

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Andrew Selous: What progress the Government has made in reducing the level of immigration. [70935]

Matthew Hancock: What steps she is taking to reduce the level of immigration. [70940]

Reply from The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government introduced reforms to economic migration, including a limit, from April this year, and we have begun to implement significant changes to the student visa system. We are also consulting on changes to family migration, to break the link between work and settlement, and on overseas domestic workers. Taken together, those measures present a comprehensive package to tackle abuse and reduce net migration.

Andrew Selous: The Government's immigration objectives have widespread support across the House and across the country. What is he doing, however, to tackle the links between temporary and permanent migration into this country?

Reply from Damian Green: Along with the list I just read out, that is a long-term issue that we are tackling. Our consultation on employment-related settlement, which was published on 9 June, sets out proposals for breaking the link between work and settlement, including making the skilled migrants route, tier 2, a primarily temporary one.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

One problem that this country has had is that people come here and are not sure whether they are on a permanent or temporary route. That problem does not affect most countries' immigration systems, and we are determined to drive it out from our country's system as well.

Matthew Hancock: What assessment has the Minister made of the economic impact of uncontrolled immigration over the past decade, and what is he doing to ensure that managed migration is, in future, a boost rather than a burden to the economy?

Reply from Damian Green: The problem for the previous Government was that, in letting in uncontrolled numbers, they did not differentiate between those who would bring benefits to the British economy and those who would act as a drag on it. At the heart of our policy is the distinction between those whom we want in this country—the brightest and the best—to study, work and bring long-term benefits to this country, and those whom we do not want, who either evade what they are supposed to be doing, coming here pretending to study but wanting to work, or still more, who come here to live off our benefits system. We will have a much better focused immigration system, as well as significantly lower net migration.

Chris Bryant: One of the groups who have been coming to this country over the past 15 or 20 years—and indeed, for longer—and who have contributed significantly to it socially, culturally and economically are people who study at Christian theological colleges and Bible colleges in the United Kingdom, but they currently face a very difficult time because of the Government's policies. Many Bible colleges may have to close. I am sure that the Minister does not intend that source to dry up, so may I urge him to give specific consideration to the group of people concerned to establish whether there is something that he can do?

Reply from Damian Green: I am happy to reassure the hon. Gentleman that we are in close contact with the various small theological colleges, and are considering how we can resolve the issues involved. As I have said, genuine students studying genuine courses at genuine institutions of study are of course welcome in this country.

Shabana Mahmood: The latest figures show that net migration has risen by 20% to 239,000, that the number of work visas issued by the Government has gone up rather than down since their cap was introduced, and that as a result of the changes in the English language requirement for spousal visas, only 55 visas for a three-month period have been refused. What will it take for the Minister to admit that his rhetoric on immigration does not match the reality, and when will he start being upfront with the British public?

Reply from Damian Green: I am always upfront. Indeed, let me be upfront about the "latest figures" that the hon. Lady has quoted. They are the figures for December last year, and thus cover the last few months of the Labour Government. When that Government introduced the points-based system that the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) said was providing progress in the immigration system, net migration was 165,000; two years later, after two years of Labour policies, it was 239,000. That is why we are acting on the work route, the student route and the family route, and on the link between temporary and permanent migration. Only now that we have a Government who are determined to act across the board on immigration will we get the numbers under control after 13 years of abject failure under Labour.

Julian Huppert: Does the Minister accept that immigration supplies people who are essential to a whole range of activities, such as the work of high-tech companies, research, and a huge number of other activities in my constituency? Will he ensure that that flow continues, and resist the siren calls both from the Opposition and from his own Back Benchers for the Government to clamp down on people whom we desperately need?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: I hope my hon. Friend will recognise that the changes we have made to, in particular, the work-based system allow skilled workers with a specific offer of a specific job to come to this country, while preventing the entry of unskilled workers and of people who pretend that they wish to study when their main intention is to work. In that way we can indeed retain the advantage of those who bring benefits to the country, but without retaining the old immigration system, which was out of control and destroyed public confidence in all kinds of immigration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110912/debtext/110912-0001.htm#1109128000023>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spousal visa applications have been rejected since 6 April 2011 on the basis of not meeting English language requirements. [70859]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of spousal visa applications refused between 6 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 on the basis of not meeting the English language requirement is 55. A monthly breakdown is as follows:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number refused</i>
From 6 April 2011	13
May 2011	24
June 2011	18
Total	55

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000056>

Family Migration

Jason McCartney: What steps she is taking to prevent abuse of the family migration route into the UK. [70929]

Graham Evans: What steps she is taking to prevent abuse of the family migration route into the UK. [70932]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government launched a consultation on family migration on 13 July. This sets out proposals for tackling abuse of the family route, including sham and forced marriages. It also contains proposals to promote integration and reduce burdens on the taxpayer.

