HL8799]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 implemented in November 2008 provides greater protection for those at risk, preventing forced marriage and enabling courts to make orders to protect victims. While the Act cannot end a forced marriage that has already taken place, there is existing legislation to end a forced marriage under Section 11 (Void), and Section 12 (Voidable), of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

A marriage can be annulled by a court if it can be proved that the marriage was either void or voidable.

A void marriage is one where, although the parties have been through a ceremony of marriage, they have never acquired the status of husband or wife owing to the presence of some impediment (ie the marriage could not legally have taken place). A marriage can be void for several reasons including where either party is under the age of 16, as may apply in a forced marriage case.

A voidable marriage is a marriage which is legally valid when entered into but which may be subject to subsequent annulment by a court if a party to the marriage challenges its validity. In the absence of such a challenge a voidable marriage remains valid. A marriage can be voidable for several reasons including in cases where either party did not validly consent to the marriage, whether in consequence of duress, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise. In a voidable annulment based on lack of consent due to duress, the party applying would have to prove to the court that there was sufficient fear or pressure to override their true intent. This is regularly used by victims of forced marriages.

In partnership with other government agencies, such as the Forced Marriage Unit, we are continuing to raise awareness of forced marriage among communities and practitioners through community engagement and outreach programmes and to provide support to victims of forced through the ongoing provision of the Forced Marriage Unit's national helpline. The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) cannot provide legal advice, but signposts victims to suitable advice and support. This includes the organisation resolution, who have established a specialist accreditation scheme for legal professionals which includes forced marriage and honour-based violence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110511w0001.htm#11051181000227>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Vodafone and JustGiving launch free text donation service

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/FundraisingBulletin/1068760/Vodafone-JustGiving-launch-free-text-donation-service/D9BABE3F3987B6C62E5BB9FB44394CEC/?DCMP=EMC-CONFundraisingBulletin>

Other News (continued)

Muslim women take on environmental challenge

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/muslim-women-take-on-environmental-challenge-1.1100420>

Inspirational! Asian women of achievement

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/inspirational-asian-women-of-achievement-2284254.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2011/0060/amend/ml060-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2011/0060/amend/su060-ia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2011/0060/amend/su060-ib.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2011/0060/amend/ml060-ii.htm>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110510-0001.htm#11051068001828>

Scotland Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

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

Equality Act 2010: Ending age discrimination in services, public functions and associations (closing date 25 May 2011)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010/age_consultation_2011.aspx

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>

Consultations (continued)

Planning for traveller sites (England and Wales) (6 July 2011)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

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 or contact Kirsty Horne k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk.

**** Network on Migration Action Group**

8 June 2011 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

Migrants Rights Scotland meeting to consider the development of a rights-based network on migration in Scotland and take leadership in bringing about change. For information contact Hyo Eun Shin csp@migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk

Ethnic Minority Workplaces Event

10 June 2011 in Glasgow (9.45 – 2.00)

NHS event to create awareness of Workplace Health Improvement Initiatives in addition to Healthy Working Lives Awards amongst ethnic minority workplaces in Glasgow. For information contact Mariam Abbas at mariam.abbas@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

Celebrate 60 Years of Sanctuary

16 June 2011 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00)

Refugee Survival Trust networking evening to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the right to asylum as set out in the UN Refugee Convention. For information see http://rstnetworking.eventbrite.com/?utm_source=TMP+Supporters&utm_campaign=944c57821f-TMP_Post_April_2014_11_2011&utm_medium=email

Resource or Roadblock? Faith Community Responses to Violence Against Women

19 May 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Women's Aid seminar to explore the role that faith communities have in preventative measures to abuse and effective responses to disclosures of abuse. For information contact info@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Youth Interfaith Conference

21 June 2011 in East Kilbride (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference in partnership with the Scottish Inter Faith Council for 16 to 26 year olds to explore interfaith in Scotland including the role of the media in portraying faith, faith and identity in Scotland, and hate crime. For information contact Anton Stephenson Anton.Stephenson@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk / 01786 456 993.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Supporting Charities in Financial Difficulties

21 June 2011 in Inverness (2.00 – 4.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors only. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=e7fa2654-8add-46f3-b8c5-2694d484ff50>

BA in Community Development programme

Applications accepted until mid August 2011, Course begins September 2011

The University of Glasgow's BA in Community Development is sponsored by BEMIS as part of its programme for capacity building strategy for the ethnic minority's voluntary sector. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis.pdf and http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis2.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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