

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess today.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Overseas Workers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from business organisations regarding the immigration cap since 1 June 2011. [70853]

Reply from Damian Green: Business organisations were consulted fully on the development of the Government's plans for limits on migration under tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System, which were implemented in April 2011, as well as being involved in the more recent consultation on settlement and tier 5. The UK Border Agency maintains an active dialogue with business organisations on issues arising from the implementation of limits on migration and other issues through, for example, its Employer Taskforce, on which business organisations, including the Confederation of British Industry, the British Hospitality Association and the Recruitment and Wage Employment Confederation, are represented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111018/text/111018w001.htm#11101874000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure testing of the language and competence of nurses who have trained within the European Economic Area and Switzerland. [75579]

Reply from Anne Milton: Systematic testing of the language knowledge of health care professionals at the point of registration is contrary to European law. However, nurses work in an employed environment and their employers can and should ensure that any nurse appointed is able and competent to carry out their duties effectively. This must include their overall competency for the role and more specifically their ability to communicate to the required standard.

The Department recognises that there are wide spread concerns about this issue, and we are in discussions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council about whether any steps can be taken to strengthen local checks on nurses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111020/text/111020w0001.htm#11102050000049>

Visas: Domestic Workers

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in bringing forward proposals to end the Domestic Workers visa, what consideration they have given to the protection of the rights of domestic workers.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My Lords, the rights of overseas domestic workers in private households are discussed in the Government's consultation document, *Employment related settlement: Tier 5 and overseas domestic workers*. The consultation sets out a number of proposals for reform, which include making protections more appropriate should the route be retained. We are currently considering the responses that have been received.

Baroness Hamwee: My Lords, the Minister will understand that the portability of the current visa, which means a worker can change employer as long as he or she remains in domestic work, is fundamental to safeguarding the rights of that employee and to safeguard against bonded labour. He will appreciate that I refer to rights such as to be paid at least the national minimum wage, not to be forced to work excessive hours and so on. There are some horrific stories. On Anti-Slavery Day-and every day should be regarded as Anti-Slavery Day-will the Government take into account the need to be very mindful of the rights of all who work in our country?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, my noble friend is right to raise this issue on Anti-Slavery Day, but she is also right to say that we should take account of these matters on every day of the week and obviously we will. Settlement has almost become automatic for those who wish to stay in the United Kingdom under these arrangements, and the consultation is about being more selective about those who wish to stay permanently while also, as my noble friend puts it, making sure their rights are safeguarded.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: May I ask the Minister whether the Government would reconsider the signing of the ILO convention on domestic workers?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am not sure whether that is part of the consultation, but the consultation has been completed and we are considering the responses to it. I can give an assurance to the noble and learned Baroness that I will look at that, too, as part of that process.

Lord Pannick: My Lords, does the Minister agree with the conclusions of the Home Affairs Committee of the other place two years ago that, "domestic workers are peculiarly vulnerable to abuse", and that, "To retain the existing Migrant Domestic Workers visa and the protection it offers to workers is the single most important issue ... in preventing the forced labour and trafficking of such workers"?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I accept what the noble Lord has to say about domestic workers being particularly open to abuse. That is why we want to get the right balance. However, I think the noble Lord would also agree that we need an immigration system that is fairer and more honest and commands public confidence. We want to get the right balance; that is what is behind the consultation and that is what we will be looking at in the responses.

Lord Lea of Crondall: My Lords, would the Minister say a little more about the complaints procedure whereby, when many of these workers who work under slave labour conditions-and that is the word that has to be used when you look at some of the horrendous things that go on-try to make a complaint, they can lose their status and so on. Could the Minister say a little more about how people can be safeguarded if they want to make a complaint?

