

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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New Scottish Parliament Website

The Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, and many items, including records of Parliamentary Questions, Motions, and Debates, have been moved to different locations. Since web-forwarding has not been set up, this means that many of the weblinks published in previous issues of MEMO and MEMO+ no longer work.

- To find Questions and Motions copy the reference number or title from the relevant issue of MEMO, and paste into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>
- To find the Official Report record of Debates, First Minister's Questions, Oral Questions, and Committee meetings copy keywords and other details from the relevant issue of MEMO and paste into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/13595.aspx?mode=a>
- To find other items on the Scottish Parliament website use the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The changes in the immigration rules being laid before the House today are as a result of the Supreme Court judgment in R (on the application of Quila and another) (FC) v. Secretary of State for the Home Department and R (on the application of Bibi and another) (FC) v. Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] UKSC45.

On 12 October 2011, the Supreme Court found that while it recognised that the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate and rational aim of seeking to address forced marriage, a rule (increasing the minimum marriage visa age from 18 to 21) disproportionately interfered with the article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages. Accordingly, the Secretary of State has decided to revert to a minimum age of 18.

The changes will take effect on 28 November and will reduce the minimum age at which a person may be granted entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a sponsor, and the minimum age at which a person may sponsor such an application, from 21 to 18 years. It will also delete references to a minimum age of 18 for entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a HM forces sponsor, and the minimum age at which a member of HM forces may sponsor such an application. Guidance for those affected by the judgment will be published on the UK Border Agency website.

There is no place in British society for the practice of forced marriage. It is a breach of human rights and a form of violence against the victims. That is why the Prime Minister has announced that the Government will criminalise the breach of Forced Marriage Civil Protection Orders and that there will be a consultation on making forcing someone to marry an offence in its own right.

We are also investigating what more we can do to identify and protect those young people who have been placed at additional risk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/wmstext/111107m0001.htm#1111071000005>

UK Border Force

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): ... The border force is responsible for ensuring that only legitimate travellers and goods are allowed to enter and leave the UK, while reducing threats including illegal immigration, drug smuggling and terrorism.

Border force activities include verifying the immigration status of passengers arriving and departing the UK; checking baggage, vehicles and cargo for illicit goods; and searching for illegal immigrants. Border force officers confirm the identity of passengers arriving at the UK border; check passengers against a watch list known as the warnings index; and undertake a visual inspection of passengers' passports. Where a biometric passport is held, the biometric chip, which contains a second photograph, is opened and verified.

Non-EU passengers undergo additional checks. Officers establish whether a visa is required and whether a visa is held. If the passenger has a biometric visa, a fingerprint database check can be made, and officers decide whether the passenger should be granted entry to the UK.

In the past, under the previous Government, some of those checks were lifted at times of pressure on the border. In the summer of 2008, warnings index checks were suspended on European economic area nationals—children and adults—on Eurostar services. At Calais, warnings index checks were suspended on European economic area and UK car passengers — again, adults as well as children were not run against the index. Since

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

2008, at various ports and airports, that happened on more than 100 occasions. Officials tell me that once, in 2004, local managers at Heathrow terminal 3 decided to open controls and no checks were made. To prevent that from happening again, and to allow resources to be focused on the highest-risk passengers and journeys, in July I agreed that the UK Border Agency could pilot a scheme that would allow border force officials to target intelligence-led checks on higher-risk categories of travellers. Initial options had been put to the then security Minister and the immigration Minister in January, who agreed them as a basis for further work. That resulted in proposals for a risk-based strategy coming to me in April. After further work, I agreed an amended and limited pilot scheme in July, which meant that, under limited circumstances, EEA national children, travelling with their parents or as part of a school group, would be checked against the warnings index—designed to detect terrorists and serious criminals—when assessed by a border force official to be a credible risk. The pilot also allowed, under limited circumstances, border force officials the discretion to judge when to open the biometric chip, which contains a second photograph and no further information, on the passports of EEA nationals. Those circumstances were that the measures would always be subject to a risk-based assessment, that they should not be routine and that the volume of passengers would be such that border security would be stronger with more risk-based checks and fewer mandatory checks than with more mandatory checks on low-risk passengers and fewer risk-based checks for high-risk passengers. The advice of security officials was sought and they confirmed that they were content with the measures. ...

To continue reading the statement and question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/debtext/111107-0002.htm#1111073000002>

House of Lords Grand Committee

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111109-gc0001.htm#11110994000203>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UK Border Agency

Sheila Gilmore: What estimate she has made of the future number of staff employed by the UK Border Agency. [78449]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Our priority remains to secure the border and to control migration while we help to reduce the public deficit. We expect to have reduced by about 5,200 posts from the start of the review period to around 18,000 by March 2015. We are on track to meet our staff reduction target.

Sheila Gilmore: Will the Minister tell us how many of those 5,200 staff are being cut from the front line of the border force?