Jason McCartney: Does the Minister agree that family migration must be based on a real and continuing relationship and not on a marriage of convenience or a forced marriage?

Reply from Damian Green: That is an important point, because sham marriages not only undermine our immigration system; they damage the institution of marriage. Forced marriage is, if anything, even worse. It represents a breach of human rights, and it is a form of violence against the victim. That is why we are proposing in our consultation to define more clearly what constitutes a genuine and continuing marriage for the purposes of the immigration rules, to help to identify sham and forced marriages. We are also exploring the case for making sham a lawful impediment to marriage in England and Wales.

Graham Evans: Does the Minister agree that British citizens who cannot support their foreign partners should not expect the British taxpayer to do it for them?

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: My hon. Friend makes another good point. Part of our consultation involves ensuring that those who arrive here to get married come into a family that has sufficient means to support them. One of the problems that we inherited was the fact that the institution of marriage was being exploited to circumvent the immigration rules. In tightening up on this, we are not only restoring confidence in the immigration system but helping to bolster the institution of marriage. Both of those are extremely worthwhile efforts.

Fiona Mactaggart: But is it not right that husbands and wives should be able to live together? Will the Minister assure me that spouses applying in countries with very few English language testing centres will not be kept apart from their spouses in this country simply because they cannot prove their competence in English? That is illustrated by the case of the wife of a constituent of mine who has been applying in Brazil for months to prove that she can speak sufficiently good English to join him here.

Reply from Damian Green: If the hon. Lady wishes to write to me about that individual case, I will take a look at it. We have established a network of testing stations around the world so that people are able to take the test. I hope that she will support the concept that, if people come to settle here, they should be able to speak English at a basic level so that they can integrate into British life. If they cannot do that, they can end up leading separate lives, which can cause many problems, especially in our inner cities.

Lisa Nandy: Does the Minister share my concern that refugee family reunion has been classified as immigration for the purposes of legal aid? Given that refugees are in exile and have no option but to be reunited with their families through the legal system here, will he make representations to the Ministry of Justice on this important point?

Reply from Damian Green: The hon. Lady makes an important point. I assume that she is talking about refugees who have already been all the way through the system. Obviously, while people are applying for asylum or for refugee status, our checks have to be more robust than they have been in the past so that we can be absolutely sure that those who benefit from refugee status are those who need Britain's protection, which we have always traditionally given and are happy to give. I will look into the details of the case that she has raised.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110912/debtext/110912-0001.htm#1109128000020>

Academies: Teachers

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the ability of academy schools to acquire visas for foreign teachers. [70432]

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not received any representations on the ability of academies to acquire visas for foreign teachers. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), as the agency responsible for funding and supporting academies, has received inquiries from three academies on the arrangements for employing non-European economic area nationals as teachers. The YPLA has provided these schools with advice based on guidance available on the Department for Education website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/careeropportunities/overseas-trainedteachers/a0077487/uk-border-agency-ukba-requirements-for-bringing-overseas-trained-teachers-to-the-uk>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0002.htm#11090989000127>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Student Visas (English Language Teaching)

Chi Onwurah: What recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on English language teaching centres of changes to the Tier 4 (General) Student visa accreditation scheme. [70928]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): As part of our fundamental reforms to the student visa regime, we are tightening the system of educational oversight for institutions that bring international students to the UK. Colleges must have a satisfactory review by the end of 2012 in order to sponsor new students from overseas. That will have an impact on colleges that do not meet the high standards set by the inspection bodies.

Chi Onwurah: I recently visited International House in my constituency, where students from around the world acquire an understanding not only of the English language but of Newcastle's rich cultural heritage. However, the school faces a sharp drop in applications because of the changes, and in addition a 1,500% increase in the cost of accreditation. In these difficult times, should the Minister not be supporting legitimate schools and not trying to drive them underground?

Reply from Damian Green: Let me deal directly with the hon. Lady's question about accreditation. The previous system failed. It was not rigorous enough, so we are moving to more rigorous inspections, carried out by bodies that have previously inspected the sector, including the Independent Schools Inspectorate. It is vital that we get the inspection of colleges right; otherwise, respectable institutions that deserve to be able to carry on get muddled up with the bogus colleges to which my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has referred, and that does nobody any good—neither the respectable colleges nor genuine students seeking to come here. I hope that the hon. Lady would welcome the fact that we have introduced a better and more rigorous inspection system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110912/debtext/110912-0001.htm#1109128000019>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on support for individuals who have paid course fees and application fees to colleges subsequently discredited by the UK Border Agency. [71191]

