

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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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 5 September 2011, and the UK Parliament will be in recess from 20 July to 5 September 2011. During the summer MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 1, 15, and 29 August, and 12 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Family Migration

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Today, I am publishing a consultation on family migration. Immigration has enriched our culture and strengthened our economy, but uncontrolled immigration places pressure on our public services and on community cohesion. The Government have already introduced a limit on non-European economic area economic migrants entering the UK; have reshaped tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system to increase selectivity and skills requirements; have started implementing changes to tier 4, the student visa system; and are currently consulting on breaking the link between economic migration and settlement, and on other temporary work routes. These policies will reduce net migration, but we need to take action across all routes to ensure this returns to sustainable levels and we bring a sense of fairness back to our immigration system.

This consultation on family migration is the next in our programme of immigration reforms.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

In the year to September 2010, family migration accounted for around 17% of all non-EU immigration to the UK.

The proposals included in the family consultation are aimed at tackling abuse, promoting integration and reducing burdens on the taxpayer. A contribution to reduced net migration would be welcome but is not the primary goal. The focus is on delivering better family migration: better for migrants, for communities and for the UK as a whole.

The consultation concentrates on the family route: those non-EEA nationals entering, remaining in or settling in the UK on the basis of a relationship with a British citizen or person settled in the UK. This includes fiancé(e)s, proposed civil partners, spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same-sex partners, dependent children and adult and elderly dependent relatives. In 2010, 48,900 visas were granted to people on the family route, of which 40,500 were issued to people on the basis of marriage or civil or other partnership, and 8,400 were issued to dependants.

We set out firm proposals for reform of the family route. The key elements are: a minimum income threshold for sponsors to provide appropriate maintenance, on which we have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to advise; in line with other routes, extending the probationary period from two years to five years before a spouse or partner can apply for settlement (and before which non-contributory benefits may not be claimed. Access to the labour market, to the NHS and to schooling will be unaffected by this change); and a requirement to understand everyday English before settlement is granted. We propose that all those seeking settlement or citizenship should demonstrate an appropriate level of English, and we will consider whether changes to the current testing regime could further assist integration.

We also propose to help UK Border Agency caseworkers consider spouse and partner applications by defining what we mean under the rules by a genuine and continuing relationship, marriage or partnership; to end immediate settlement, and immediate access to benefits, on entry for spouses and partners who have been married or in a relationship for at least four years before coming to the UK, and for adult dependent relatives, including those aged 65 or over, and to require both groups to complete a five-year probationary period; and to look at arrangements for dependent relatives aged 65 or over to settle in the UK, reflecting health and social care costs to the taxpayer.

The consultation also invites discussion on some broader propositions, particularly in relation to tackling sham marriages and forced marriages. On sham marriages these build on existing joint work between the UK Border Agency and the General Register Offices across the UK, local registration services and the Anglican Church. They also explore the case for legislative change in England and Wales, including making “sham” an impediment to marriage and allowing a marriage to be delayed while a suspected sham is investigated.

It is important that we look at family migration in the round and so the consultation also deals with other family migration issues.

In 2010, 45,200 dependants under the points-based system were granted a visa with a route to settlement in the UK. The consultation proposes moving to a five-year probationary period and everyday English for settlement for the spouses and civil and other partners of points-based system migrants, in line with other groups.

Many British citizens and persons settled in the UK have family members living outside the UK. This results in a high volume of visa applications from people wishing to visit family here. In 2010, 350,300 family visit visas were issued, with around 73% granted on initial decision by the visa officer. In 2010-11, 95% of family visit visa applications were decided by the UK Border Agency within 15 working days.

We have reviewed the arrangements for the operation of the family visit visa. We are concerned that taxpayer funding of around £40 million per year is being spent on appeals where appellants are commonly misusing the appeals system, by submitting information

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

on appeal which should have been put forward as part of the original application, or where a second application (costing another £76) is the most appropriate route for securing a visa. We are also concerned that this is a disproportionate use of taxpayer funding (for an appeal process which can take up to 34 weeks to be concluded) for the benefit sought: a short-term visit to the UK. Greater priority should be given to appeal cases that have far-reaching impacts for the individuals concerned and for the public at large, for example asylum claims, settlement applications and the deportation of foreign criminals.