Reply from Lord Henley: ... We want to consider all the responses to that consultation. But what I tried to make clear earlier, and what I will repeat to the noble Lord, is that we want to make sure that we get the right balance by providing the appropriate safeguards while making sure that we have the right safeguards against unnecessary immigration.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, in the letter from the Minister for Immigration, following a meeting we had with him on 6 September, he referred in some detail to the protection afforded to domestic workers by the national referral mechanism, which applies only to those who are trafficked and not to those who are admitted under the domestic resident worker visas. If these arrangements are terminated, as we discussed in Committee, would that not encourage rich employers to bring in their servants as visitors, as many of them already do? Would my noble friend confirm that the national referral mechanism would not be available to them or to servants in diplomatic households, who still normally come from the diplomat's country of origin?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I believe that my noble kinsman has had a meeting with my predecessor, my noble friend Lady Browning, on this matter, and I believe that there have also been a number of meetings with my colleague the Minister for Immigration, Mr Damian Green. These matters have been discussed, but I repeat what I said earlier. This is a matter for consultation; we will want to consider these matters and come forward with the appropriate solution, which in the end will be a balance.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: My Lords, it is clear from the exchange of views today that what we are talking about here is tackling modern slavery. That is precisely why this question was raised today. The Minister says that the Government are looking at the granting of domestic worker visas in order to safeguard against unnecessary immigration. That is a very good thing. However, I understand that in 2009 only 795 migrant domestic workers were granted settlement. I would be grateful if the Minister could tell me how many of those originally entered the UK on the "Domestic Worker (Visitor)", the "Domestic Worker (Other)", and the "Domestic Worker (Diplomat)" visa.

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, on the more detailed points that the noble Baroness raised at the end, I will obviously have to write to her, but I think she is wrong to assume that all incoming domestic workers are being treated as slaves. They do have protections: they have the protection of the National Minimum Wage Act and all other appropriate protection. But we recognise that there is abuse here. What I am trying to talk about is getting the right sort of balance so that we can have a fair and proper immigration system-something that I have to say the party opposite failed to address in all their years in power-and have the appropriate protection for those workers who are being abused.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111018-0001.htm#11101861000347>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Louise Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases were awaiting a decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [69442]

Reply from Damian Green: The agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) have been fully concluded. The UK Border Agency established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to actively manage those 23,000 cases which had been reviewed but had barriers to conclusion. All these cases have been decided and communicated to the applicants.

The CAAU has now fully concluded 1,500 of those cases. They have also issued around 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been considered to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain. These barriers include ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or because they are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively considered and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Note: All figures rounded to the nearest 500.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111018/text/111018w0001.htm#11101874000032>

Immigration

David Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that those who are refused leave to remain in the UK are removed promptly. [71074]

Reply from Damian Green: Individuals who have been refused leave to remain in the UK are expected to leave the country. The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) take active steps to promote voluntary return and assisted voluntary return and Refugee Action are also engaged by UKBA to increase the number of people taking up this option.

Where an individual chooses not to leave voluntarily, the UK Border Agency will continue to detain and enforce their removal at the earliest opportunity.

Should cases be delayed, for example, by further legal challenges, arranging re-documentation or consideration of extenuating circumstances, the agency actively progresses cases towards conclusion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111017/text/111017w0003.htm#1110189000037>

Asylum: English Language

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effects of reductions in ESOL funding for asylum seekers on their prospects for employment and integration into society. [72078]

Reply from John Hayes: The eligibility for asylum seekers to access funding for skills training are described in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Skills Funding Agency 2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules (Version 2.1, August 2011). This can be found at: http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/LearnerEligibilityandContributionRules_2011_12_12Aug2011_June_revision_V2.1.pdf

From the 2011-12 academic year, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding is provided

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications delivered to unemployed people in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment. Learners are expected to share the costs of publicly funded ESOL courses with Government where full fee remission is not applicable. The Government will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. This is to ensure publicly-funded training provision is focused on people whose lack of English is preventing them from finding work.

This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working in partnership to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details in due course.