Reply from Damian Green: Where the UK Border Agency revokes the license of a Tier 4 sponsor their students have 60 days to find another college that is willing to sponsor them or to leave the UK. The new sponsor must issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and the student must apply for new leave to remain. We would expect colleges to have insurance in place in order to repay fees if necessary, and students should check the position before accepting an offer. Our reforms mean that in future only responsible colleges offering high quality education will be able to sponsor students to come to the UK.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removals involving individuals granted entry clearance to the UK via the student visa route there have been in each of the last five years. [71192]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency standard reports record removals either on the basis of the immigration offence (i.e. illegal working, overstaying) or the removal category (i.e. enforced removal, voluntary departure). The entry clearance route under which the applicant originally entered the UK is not recorded within these removal reports.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from colleges on proposed changes to the student visa system. [71193]

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Reply from Damian Green: The Government are making radical changes to the immigration system. The old student visa regime was open to widespread abuse and failed to protect legitimate students from being exploited by poor quality colleges. The changes we are implementing will tighten up the system, tackle abuse and continue to attract the brightest and the best students from across the world. We have had a significant amount of correspondence from colleges, as they seek to understand and adapt to the new system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110913/text/110913w0003.htm#1109142000023>

Overseas Students: Religion

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with colleges which provide religious education on changes to the Tier 4 accreditation process. [71189]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government's fundamental reforms of student visas will tighten up the system, tackle abuse and ensure we continue to attract the brightest and the best students from across the world. We are moving to a system of more rigorous inspection of those privately funded institutions that sponsor international students, carried out by independent bodies that already inspect the sectors with the highest levels of compliance. There has been a significant amount of correspondence about these changes and a number of discussions at official level with representatives of colleges that provide religious education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/text/110915w0002.htm#11091584000011>

Overseas Students: Employment

Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason overseas students studying at independent colleges are prohibited from undertaking paid work while studying; and if she will make a statement. [70731]

Reply from Damian Green: Under Tier 4 of the points based system (PBS) we have seen that the level of compliance with PBS obligations has been closely aligned to the type of institution, with higher rates of abuse found in the privately funded sector. That is why in July we restricted the right to work to students studying at universities and publicly funded colleges.

It is entirely appropriate to afford greater privileges in areas of the sector with a better track record of both compliance with their sponsor duties and recruitment of international students who are more likely to comply with the terms of their leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/text/110915w0002.htm#11091584000010>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason private colleges which run courses validated by a university are subject to an additional review under tier 4 arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [70732]

Reply from Damian Green: Under Tier 4 of the points based system (PBS) we have seen that the level of compliance with PBS obligations has been closely aligned to the type of institution, with higher rates of abuse found in the privately funded sector. We are moving to a system of more rigorous inspection to be carried out by the independent bodies that have previously inspected the sectors with the highest levels of compliance.

University validation is limited to particular courses and in many cases does not

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cover the majority of courses offered by a college, and is therefore insufficient for Tier 4 purposes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/text/110915w0002.htm#11091584000007>

Female Genital Mutilation

Denis MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on returning girls to countries which are known to practise female genital mutilation. [71086]

Reply from Damian Green: All asylum applications, including those which raise female genital mutilation, are carefully considered by the UK Border Agency on their individual merits, taking into consideration up to date country information.

Asylum or Humanitarian protection will be granted where it is established that an individual adult or child faces a real risk of Female Genital Mutilation in her own country. This will only apply in cases where the country's authorities cannot provide protection, and where there is no reasonable possibility of moving elsewhere in the country to avoid the threat.

The UK Border Agency only enforces the return of those nationals who it is satisfied are not in need of international protection, and it does not seek to enforce returns to any country unless it and the UK Courts are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000059>

Visas

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals for (a) Tier 1 and (b) Tier 2 visa applications have (i) been upheld and (ii) not been successful in the last 12 months for which information is available. [70455]

Reply from Damian Green: Outside the UK, a refusal of entry clearance to a main applicant under all tiers of the points based system (PBS) does not attract a full right of appeal. Main applicants can appeal only on one or more of the following grounds:

that the decision is unlawful by virtue of Section 19B of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c.74) (discrimination by public authorities), and/or

that the decision is unlawful under Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (c.42) (public authority not to act contrary to Human Rights Convention) as being incompatible with the appellant's convention rights.

PBS main applicants can apply for an administrative review, which is a mechanism for reviewing refusal decisions.

PBS dependants who are refused do have full right of appeal. The following figures cover such appeals and the period August 2010 to July 2011.

	<i>Appeals</i>
Tier 1 appeals upheld	430
Tier 1 appeals dismissed	285
Tier 2 appeals upheld	177
Tier 2 appeals dismissed	136

As there is no full right of appeal for PBS main applicants, the above numbers are mainly for PBS dependants.