In the light of this, we are reviewing the full right of appeal for family visit visas and we invite views on whether there are circumstances in which an appeal right should be retained, beyond the race discrimination and human rights grounds which, in line with other categories of temporary entry clearance, will continue to be available.

Finally, the consultation invites discussion on the balance to be struck on article 8 of the European convention on human rights (the right to respect for private and family life) between individual rights and the public interest in public protection and maintaining immigration controls. Article 8 is not an absolute right and our proposals aim to set out requirements that must be satisfied in family migration cases which are consistent with our ECHR obligations. We also want to be clear about the circumstances in which the public interest will outweigh an individual's article 8 right.

Details of the public consultation can be found on the Home Office website and a copy will also be placed in the Library of the House.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 6 October 2011, and we will announce our firm plans in due course, with a view to implementing changes during 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110713/wmstext/110713m0001.htm#11071359000007>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration: Advisory Service

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government how immigrants and asylum seekers will be provided with legal advice and representation following the entering into administration of the Immigration Advisory Service.

Reply from Baroness Northover: My Lords, it is clearly regrettable that the Immigration Advisory Service's trustees have decided to place the organisation in administration. However, the IAS is one provider in a wider market of immigration and asylum advice. The Legal Services Commission is identifying alternative provision for the areas affected, as well as making the necessary arrangements for case transfers.

Baroness Hamwee: My Lords, the IAS had almost 25,000 new cases last year, of which 8,500 were asylum cases. That leaves about 10,000 live cases. What assurances can the Government give: first, to clients, especially those whose cases are at a critical time-limited point and who need information in their own languages about what will happen next; and, secondly, on practical matters, including the number of staff retained by the administrators to deal with such things as the transfer of files? My noble friend will know that a year after the closure of Refugee and Migrant Justice many files are still in storage, with the storage company looking for payment before cases can proceed.

Reply from Baroness Northover: The IAS was audited and the Legal Services Commission identified potential overclaims representing millions of pounds. That is what has led to this train of events. The LSC is working very hard to transfer cases and is prioritising the most vulnerable first, among them cases of unaccompanied children claiming asylum and cases coming up to tribunal

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

immediately. A large number of people working in this area are prepared to take on this work, which is very encouraging for making a smooth transfer and making sure that clients are well looked after in this situation.

Lord Dubs: Is there not a danger that with the cutback in money for legal aid, it is not possible for other organisations to fill the gap left by the Immigration Advisory Service? Is not the real problem that asylum seekers will be caught in limbo, possibly becoming destitute because there is no one to represent them properly?

Reply from Baroness Northover: This is a problem in the IAS, which projected that it would have a return profit of £500,000 even with the proposed legal aid reforms. This is not an issue about legal aid reforms but a problem in the IAS: a large debt that it cannot address and which the Legal Services Commission has decided should not be written off. Many other organisations want to take on this work. Carolyn Downs, the chief executive of the Legal Services Commission, said in the other place yesterday: "we have a huge number of people contacting us who are prepared to take on that work".-[*Official Report, Commons, Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill Committee, 12/7/11; col. 72.*]

Baroness Sherlock: I declare an interest as former chief executive of the Refugee Council. Can the Minister assure the House that the quality of specialist immigration law that will be available in the future will as good as in the past? Is she aware of the differential success rates of people getting very good legal advice? Does she accept that removing immigration law from the scope and cutting the budget of legal aid for asylum may make it harder? I am sure that most noble Lords would not dream of buying a house without decent legal advice, and certainly no one should be forced to defend their life without it.

Reply from Baroness Northover: The Legal Services Commission has a certain threshold for demanding the kind of quality that the noble Baroness is talking about. That continues to be the case, and we are encouraged that a large number of providers are willing to take on this work, which helps drive up the quality.

Lord Bach: My Lords, will the Minister ensure that every case that is currently with the IAS will be transferred to a competent provider of legal advice and representation? I think she has already indicated that she will make sure that that happens. Furthermore, because of the Government's proposals in the Bill, all immigration cases, except those of individuals in detention, will be outside the scope of legal aid, including cases of domestic violence. This means that in every case, however complicated, no legal advice or legal aid will be available. Does the Minister, who has a proud liberal reputation, not feel more than a little uncomfortable at depriving people of access to justice in this way?