The potential impact on adult learners participating in ESOL courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission set out in the Government's 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy (November 2010) are described in an equality impact assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111018/text/111018w0001.htm#11101874000039>

Asylum

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effects of experiencing an extended period outside the labour market on the long-term integration into UK society of asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [70723]

Reply from Damian Green: None. We do not believe that asylum seekers should have access to the labour market as it would become a pull factor and encourage more applications in the UK. The exception is when asylum seekers have waited for more than 12 months for an initial decision on their application, when they can seek permission to work, in line with the recent court ruling.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111020/text/111020w0001.htm#11102050000017>

Asylum

John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases had not been resolved on the most recent date for which figures are available. [70531]

Reply from Damian Green: The agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) have been fully concluded. The UK Border Agency established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to actively manage those 23,000 cases which had been reviewed but had barriers to conclusion. All these cases have been decided and communicated to the applicants.

The CAAU has now fully concluded 1,500 of those cases. They have also issued around 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been considered to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

These barriers include ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or because they are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively considered and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Note: All figures rounded to the nearest 500.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of asylum cases received a decision within six months in (a) 2009, (b) 2010 and (c) in the period from 1 January to 1 September 2011; [72080]

(2) what the average processing time was between an individual claiming asylum and receiving a decision on their application (a) as of 1 September 2011 and (b) in each of the last five years. [72081]

Reply from Damian Green: The proportion of asylum cases that received an initial decision within six months in 2009 was 82%, in 2010 was 94% and from January—February 2011 was 93%. As of 1 September 2011, information was not yet complete for the March 2011 cohort or beyond, as the six month time period stipulated had not yet elapsed.

The average processing time between an individual claiming asylum and receiving an initial decision on their application over the last five years is as follows:

Year ⁽¹⁾	Average decision time (Days) ⁽²⁾
2007	164.06
2008	190.27
2009	122.83
2010	52.03
2011 ⁽³⁾	36.54

⁽¹⁾ Year based on application date. ⁽²⁾ All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Excludes legacy cases. Averages based on cases where decisions had already been taken as of 1 September 2011. ⁽³⁾ Covers the period 1 January 2011 to 1 September 2011.

On 25 August the UK Border Agency published information on the percentage of asylum applications decided and concluded within published standards. This information can be found on the UK Border Agency website at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/>

These statistics show that in the financial year 2010-11, 59% of decisions were taken within 30 days of application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111018/text/111018w0001.htm#11101874000021>

Detention Centres: Children

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times children detained at immigration centres have been held separately from their parents for (a) less than 12 hours, (b) between 12 and 24 hours and (c) more than 24 hours in the last 12 months. [75093]

Reply from Damian Green: We now only hold families with children as a matter of last resort to facilitate their removal from the UK where they refuse to leave voluntarily and then on the advice of the independent Family Returns Panel. Most families are held at Cedar's pre-departure accommodation, but in exceptional circumstances the panel may advise they are held at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre, for example where there are particular safeguarding concerns.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Length of stay is restricted to 72 hours, or with a Minister's authority up to one week.

There have been no instances of children having been held separately from their parents at either facility in the last 12 months, nor at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre which we closed to families with children in December 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111018/text/111018w0001.htm#11101874000030>

Children: Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision his Department has made for education for child victims of human trafficking. [74572]

Reply from Tim Loughton: Under section 11 of the Children Act 2004, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Victims of child trafficking have the same entitlement to education as all other children of compulsory school age. Trafficked children are likely to require additional educational support to help them overcome any barriers to learning and assessment. Schools should consider the specific needs of all children who are newly arrived from overseas, taking account of their cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and of their prior learning experiences.