Reply from Damian Green: The hon. Lady will know that later this afternoon my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will make a statement covering the issues that she is interested in. The reductions in staffing are not affecting the front line because we are improving the front line by, for instance, having airline liaison officers overseas. Over the past few years, that has prevented 60,000 people whom we did not want to travel from travelling in the first place. The use of facial

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

recognition technology and e-gates also makes our borders more secure.

Philip Hollobone: Will the Minister assure the House that the effectiveness of our front-line border controls will not be undermined by pressure to reduce queues at airports?

Reply from Damian Green: As I have just explained to the hon. Member for Edinburgh East (Sheila Gilmore), it is important to have intelligent border controls, to use technology and to put the right people in the right places so that we can keep our borders secure. Those are elements of this Government's transformation of the UKBA to sort out the shambles that we inherited.

Chris Bryant: The Minister may not know how many people are being removed from the border force, but I do. The numbers are 886 in this financial year and 1,552 before the next general election. He boasts that he is getting a grip, but this year there have been waits of many hours, EU nationals have been waved through in their hundreds and non-EU nationals have waltzed into the country without so much as a by your leave. We would absolutely adore it if he got a grip. Can he really say, hand on heart, that his cuts have nothing to do with the corners that are being cut with our security?

Reply from Damian Green: I am delighted to welcome the hon. Gentleman to his position as shadow Minister for Immigration. I remember fondly when, in government, he talked about the "huff and puff in many of the tabloid newspapers"—[*Official Report*, 16 June 2003; Vol. 407, c. 15.] complaining about immigration. I am sure that he will provide a lot of that in future years. I am sorry, but I have already answered his question. It is the way in which we use people that makes our borders more secure. I suggest that he pauses before he keeps using the phrase about waving people through, because nobody has been waved through the border. However, under the previous Government, as he will hear from the Home Secretary later, people were waved through.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/debtext/111107-0001.htm#1111073000019>

Entry Clearances

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the length of time required to process the legacy visa applications by the UK Border Agency. [79140]

Reply from Damian Green: In 2006 the Government committed to a review of all older unresolved asylum cases by summer 2011. This was achieved by March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme.

As Jonathan Sedgwick, then Acting Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme have been fully concluded. There are 18,000 cases that have received an initial decision but have barriers to full conclusion, which continue to be actively managed by a dedicated casework unit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111108/text/111108w0001.htm#11110885000020>

Entry Clearances

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the transferability between companies of work permits for immigrants from outside the EU. [78249]

Damian Green: The work permit scheme closed to new employees in 2008. Since November 2008, migrants wishing to work here must be issued with a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) by an employer who is registered with the UK Border Agency as a sponsor under tiers 2 or 5 of the points based system. CoS cannot be transferred between companies.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Migrants from outside the EU with permission to work either under the previous work permit system or under tier 2 or 5 are able to change employer providing the new employer is registered as a sponsor with the UK Border Agency, is willing to issue the migrant with a CoS and any necessary resident labour market test has been undertaken. The migrant must apply for, and be granted, leave to remain before starting the new job.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/text/111107w0002.htm#11110727000032>

Asylum: Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have (a) applied for and (b) been granted the Right to Work after 12 months in each of the last five years. [79194]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect statistics relating to the number of asylum applicants who are given permission to work. This is because an application for permission to work is not recorded as a separate case type on the agency's case information database. Any application of this nature is instead dealt with by the case owner as part of the application for asylum with the outcome being recorded within the case notes. To provide the complete set of data requested it would be necessary to look at each individual application for asylum that has exceeded the 12 month point in the last five years and record whether an application for permission to work has been made and if so granted. The cost of doing so would be disproportionate.

However, between mid August and the end of November 2010 the agency did run an exercise to collate statistics on the number of asylum seekers who were granted permission to work. Those figures are as follows:

Number of asylum seekers granted permission to work between 13 August and 24 November 2010

	<i>Number</i>
Total applications received from 13 August to 24 November	188
Total grants from 13 August to 24 November	88
Totals refusals from 13 August to 24 November	100

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111108/text/111108w0001.htm#11110885000008>

Family Migration Route

Andrew Stephenson: What steps she is taking to prevent abuse of the family migration route into the UK. [78441]

John Baron: What steps she is taking to prevent abuse of the family migration route into the UK. [78452]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): This Government are determined to bring net migration back to sustainable levels, and to bring a sense of fairness back to our immigration system. That is why we consulted on new measures to prevent the abuse of family migration, to promote integration and to reduce burdens on the taxpayer.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Stephenson: I thank my hon. Friend for that answer. At our party conference the Home Secretary outlined plans to amend the immigration rules better to balance the right to a family life with the wider public interest in controlling immigration. What estimate has the Minister made of the number of immigrants using article 8 of the European convention on human rights to remain in the United Kingdom?

Reply from Damian Green: My hon. Friend makes a good point, and the UK Border Agency took a snapshot, reviewing in detail those appeals by foreign criminals against deportation which were determined in October to December last year. There were 551, of which 162 were successful, and of those 99—61%—were allowed on article 8 grounds. That is precisely why we will revise the immigration rules to reinforce the public interest in seeing foreign nationals who are convicted of a criminal offence and those who have breached our immigration laws removed from this country.