In addition to the above there have been the following administrative reviews processed during this period:

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Tier 1: 1,743

Tier 2: 733.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will work with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to assess the potential effects of changes to Tier 1 and 2 visas on (a) levels of skill shortage and (b) the UK economy. [70457]

Reply from Damian Green: The Home Office and UK Border Agency work closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and other interested Departments on all significant changes to economic migration policy. The Migration Advisory Committee also considered the input of a limit in its report last year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000067>

Visas: Appeals

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to simplify the visa appeals process. [70487]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government are currently consulting on the circumstances in which a family visit visa appeal should be retained and is inviting suggestions as to how the family visit visa application form and process can be improved in order to reduce the number of appeals. The consultation can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/consultations

In the interim, we are taking steps to simplify the visa appeal process by introducing a single point of lodgement for visa appeals alongside the introduction of appeal fees. The change, which will result in all appeals being lodged at the tribunal, will remove the risk of duplication and delay in the system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000068>

Overseas Workers

Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to prevent trafficking of people following the abolition of the overseas domestic services visa; and if she will make a statement. [70811]

Reply from Damian Green: Details of the steps the Government are taking to prevent the trafficking of people can be found in its Human Trafficking Strategy, published on 19 July 2011: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy

The Government's consultation, Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers, published on 9 June, is open for comment until 9 September. Its proposals on overseas domestic workers include the possible abolition of the route for domestic workers who work in the private household of their employer in the UK. No decision has been made on abolition. We will consider future policy on overseas domestic workers in the light of responses to the consultation.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether doctors working on Tier 2 visas will be exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test at further points when they have to apply for higher specialist training. [70854]

Reply from Damian Green: Doctors who have begun Speciality Training in the UK under Tier 2 are currently exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test when they apply to continue that training. We have no plans to change this.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to decide whether doctors who are non-EEA nationals who have trained in the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

UK will continue to be exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test in light of changes to Tier 2 and Tier 4 visas. [70855]

Reply from Damian Green: We have no plans to remove any Resident Labour Market Test exemptions in relation to doctors who have trained in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000066>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful judicial challenges on human rights grounds there have been to deportation orders this year; how many involved an argument that deportation would disrupt family ties; and in how many cases it has been successfully argued that deportation of a foreign criminal would disrupt family ties. [HL11719]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): As the former chief executive of the UK Border Agency indicated in her letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 October 2010 (copies available in the Library of both Houses), management information in this area is particularly complex. As such, identifying the exact number of foreign nationals who successfully challenged deportation due to interference with their family life would necessitate a review of individual case files. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110914w0001.htm#11091483000300>

Detention Centres: Death

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what investigations she has undertaken into deaths in immigration detention which occurred during August 2011; and if she will publish the findings of any such investigation; [70818] (2) what deaths occurred in immigration detention in each month of each of the last five years. [70820]

Reply from Damian Green: The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) is currently investigating a death that occurred in immigration detention in August 2011. Upon completion the findings of the investigation will be published on the PPO website.

The police are informed of any deaths that occur of individuals detained in, or travelling to or from, an immigration removal centre in the care of UK Border Agency staff or its contractors. They take a decision independent of the UK Border Agency as to whether or not a police investigation is appropriate. All deaths are also referred to the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman who conduct a separate investigation in to the circumstances of the death.

Following the conclusion of the investigation, the office of the PPO publishes an anonymised report on its website.

Five deaths have occurred in the last five years of individuals detained in, or travelling to or from, an immigration removal centre as follows:

April 2010

October 2010

July 2011—two unrelated incidents

August 2011.

It would be inappropriate to comment on the details of these deaths whilst they are the subject of ongoing investigations by the PPO. When concluded, the Ombudsman's report of his investigation is published on the PPO website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110913/text/110913w0003.htm#1109142000020>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to reduce the difference between the estimated number of victims of human trafficking in the UK and the number of potential victims of human trafficking identified by the National Referral Mechanism. [70906]

Reply from Damian Green: Trafficking is by its nature a hidden crime and therefore it is difficult to get a full picture of the numbers involved. Entry to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is voluntary so we cannot force those we suspect of being victims to participate against their will. But we are committed to bringing as many victims as possible into the NRM. To do this we continue to raise awareness of trafficking with frontline partners such as the police, local authorities and health service and have recently increased the number of voluntary sector partners who are able to make direct referrals into the NRM. Working in partnership with the UK Border Agency's audit team and the Strategic Monitoring Group, who are responsible for overseeing the functioning of the NRM, we are also enhancing the way we identify victims of trafficking from those who are referred to us. Details of the steps we are taking can be found in the Government's Human Trafficking Strategy, published on 19 July 2011:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110909/text/110909w0001.htm#11090989000062>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were accepted for consideration as victims of trafficking by the National Referral Mechanism but were subsequently not pursued because the person was the victim of abusive practices but was not trafficked in the latest period for which figures are available. [71993]

Reply from Damian Green: During the first 24 months of the National Referral Mechanism's operation to 31 March 2011, competent authority decision makers found reasonable grounds for believing trafficking had occurred in 895 cases. This is 67% of the cases referred where there has been a decision made. A further 450 cases (33%) did not meet the reasonable grounds threshold.