Where a trafficked child becomes looked after, they will be entitled to the same services as all looked after children. They will be allocated a qualified social worker who will arrange for them to be placed in a care placement where they will be safeguarded. The social worker must assess the child's needs and draw up a care plan which will include plans for accommodation, educational support, and other services based on need (eg health services, which could include specialist treatment because of past experiences or pre-existing medical conditions).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111020/text/111020w0003.htm#11102059000005>

Press Releases

40,000 fewer jobs open to migrants

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/occupation-list>

Media reports on the detention of children: UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/october/44-child-detention>

Cabin crew pioneer new anti-trafficking initiative

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/anti-trafficking>

New Publications

Human Trafficking: The UK Government's Strategy

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/human-trafficking-strategy?view=Binary>

Removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom, by country of destination, May 2010 to June 2011

<http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-1637.xls>

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications (continued)

Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked - Practice guidance

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

Barriers to support appeals for asylum- seeking women

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Barriers_to_Appeals_System_for_Asylum_Seeking_Women_report_1.pdf

Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries

<http://www.unhcr.org/4e9beaa19.html>

News

Charity is 'horrified' by detention of children

http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/charity_is_horrified_by_detention_of_children_1_1915763

Child detention: has the government broken its promise to end it?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/oct/17/child-detention-government-broken-promise>

Immigration integration gets lost in translation

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/regulars/thinktank/article804048.ece>

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Race Relations

New Publications

Discrimination and exclusion: Voicing the experiences and struggles of older Roma

http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/position_paper_age_erio_oct2011_final.pdf

Multiculturalism: a Christian Retrieval

<http://campaigndirector.moodia.com/Client/Theos/Files/MulticulturalismFinalProof.pdf>

News

Race, class and house parties

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15400257>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-01081 Sandra White: BEMIS, Human Rights Champion—That the Parliament congratulates BEMIS, considered Scotland's leading charity working with the ethnic and cultural minority third sector, on taking the lead role in the conference on Human Rights Education on 27 October 2011, organised by BEMIS with a range of partners, including Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, UNESCO UK, Education Scotland, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the IDEAS Network, which aims to highlight Scotland's responsibilities under the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education and demonstrate how the statutory and voluntary sectors can work in partnership to offer opportunities for those involved in government, education, training and civil society to consider how best to support the Scottish Government in taking forward the second phase action plan.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4M-01081&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

New Publications

Public sector: quick start guide to the specific duties

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/equality-act-publications/equality-act-guidance/specific-duties?view=Binary>

Are we there yet? A collection on race and Conservatism

http://www.demos.co.uk/files/AreWeThereYet_Layout_02web.pdf?1317654139

News

African-Caribbean boys 'would rather hustle than learn'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-15387444>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Internet: Anti-Semitism

Brian Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to tackle UK-based websites which promote (a) racism, (b) sectarianism and (c) bigotry; and if she will make a statement; [73610]

(2) if she will discuss with the Minister for Women and Equalities action against UK-based websites which encourage (a) religious conflict, (b) racism and (c) bigotry; and if she will make a statement. [73611]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We are clear that hatred and prejudice have no place in our society. Tackling hate crime is an issue that the Government take very seriously. We have a number of laws in place which make it a criminal offence to use threatening words or behaviour and or to display, publish or distribute any written material with intent to stir up hatred on the grounds of race, religion or sexual orientation. These laws apply equally to online material and our courts have convicted offenders for such offences.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

We recognise however, there is also online content that, while not illegal, is considered to be either harmful or offensive. Such content raises issues which require a considered approach that balances freedom of expression with necessary and proportionate protections. We continue to work across Government and with industry representatives to seek practical solutions in responding adequately to offensive and criminal online material.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111017/text/111017w0003.htm#1110189000039>

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Attorney-General how many people have been (a) charged and (b) convicted under the provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. [74072]

Reply from the Attorney-General [*holding answer 13 October 2011*]: The provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 amended section 29 of the Public Order Act 1986 to create offences of stirring up hatred against persons on religious grounds.

All prosecutions for offences under section 29 of the Public Order Act as amended by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 are conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service's special crime and counter-terrorism division. Figures held by them for the last three years are summarised in the following table and refer to the year in which the prosecution was commenced.