Reply from Baroness Northover: How very kind of the noble Lord. On his first point, three IAS hub centres will be kept open for the moment: in Manchester, Birmingham and Bradford. They are facilitating the transfer of these cases. I am sure that we will have very interesting debates coming down the track on legal aid, but this has nothing to do with the proposed changes.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, will my noble friend say how many IAS staff will be retained in the three offices that she has just mentioned to deal with the transfer of files, and whether she considers that they will be able to do it adequately, bearing in mind that, as she has already said, there are still files that have not been transferred after the demise of the RMJ, even though there has been more than a year to do this? Does she agree that the number of matter starts given to the IAS is so large that they could not be taken up by other practitioners, especially in regions such as East Anglia and Yorkshire, where the IAS has either 100 per cent or most of the legal aid and asylum cases?

Reply from Baroness Northover: I disagree with what my noble friend says about adequate provision perhaps not being in place. I am very encouraged by what the chief executive of the Legal Services Commission said. The transfer of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

files is better organised than it was in the previous case that he referred to, and we are confident that this will be taken forward very effectively.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110713-0001.htm#11071356000440>

Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made for a visa by non-EEA workers under tier 2 of the points based system in each region in each year since 2008. [65100]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of applications made for a visa by non-EEA workers under tier 2 of the points based system (PBS) by region and in each year since 2008 is shown in the following table. It should also be noted that tier 2 of the PBS was introduced on 27 November 2008.

Region	2008	2009	2010
Africa	32	2,180	2,309
Americas	46	10,172	11,978
Euro-Med	17	3,634	4,718
Gulf	25	1,986	2,866
Pacific	50	8,687	10,828
South Asia	165	25,688	37,491
Total	335	52,347	70,190

Notes: 1. The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change. 2. The figures include dependents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110712/text/110712w0003.htm#1107131000017>

Immigration

James Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU-member state have migrated to the UK in each quarter since the fourth quarter of 2009. [64488]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have migrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in each quarter since the 4th quarter of 2009 (64488)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of migrants entering and leaving the UK. The following table shows estimates of long-term migration by non-EU citizens for each quarter from the quarter ending March 2010 to September 2010. These data are provisional and are based upon the International Passenger Survey.

These estimates are of numbers of moves each year rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear three times in this table. These figures were provided as part of the response to the Parliamentary Question (Hansard Ref 63715) relating to the number of people who have immigrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in (b) Each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Provisional long-term international migration estimates from International Passenger Survey: Immigration of non-EU citizens to the UK 2010 Q 1 to 2010 Q 3, United Kingdom

Thousand

	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>SE% ⁽¹⁾</i>
2010 Q1	65	5
2010 Q2	40	6
2010 Q3	134	4

⁽¹⁾ Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error of >25% is not considered to be reliable. For any given estimate there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies in the range: estimate +/- 0,0196 x estimate x standard error %.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110711/text/110711w0005.htm#1107121000018>

Immigration

James Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) non-UK EU nationals and (c) non-EU nationals were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. [64525]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) non-UK EU nationals and (c) non-EU nationals were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. 64525

Tables 1 and 2, as follows, show estimates of the total number and proportion of persons employed for UK nationals, non-UK EU nationals and non-UK and EU nationals by full-time and part-time employment for each year since 1997.

Table 3 shows UK nationals by type of employment as a percentage of the total UK population aged 16-64 over the same time period. Labour market statistics published in the monthly "Labour Market Statistical Bulletin" previously described as working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59) have now been replaced with statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women. Consequently, the estimates provided have been produced on this basis.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110712/text/110712w0002.htm#11071294000070>

Asylum

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency will complete its review of the screening process for detecting vulnerable persons. [64867]

Reply from Damian Green: The Asylum Screening Reform Programme is looking at improvements that can be made within the Asylum Screening Unit to the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

physical environment, the screening process and to staff skills. The aims of the programme are to make the asylum system both more efficient and more responsive to the needs of applicants. Improvements to the screening arrangements are already under way; and will continue throughout this year.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the UK Border Agency will pause in its removal of asylum seekers until the new screening process can determine whether those currently in Detention Fast Track have been victims of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. [64868]

Reply from Damian Green: No. The Asylum Screening Reform Programme is looking at improvements that can be made within the Asylum Screening Unit to the physical environment, the screening process and to staff skills. The aims of the programme are to make the asylum system both more efficient and more responsive to the needs of applicants.