A competent authority will assess a case according to the definition of trafficking given in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. They are not responsible for assessing whether a person is a victim of other abusive practices or crimes. Criminal allegations may be investigated by the police and wider protection issues are considered by the UK Border Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/text/110915w0002.htm#11091584000008>

Press Releases

MAC report: Revised shortage occupation list to cover a smaller proportion of labour market

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/32-mac-revised>

Reforming family migration to promote better integration

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/40-migration>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Skilled shortage sensible: Full review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/skilled-shortage-sensible/skilled-report.pdf?view=Binary>

Frequently asked questions on the new policy for highly trusted sponsorship (HTS) under Tier 4 of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/qahts.pdf>

Counter-Trafficking Directory For the United Kingdom

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/IOM_UK_Counter-Trafficking_Directory_September_2011.pdf

News

Finding a place to be myself

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/features/Finding-a-place-to-be.6834602.jp>

Immigrants have children for benefits, says Asian peer

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14909062>

Asian peer says immigrants having too many children

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3163904.ece>

GMC says more support needed for overseas doctors in UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14921313>

Foreign doctors to undergo fit-to-practise test

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Foreign-doctors-to-undergo-fittopractise.6837838.jp>

Further curbs on non-EU migrants to UK proposed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/sep/12/curbs-non-eu-skilled-migrants>

Call to tighten migration rules

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/call-to-tighten-migration-rules-2353432.html>

Migrants are better qualified than workers born in UK, says study

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/migrants-are-better-qualified-than-workers-born-in-uk-says-study-2354212.html>

Claimants must learn English or lose benefits

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/claimants-must-learn-english-or-lose-benefits-2354211.html>

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Race Relations

News

Scots of all faiths gather united in the name of peace

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scots-of-all-faiths-gather.6834678.jp>

Mo Farah is a shining example of multiculturalism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2011/sep/15/mo-farah-multiculturalism-shining-example>

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Equality

Press Release

Equality is vital for policing

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/Equality-vital>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Ministerial Statement

World Conference Against Racism (10th Anniversary)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):

The Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

The Government remain fully committed to the international fight against racism. The recent examination of the UK by the UN Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination demonstrated that we remain committed to tackling racism at home and abroad. The committee welcomed the notable efforts the UK has taken to tackle racial discrimination and inequality and the important progress we have made.

However the Government do not want to be associated with the commemoration of an event which was tainted by anti-Semitism and intolerance. We join a number of other countries in not participating in the September meeting, including the United States, Canada, Israel, Australia and Germany.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/wmstext/110915m0001.htm#11091565000006>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UN World Conference Against Racism

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's planned approach is regarding the UN World Conference Against Racism in September 2011. [70312]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: I will reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Alistair Burt to Stephen Twigg:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon.

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has today informed the House by written ministerial statement that the Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the UN World Conference Against Racism in September 2011. [70313]

Reply from Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has today informed the House by written ministerial statement that the Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

The Secretary of State has not spoken with his EU counterparts about the September meeting. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials held regular discussions with their EU colleagues about the meeting and kept the Secretary of State fully updated on developments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/text/110915w0003.htm#11091589000051>

Racism

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government who were the representatives from the United Kingdom that attended the meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 23 and 24 August in Geneva; and which devolved administrations added representatives to the United Kingdom delegation or declined to do so. [HL11611]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The UK delegation to the meeting of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 23 and 24 August was headed by the Deputy Director, Integration, in the Department for Communities and Local Government, supported by officials from DCLG, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. All three devolved Administrations were represented in the delegation, as were the Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. A full delegation list can be found on Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's website at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/>.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what organisations and individuals made submissions about the United Kingdom to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Parallel Report on the 18th and 19th Periodic Reports of the United Kingdom under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that met in Geneva on 23 and 24 August 2011. [HL11716]

Reply from Baroness Hanham: The website of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination indicates that the following organisations made submissions to the committee about the UK's 18th and 19th periodic reports:

Amnesty International; Anti-Caste Discrimination Alliance; Averroes Institute; Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights; Committee on the Administration of Justice; Equality and Human Rights Commission; Global Afrikan Congress UK; Indigenous Peoples Links; Middlesex University Department of Law; Down to Earth; & London Mining Network (joint report); International Dalit Solidarity Network; Irish Traveller Movement in Britain; Minority Rights Group International;

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Northern Ireland Council of Ethnic Minorities; Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; The Odysseus Trust; Open Society Justice Initiative; Stop Watch (joint report); Still Human, Still Here; and UK NGOs Against Racism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110914w0001.htm#11091483000309>

Press Release

UK will not attend UN meeting to commemorate 10 Anniversary of World Conference on Racism

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=656531982>

New Publications

Holocaust Memorial Day website – Speak up Now!