	<i>Number charged</i>	<i>Convictions</i>
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	1	0
2010-11	3	1

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111017/text/111017w0003.htm#1110189000057>

News

Trebling of racially aggravated breach of the peace crimes attributed to procedural change

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/article/18129/trebling-of-racially-aggravated-breach-of-the-peace-crimes-attributed-to-procedural-change.html>

Internet bigot Stephen Birrell jailed for eight months

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-15333744>

Facebook bigot jailed for hate-filled comments after Old Firm cup clash

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/facebook-bigot-jailed-for-hate-filled-comments-after-old-firm-cup-clash-1-1915811>

Man who abused Catholics and Celtic fans on Facebook is jailed for eight months

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/10/17/man-who-abused-catholics-and-celtic-fans-on-facebook-is-jailed-for-eight-months-86908-23494946/>

Anti-Celtic comments on Facebook lead to jail sentence for Glasgow man

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/oct/17/anti-celtic-comments-jail-sentence>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Fan admits religious sectarianism

<http://breakingnews.heraldscotland.com/breaking-news/?mode=article&site=et&id=N0125011318870438334A>

Fife Police vow sectarianism crackdown will beat the bigots

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Fife/article/18098/fife-police-vow-sectarianism-crackdown-will-beat-the-bigots.html>

UEFA says “no to racism”

<http://www.uefa.com/uefa/mediaservices/mediareleases/newsid=1697880.html>

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Other News

Child abuse claims at UK madrassas 'tip of iceberg'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-15256764>

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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

Reasonable accommodation of cultural diversity in the workplace

(no closing date given)

<http://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=e80f85dd-1859-41b3-80b8-c1ffbccddc76>

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>

Consultations (continued)

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>

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>

Public Focus Strategy (closes 23 December 2011)

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/279989/public_focus_strategy.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!**

Black History Month

Events will be taking place throughout October. For information see

<http://crer.org.uk/attachments/article/65/CRER%20Black%20History%202011%20WEB-1.pdf>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Human Rights Education and Active Citizenship: The Case for Scotland

27 October 2011 in Glasgow (9.00–4.15)

BEMIS conference to highlight responsibilities under the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education, and demonstrate how the statutory and voluntary sectors can work in partnership with government, education and training, and civil society. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / conference@bemis.org.uk or see <http://www.bemis.org.uk/docs/HRE%20Conference%20Programme.pdf>. An application form is available at <http://www.bemis.org.uk/docs/HRE%20Conference%20Flyer.doc>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

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

In 1933, Jews in Germany were subjected to increasingly discriminatory treatment by the Nazis. On Nov 9 1938, the Nazis started a pogrom against the Jews. Synagogues were set on fire. Jewish shops had their windows smashed, which gave rise to the name "Kristallnacht", which freely translated means the Night of Broken Glass. Many Jews were physically attacked. 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://tinyurl.com/6cl37dp>

**** Influencing policies that affect migrants and their communities in Scotland**

11 November 2011 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 5.00)

Migrants' Rights Network seminar to enable the development of more effective advocacy relationships, and implement an 'influencing strategy' to bring about positive change for migrant and refugee communities in Scotland. For information see <http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/event/mrn-masterclass-scotland> or contact Hyo Eun Shin, csp@migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk / 07825 758 559.

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

18 November 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. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/64lypff> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Meet Your Mulsim Neighbour**

DATE CHANGED!

20 November in Glasgow (10.00–5.00)

Al-Furqan Islamic Centre Exhibition and tour of the Islamic Centre. For information contact Haq Ghani haqq@msn.com or Javed Gill javed.gill@btinternet.com

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The needs and experiences of refugee women

25 November 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide a thorough understanding of fundamental issues affecting women seeking asylum in Scotland. It is appropriate for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4x62hfa> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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>

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

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.

Working with Interpreters

8 December 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of best practice when working with interpreters, learn about service providers' responsibilities, and how to develop or improve existing practice. Participants will also learn how to communicate effectively with their service-users when using interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3gt2h8b> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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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