If any asylum applicant within the Detained Fast Track procedure claims to have been the victim of abuse, this claim is considered by the case owner who has responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing their detention.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Office plans to complete its clearance of unresolved asylum cases following the completion of the Legacy Case programme. [64869]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all outstanding legacy cases. There remain a number of cases that have been reviewed but remain to be concluded. These cases have been transferred to the Case Assurance Audit Unit (CAAU). It will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that should come to light.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110712/text/110712w0003.htm#110713100012>

Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which (a) countries and (b) regions (i) foreign prisoners and (ii) illegal immigrants are not returned; and for what reason in each case. [63851]

Reply from Damian Green: There is no country to which the UK would not return those with no right to stay in the UK. However situations may arise in relation to any country, where practical barriers temporarily prevent actual removals from taking place. Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Failed asylum seekers, illegal immigrants and foreign national prisoners of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK, are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced if they do not leave voluntarily.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she uses to determine whether a foreign national should be excluded or deported from the UK on the grounds that his or her presence is not conducive to the public good. [64705]

Reply from Damian Green: Foreign nationals who are assessed to be non-conducive to the public good are routinely, but not exclusively, excluded or deported on the grounds of national security, criminality, unacceptable behaviour, war crimes or international relations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110712/text/110712w0003.htm#110713100015>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work her Department is undertaking with police forces to implement a victim-centred approach to trafficking. [65222]

Reply from Damian Green: We are raising awareness and providing training to the police to help them deal with victims of trafficking.

Each of the UK's 55 police forces has a senior investigator trained in dealing with incidents of human trafficking. An awareness-raising DVD has also been provided to all police forces and Stop the Traffik cards have been issued to 10,000 front line neighbourhood police officers.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) plays a key role in embedding human trafficking into core policing through the delivery of training and tactical advice available to all police officers, including access to a 24/7 helpline.

On 1 June 2011 the Metropolitan Police Service launched a free victim support line to encourage men and women who have been trafficked into the UK to report the crime to the police.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on co-operation in (a) tackling the causes of human trafficking and (b) preventing human trafficking within the EU. [65246]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government work closely with their European partners on human trafficking matters through the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) liaison officer network, and the European liaison officers based in the UK and at Europol.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is also engaged in upstream prevention work with EU partners and chairs the EU-wide Human Trafficking Strategy Group.

In June 2011 the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), met her French counterpart, Claude Gueant, to discuss their continued commitment to tackling organised immigration crime, including human trafficking. In June 2011 I addressed the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe conference on trafficking for labour exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110712/text/110712w0003.htm#1107131000021>

Human Trafficking

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the principal countries of origin of victims of human trafficking into the UK. [65244]

Reply from Damian Green: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) collects information on a victim's nationality rather than their country of origin. An analysis of the NRM data from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011 shows that the following are the top seven nationalities for referrals, reasonable grounds and conclusive grounds decisions:

Referral

1. Nigerian
2. Chinese
3. Vietnamese
4. Romanian
5. Czech
6. Slovak

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

7. UK

Reasonable grounds

1. Nigerian
2. Vietnamese
3. Chinese
4. Romanian
5. Czech
6. Slovak

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7. UK

Conclusive grounds

1. Romanian
2. Nigerian
3. Czech
4. UK
5. Slovak
6. Chinese
7. Vietnamese

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110713/text/110713w0003.htm#1107143000081>

Human Trafficking: Children

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as trafficked in the last 12 months; how many of those children have (a) seen (i) a qualified social worker and (ii) an advocate and (b) a nominated independent reviewing officer; and how many of them have lost contact with authorities before their case can be determined. [65851]

Reply from Damian Green: Between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011 a total of 217 children believed to be trafficked were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Of the 217 referrals of children to the NRM, seven absconded/went missing before a Conclusive Grounds Decision was made.

Information requested on the numbers of children who have seen a qualified social worker, an advocate and an independent reviewing officer is not centrally collected. However, all children who become looked after must be allocated a social worker and an independent reviewing officer. They should also have access to an advocate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110713/text/110713w0003.htm#1107143000082>

Press Releases

Government launches consultation on family migration

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/20-family-migration>

New UK Border Agency chief executive is appointed

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/24-chief-executive>

European Integration Fund should be increased to finance immigrants' integration at local and regional level

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/cp-84-2011-en-integration-of-immigrants.doc>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council response to closure of Immigration Advisory Service

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1283_our_response_to_closure_of_immigration_advisory_service_ias