<http://www.speakupnow.org.uk/>

Holocaust Memorial Day activity pack

http://hmd.org.uk/assets/downloads/HMD_2012_Envelope_for_web.pdf

News

Race crime figures fall but incidents still not reported

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/race-crime-figures-fall-but-incidents-still-not-reported-1.1123344>

Teen girl stamps heels on man's chest in racist attack

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Teen-girl-stamps-heels-on.6835507.jp>

Academic takes issue with Fife police 'hate crime' figures reported in May

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/National/article/17278/academic-takes-issue-with-fife-police-hate-crime-figures-reported-in-may.html>

Racist trade union encouraged me to drop tribunal, claims teacher

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Racist-trade-union-encouraged-me.6837221.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Reform of parliamentary sitting patterns to be examined

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-11/cspp11-s4-001.htm>

UK Supreme Court

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/09/14161449>

Other Holyrood (continued) New Publications

What happens in the Debating Chamber?

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/tspdc/documents/SPWHITDCA5leaflet.pdf>

Examination of the Relationship between the High Court of Justiciary and the Supreme Court in Criminal Cases: Final Report of Review Group Examination

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254431/0120938.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Civil Partnership Ceremonies

Andrea Leadsom: What her policy is on permitting civil partnership ceremonies in religious premises. [71823]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): Earlier this year, I announced our intention to implement section 202 of the Equality Act 2010 to remove the ban in England and Wales on civil partnerships being registered on religious premises. It is a voluntary measure for faith groups that want to allow that to happen. It is an important step forward for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights, and for religious freedom. We are considering the responses to the public consultation and working to bring the regulations into force by the end of this year.

Andrea Leadsom: Of course it is reasonable for religious premises that wish to hold civil partnerships to be able to do so. However, does the Minister agree that it is entirely inappropriate for the Government to get involved in any decision about civil partnerships being held in a particular religious venue?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: I reassure my hon. Friend that I totally agree with her sentiment. The Government have made the decision to enable premises that want to host civil partnership registrations to do so. This is about religious freedom. I am absolutely clear that it is not for the Government to force any religious organisation to host civil partnership registrations if they do not wish to do so.

Chris Bryant: I hope that all churches will want to celebrate same-sex commitments. However, I am worried that the Government are introducing another anomaly. When gay people get married in a civil partnership they will be able to have religious symbols and ceremonies, but if straight couples do not want to get married in a church, but would none the less like to have religious music or symbols, they are not allowed to have them. I think that we should go for straightforward equality with gay marriage and straight marriage being exactly the same.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: I have had many conversations on this issue. I know that the hon. Gentleman wants these things and we have discussed them. Right now, we are moving forward on allowing civil partnerships to be registered in religious premises. From listening to people, it is clear that there is a desire to move forward on equal marriages and partnerships. We are working with people to move that agenda forward.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/debtext/110915-0001.htm#11091558000036>

Female Genital Mutilation

Jane Ellison: What assessment she has made of the likelihood that new guidelines on

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

prosecution of cases of female genital mutilation will increase the prospects of securing a conviction. [71818]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): Before answering that question, I would like to offer the apologies of my right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities to you, Mr Speaker, and to the House for being unable to attend questions today; she is in the United States on ministerial business relating to counter-terrorism. The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), who has responsibility for disabled people, and I will endeavour to field questions from the House.

The Government are committed to eradicating female genital mutilation. The Crown Prosecution Service's legal guidance, which was launched last week, is an important step in preventing this horrendous practice. We hope that it will raise awareness of the issue and help prosecutors bring perpetrators to justice.

Jane Ellison: I thank the Minister for that reply. The section of the new guidelines on reluctant victims focuses very much on the difficulties of obtaining evidence and gaining victim co-operation, but for years great expertise has been brought to bear in prosecuting child sexual abuse. Could not this expertise be brought to bear in the area of FGM?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: I thank my hon. Friend for that helpful suggestion. It is a really important point, because I am sure that much could be learned from the real progress that has been made in investigating and prosecuting child sexual abuse cases. Where appropriate, prosecutors should make links with experts in other areas in order to build a stronger case.

Valerie Vaz: I thank the Minister for her response. One midwife, Alison Hughes, is organising a conference on 21 September in Birmingham, because the situation is getting serious. She now treats up to five cases a week of women giving birth who have been mutilated, and it causes huge problems. If the Minister cannot give me an answer now, will she write to tell me whether any cases that are going to be prosecuted are in the pipeline?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: This is an important issue, and I am aware of the hon. Lady's interest and involvement in it. On the conference and cases in progress, the police investigated 58 cases in 2009-10, but none so far has come to prosecution. I do not know, as I stand here, whether there is anything in the pipeline, but the legal guidance is one of the main hopes behind making prosecutors more aware of how to take cases forward, and I am very happy to deal with her directly.

Tom Brake: The Minister will be aware that the charity Forward published a report in 2007 which identified that 20,000 girls under 15 years old were at risk. One of its recommendations was that the issue be treated not just as a health issue, but as violence against women and girls. Will she set out what progress is being made to place the focus not only on health, but on the violence aspect?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We certainly do put the emphasis on the issue being not just about domestic violence, but about a violation of human rights. It is the most serious of offences against young women—all women—and it is part of our action plan, which includes 88 actions. The legal guidance is also part of the issue, but we are taking a range of measures.

For example, I was at the Manor Gardens centre—[*Interruption.*] If Mr Speaker will forgive me, I must say also that there are guidelines for front-line services, so that people on the front line can spot girls who do not come forward and ensure that we get assistance to them, support them and signpost them and work with more people who work in the community—including those who work with the FGM forum, which is a very important centre.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ann Clwyd: My Bill in 2003, which became the Female Genital Mutilation Act of the same year, came into force in 2004, but I have continually asked this question in the House: 74,000 young girls have undergone this procedure in the United Kingdom, every year the numbers are increasing instead of decreasing and other countries are able to bring prosecutions, so what is the point in having a measure on the statute book unless it improves the lives of people and does not just lie there?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: I understand the right hon. Lady's frustration. We are all frustrated, and in government we are frustrated, but we are working with the police and all relevant partners to try to ensure that prosecutions go forward. We have distributed more than 40,000 leaflets and posters, which have been circulated in schools and to health services. The guidelines are to enable prosecutors to bring cases, but clearly there are issues because, as she knows, when such acts take place in the family and are part of a—[*Interruption.*] I understand, but what I have seen from working with the FGM forum and across government is that those with a knowledge of the community are best placed to help us to get families to bring cases forward, and we are working with the police and the prosecution service to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110915/debtext/110915-0001.htm#11091558000033>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what support services are available for those who have undergone female genital mutilation; and where they are located.[HL11546]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to non-governmental organisations in disseminating information about female genital mutilation, through distribution of leaflets and other means.[HL11549]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The Government are absolutely committed to tackling and preventing female genital mutilation (FGM) and we recognise that a joined-up approach across front-line agencies is needed to safeguard girls and protect women. Tackling FGM forms a key part of *The Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan*, published in March this year.

In 2010 we developed and distributed over 40,000 information leaflets and 40,000 posters that have been circulated to schools, health services, charities and community groups around the country. We have also established a regular forum for the voluntary and community sector to raise concerns with the Government and inform our work. This forum is also used to map community engagement work and identify best practice, such as the new multi-agency practice guidelines to help ensure that professionals are able and confident to intervene to protect girls at risk.

There are 15 specialist clinics (as of March 2011) in the NHS which treat women and girls who have been subjected to FGM, all with trained and culturally sensitive staff who offer a range of healthcare services for women and girls including reversal surgery. Services are confidential and in many instances interpreters are available. These clinics are open to women to attend without referral from their own doctors and are funded by local PCTs.

These locations can be found at using the following link:

<http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/resources/support/well-woman-clinics>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110913w0001.htm#11091381000150>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure standardisation of specialist female genital mutilation services across the United Kingdom.[HL11547]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will guarantee funding for the 16 specialist female genital mutilation clinics in the United Kingdom. [HL11550]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): It is for local commissioners to take decisions on funding priorities based on the assessment of need of local populations. The department proposed in *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health*, that female genital mutilation (FGM) clinics should be commissioned by local authorities. The department published its response to the consultation feedback on 14 July. In this response, it is confirmed that on the basis of feedback from stakeholders, the department has changed its position and can now confirm that specialist FGM services will be commissioned by the National Health Service. Further details on arrangements for this commissioning will be confirmed in due course.

There is a wealth of guidance and best practice available to health professionals on FGM. The department produced a DVD on FGM in 2006, which gives a general introduction to health implications of female genital mutilation. It includes interviews with women who have undergone FGM and outlines the appropriate response from health care professionals. Guidance has also been published by HM Government: *Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation, 2011* which can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124551.

Clinical guidance has also been produced by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists-*Female genital mutilation and its management; green-top guidelineNo.53*; the British Medical Association; *Female Genital Mutilation: An RCN educational resource for nursing and midwifery staff, 2006*; *Female Genital Mutilation: Caring for patients and safeguarding children, guidance from the British Medical Association*.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110915w0001.htm#11091557000171>

Press Release

Foreign office launches new podcast series on human rights

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=654431682>

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Other News

OSCR appoints new chief

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2011/09/oscr-appoints-new-chief/>

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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>

Justice Committee evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6385&mode.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Scotland Bill Committee evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6390&mode.pdf>

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

Biometric residence permits (no closing date given)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/biometric-resident-permit>

Runnymede and Stonewall interviews with BME lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals on their views on the public services (no closing date given)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/events/RunnymedeStonewallFlyer.pdf>