New Publications

Family migration: evidence and analysis

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ94/occ94?view=Binary>

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons: Report on an unannounced inspection of the short-term holding facility at: Heathrow Airport Terminal 3

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/heathrow-terminal-3-sthf.pdf>

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons: Report on an unannounced inspection of the short-term holding facility at: Heathrow Airport Terminal 4

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/heathrow-terminal-4-sthf.pdf>

Refugees, migrants and the Equality Act 2010: A briefing for refugee and migrant community organisations

http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/EDF-Briefing_Community-Organisations_Web_draft-3.pdf

Refugees, migrants and the Equality Act 2010: A briefing for public authorities

http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/EDF-Briefing_Public-Authorities_Web_draft-32.pdf

Out of Control: The case for a complete overhaul of enforced removals by private Contractors

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_21634.pdf

News

Immigration Advisory Service goes into administration

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14105065>

Shock as immigration charity closes

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/shock-as-immigration-charity-closes-1.1111647>

Tens of thousands lose support as Immigration Advisory Service closes

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jul/11/immigration-advisory-service-closes-blames-government>

New visa plan for Yemeni passengers at UK airports

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14155669>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Legal aid cuts to immigration could mean 'injustice, hardship and even loss of life'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jul/15/immigration-advisory-service-legal-aid-cuts>

Poor to be banned from bringing spouses to the UK from overseas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/13/home-office-proposals-family-migration>

Immigrant relatives face five-year wait to claim benefits

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/13/immigrant-relative-claim-benefits>

Legal aid cuts are leaving migrants lost in a maze

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jul/13/immigration-advisory-service-legal-aid-cuts>

International migration: where do people go and where from?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/jul/12/immigration-destination-countries-list-migration-statistics>

Minorities 'targeted' by NHS fraud squad

<http://www.nursingtimes.net/whats-new-in-nursing/news-topics/health-workforce/minorities-targeted-by-nhs-fraud-squad/5032009.article>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Italy: Sikhs

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Italian counterpart the respect given by Italian government authorities to the Sikh turban. [64186]

Reply from David Lidington: I am aware of specific incidents in Italy where members of the Sikh community have been asked to remove their turbans for security checks at airports. I understand the distress this will have caused. According to reports from our embassy in Rome, the Italian authorities confirmed in June that Sikhs would no longer be required to remove their turbans at airports. The Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), wrote to all her EU counterparts in June to explain a trial being undertaken in the UK of an alternative procedure for delivering elements of EU regulations on screening passengers prior to travel. I hope this procedure will be considered by EU authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110711/text/110711w0005.htm#110712600021>

Press Release

Practical measures to promote a culture of tolerance

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

Race Relations (continued) New Publication

Religion and belief in higher education: the experiences of staff and students
http://www.ecu.ac.uk/publications/files/religion-and-belief-staff-and-students-in-he-report.pdf/at_download/file

News

Parallel lives? Not in Church of England schools
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jul/13/church-of-england-schools-diversity>

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Equality

Westminster Early Day Motion

Gary Streeter (2081) Religious Liberty in Public Life - That this House welcomes the decision of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to intervene in support of four cases involving discrimination against Christians that are presently with the European Court of Human Rights; notes that this is a long overdue recognition of the need to defend religious liberty and marks an important development in relation to a better understanding of the role of faith in public life; and further welcomes the Commission's advocacy for reasonable accommodation in the workplace as an acknowledgement of the place of conscientious objection for those with religious belief.
<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-11/2081>

New Publication

UK Government Equalities Office: Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/annual-report?view=Binary>

News

Equality commission backs religious claims
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14116964>

Church in government talks over right to express faith at work
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3090310.ece>

Church calls for more ethnic minority leaders
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3091685.ece>

Church votes to recruit minorities
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-votes-to-recruit-minorities-2312024.ht>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Commission proposes 'reasonable accommodation' for religion or belief is needed

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/july/commission-proposes-reasonable-accommodation-for-religion-or-belief-is-needed/>

News

New Scottish police unit to tackle sectarianism

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-14105881>

New anti-sectarian police unit to be launched today

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/07/11/new-anti-sectarian-police-unit-to-be-launched-today-86908-23263629/>

New team to beat match day bigots

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/new-team-to-beat-match-day-bigots-day-1.1111392>

All Scottish fans and players get code of conduct in crackdown on sectarianism

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/All-Scottish-fans-and-players.6799919.jp>