VAT: Cost Sharing Exemption (30 September 2011)

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

**** Inquiry into reform of Parliamentary business: remodelling the Parliamentary week** (31 October 2011)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/committees/stanproc/documents/callforviews_inquiryintoreform.pdf

Reforming Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland (2 November 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357525/0120778.pdf>

Do we need a UK Bill of Rights? (11 November 2011)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/about/cbr/cbr-discussion-paper.pdf>

Public Sector Equality Duty (25 November 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357629/0120853.pdf>

Rights of Children and Young People Bill (1 December 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357438/0120726.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

**** Aviation security: Consultation on a statutory authority to carry scheme**

(6 December 2011)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/authority-to-carry/>

The Registration of Civil Partnerships Same Sex Marriage (9 December 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254430/0120640.pdf>

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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**

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. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/3wuqhup>

**** this week**

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/>

**** Black History Month launch**

28 September 2011 in Glasgo (10.30)

Event to mark the beginning of a month long celebration of the contribution made to our heritage by minority ethnic men and women. For information see <http://crer.org.uk/attachments/article/232/BHM%20Launch%20Web%20Version.pdf> or contact Kam Kaur 0141 418 6530 / kam@crer.org.uk

Domestic abuse – together we can stop it

29 September 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Faith communities networking event to build and add to the capacity of faith groups to address and respond to domestic abuse through connecting people, providing resources, and building activism. For information contact Fiona Buchanan 0131 226 6606 / fiona.buchanan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Equality Act 2010: one year on

5 October 2011 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to discuss how the Equality Act has worked, what discrimination means and who is protected. For information contact David Reilly equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967 or see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Events/ehrc_ea_one_year_on_event_5th_oct_2011_e-flyer.pdf.

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

6 (9.30-4.30) and 7 (9.30-12.30) October 2011 in Edinburgh

10 (9.30-4.30) and 11(9.30-12.30) November 2011 in Edinburgh

1 (9.30-4.30) and 2 (9.30-12.30) December 2011 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk.

Migrants and the Cuts; Supporting Migrants' Contributions in Scotland

13 October 2011 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 5.00)

Scottish Migrants Network Conference to identify good practice for cross-sectoral working that supports migrants as they contribute and participate in Scottish society through the current economic climate. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11x_smn.pdf or contact Jason Bergen: smnconference2011@gmail.com /07876 527 597.

International Literacy Day: Women's Morning

16 October 2011 in Glasgow (10.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event women's morning for asylum-seeking and refugee women. For information contact Carol Anne 0141 248 9799/ carolanne.nehme@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1322_celebrate_international_literacy_day_at_our_women_s_morning_16_september

Children's Interfaith Event

23 October 2011 in Glasgow (2.00 – 5.00)

Maccabi Scotland event to bring together children aged 9-12 from different faith communities for an afternoon of activities. For information contact Sue Faber 0141 638 6177 / info@maccabigbscotland.org.

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

**** Protecting workplace equality**

27 October 2011 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.10)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to re-enforce your knowledge of how to protect equality within the workplace. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11x_ehrc.pdf or contact David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Raising Refugee Women's Voices**

3 November 2011 in Glasgow (9.00 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Conference focusing on refugee women: their needs; the provision of support; and gender sensitivity in the asylum process. All refugee community organisations will be entitled to one free place at the conference. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1304_scottish_refugee_council_autumn_conference_raising_refugee_women_s_voices or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

9 November 2011

After the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, Jews were subjected to increasingly discriminatory treatment accompanied by organised violence. On November 9th 1938, the Nazis started a pogrom against the Jews. Synagogues were set on fire. Jewish shops had their windows smashed across the country, which gave rise to the name "Kristallnacht", which freely translated means the Night of Broken Glass. Many Jews were physically attacked too. The "Kristallnacht" pogrom is usually seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust. On 9 November each year the UNITED network organises a European-wide campaign to commemorate the past and to protest against contemporary forms of fascism and antisemitism. For information see <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/underframeInternationalDayAgainstFascism.htm>

Making Human Rights Happen

30 November 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

1 Decemer 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 4.00)

British Institute of Human Rights workshops to discuss the role of human rights in a period of cut backs to public services, the role of human rights in protecting the vulnerable, whether human rights offer an effective tool for people wishing to challenge the impact of service cuts or changes, and how to make sure one person's rights are balanced against the interests of society as a whole. For information see <http://www.bihar.org.uk/events/bihar-national-human-rights-tour-information-page>

New Muslim Cool

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (all day)

Faith Matters event about the work of Hamza Perez a Muslim Hispanic American whose multi-faith work has seen Christians and Jews support him during difficult times post 9/11. For information contact pa@faith-matters.co.uk / 0207 554 8847 or see <http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/Faith%20Matters%20New%20Muslim%20Cool%20UK%20Tour%20March%202010.pdf>

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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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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/>