Glasgow Queen's Park shooting was 'racially motivated'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-14108170>

Thug who ripped a burkha from a woman's face is jailed

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/07/14/thug-who-ripped-a-burkha-from-a-woman-s-face-is-jailed-86908-23270008/>

Imam calls for 'inter-faith dialogue' after attack on Muslim woman

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Fife/article/15687/imam-calls-for-inter-faith-dialogue-after-attack-on-muslim-woman.html>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Gypsy and Traveller Planning

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110713/halltext/110713h0001.htm#11071366000003>

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Other News

Muslims boycott airport

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/muslims-boycott-airport-1.1111801>

Other News (continued)

Minorities 'alienated by airport security'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Minorities-39alienated-by-airport-security39.6800483.jp>

Muslims quizzed 15 times at airport, says MSP

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/muslims-quizzed-15-times-at-airport-says-msp-1.1112000>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/01-offbehfoot/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Scotland Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Equality and Human Rights Commission consultation on strategic plan 2009-12

(22 July 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/vision-and-mission/our-strategic-plan/consultation-on-our-strategic-plan-2009-12/>

Scotland-specific sections of the consultation

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/The_Commission_in_Scotland/scotland-specific_consultation_areas_for_focus_pdf.pdf

Scotland Bill (9 September 2011)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-11/scotbill11-s4-003.htm>

Employment related settlement, Tier 5 and overseas domestic workers

(9 September 2011)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/employment-related-settlement/>

VAT: Cost Sharing Exemption (30 September 2011)

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_P ROD1_031398

Consultations (continued)

**** Family Migration** (6 October 2011)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/family-migration/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Race Equality and the Big Society

20 July 2011 Webinar (11.30 – 12.30)

Runnymede webinar including the premiere of their short film 'Fair's Fair – Equality and Justice in the Big Society' documenting their investigations into how ethnicity affects people's views on taking local control. For information contact Kamaljeet Gill kam@runnymedetrust.org or see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/332/273/Webinar-Race-Equality-and-the-Big-Society.html>

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

21 (9.30 – 4.30) and 22 (9.30 – 12.30) July 2011 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html> or contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

**** this week!**

Jashn-e Melal (Festival of Nations)

24 July 2011 in Glasgow Concert Hall

Glasgow Inter-Cultural Arts Group festival in partnership with Awards for All, Strathclyde Police, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life. Featuring poetry, music, dance, film, arts, crafts with the best of international and local performers, and artists. For information contact Tom Harrigan 07778 745 630 / tommbe@googlemail.com.

**** next week!**

Forced Marriage Road Show

29 July 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.30)

Shakti Women's Aid and Karma Nirvana event for all professionals in the voluntary or statutory sectors to provide information about the Forced Marriage Act, Lothian and Border's Police response to Forced Marriage, and specialist services provided by the organisers. For information contact Ola 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk. Or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11vii_shakti.pdf

Events/Training/Conferences (continued)

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

2 August 2011 in Glasgow

15 September 2011 in Glasgow

7 October 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3gnyvmm> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

4 (9.30 – 4.30) and 5 (9.30 – 12.30) August 2011 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html> or contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Festival of Politics

20-27 August 2011 in Edinburgh

Series of events at the Scottish Parliament with a theme of *Re-newing Politics in the Age of New Media*. It will feature a number of events looking at how politics, and the wider world, is progressing with social media, new technologies and interaction with each other. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/index.htm>

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.

**** Working with Interpreters**

8 September 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to address practical, professional, and ethical issues about working with interpreters. Includes a briefing on legal obligations and the client's entitlement to communication support. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1011_working_with_interpreters

**** An Introduction to working with separated children**

20 September 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training for those who work with separated children and need to know about the process of seeking international protection in Scotland. Covering the impact of the asylum process on children, trafficking, and age assessment. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1103_an_introduction_to_working_with_separated_children

Events/Training/Conferences (continued)

Access to Universal Healthcare in the Age of Migration

23 September 2011 in London

Migrants' Rights Network conference to highlight experiences from NHS services in working to provide migrant communities with health services, and discuss country-wide initiatives. For information see <http://health4migrants.info/>

Scotland's People – Past, Present & Future

26 October 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.00)

National Records of Scotland conference to discuss how population and household statistics are increasingly important to help inform policies and planning in central and local government, and the third sector. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11x_nrs_conference.doc

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>

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