John Baron: Amid the UK Border Agency's problems with handling asylum cases, will the Minister assure the House that spouses coming to live here in the UK will have to show a commitment to speak and learn English—for their benefit as well as the benefit of society as a whole?

Reply from Damian Green: Both those points are right: such an approach is not just for the benefit of the individual; it is absolutely for the benefit of the community that they enter. That is why last November we introduced requirements that spouses and partners must demonstrate a basic knowledge of the English language before they are granted a marriage visa. It is reasonable that anyone intending to live in the UK should understand English so that they can integrate fully and participate fully in life in this country.

Steve McCabe: Given the passport control fiasco exposed over the past few days, does the Minister seriously still expect us to accept, as he said seven days ago:

“The Government is doing more than ever before to protect the UK's borders”?

Reply from Damian Green: Absolutely. The hon. Gentleman knows that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is going to make a statement on that matter later, when it can be dealt with in detail, but in his honest moments he will accept that one of the biggest problems—one of the biggest shambles—that this Government inherited was the immigration system that the previous Government left us, and that is what we are getting to grips with now.

Kate Green: Access to good quality expert advice is important to support legitimate applicants and to ensure that those who should not be here can be advised quickly that they have no case, but constituents report to me that such advice is in increasingly short supply. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that good quality advisers remain in place, particularly following the Government's cuts to legal aid?

Reply from Damian Green: The Government's cuts to legal aid specifically do not apply to asylum cases, because we accept that genuine asylum seekers will be in need of proper legal advice, but across the House it is agreed that some of the legal advice available in immigration cases, whether asylum or general immigration cases, is frankly substandard. That is why, when looking at our support for the legal aid system, which was yet another public spending regime that ran out of control under the previous Government, we have specifically protected the most vulnerable.

Julian Huppert: All of us want to try to avoid abuse of all the immigration systems, but does the Minister accept that our high-tech industries in particular rely on key individuals from overseas? It is very important to be able to attract those individuals, and some of these immigration changes risk deterring them from coming here. What steps will he take to ensure that we still get the key international people we need?

Reply from Damian Green: I am happy to say to my hon. Friend that we have

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

already taken those steps. Indeed we are bringing down the number of people coming here but, at the same time, we are differentiating more effectively, so that the brightest and the best can continue to come here. That is why we have created the new investors and entrepreneurs visas, which have doubled the number of entrepreneurs who have come into this country over the course of this year, and that is why we have set up the exceptional talent route.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/debtext/111107-0001.htm#1111073000015>

Foreign Students

David Evennett: What steps she is taking to strengthen the accreditation regime for colleges that admit foreign students. [78437]

David Morris: What steps she is taking to strengthen the accreditation regime for colleges that admit foreign students. [78447]

Mark Pawsey: What steps she is taking to strengthen the accreditation regime for colleges that admit foreign students. [78454]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Our fundamental reforms of student visas include a rigorous new inspection regime for private colleges. These tough new rules, coupled with robust enforcement action by the UK Border Agency, mean that more than 450 colleges have now lost their right to recruit international students under the points-based system. Only colleges offering a genuine, high-quality education will be able to sponsor international students in future.

David Evennett: I thank my right hon. Friend for her reply and commend her for the work she is doing in this area. Does she agree that the news last week that one in five colleges has lost its sponsor licence status shows that the accreditation scheme set up by her and her Department is working to stop the widespread abuse of the visa system?

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend is absolutely right, and what I have announced today is just the start. All private colleges will have to go through that rigorous accreditation system by the end of the year and those that fail the system will no longer be able to bring in international students.

David Morris: I am pleased to hear that the Government are successfully shutting off immigration through bogus colleges with the accreditation scheme, and I was glad to hear the answer to the previous question.

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend has mentioned the accreditation scheme for colleges, but of course we are going further in taking action against individual students as well as restricting their rights. We have introduced new rules on English language and we have restricted students' rights to work and to bring in family members. Next April we will close the post-study work route that has allowed graduates two years' free access to the labour market here in the UK. We want to make sure that those who come to study are coming genuinely to study and not to work.

Mark Pawsey: We do need to cut out the incentives for people who abuse the student visa route, but there will of course be cases when a mature student wishes to be accompanied by their spouse and children of school age. What are the Government doing to prevent abuse of the system by those who see this as a loophole through which they believe they can bring any number of dependants into this country?

Reply from Theresa May: As I indicated in my previous answer, we are taking action against students as well as against colleges. We are restricting the right for students to bring in family members. Only postgraduate students at universities can bring in dependants and we have changed the rules so that only those at universities and public colleges can work while they are studying. That means that

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

we can continue to attract the brightest and best to our academic institutions while ensuring that we get rid of abuse.

Keith Vaz: I hope that the Home Secretary was not too busy at the weekend to read the report of the Select Committee on Home Affairs that was published on Friday—specifically paragraph 44, which expresses astonishment that the UK Border Agency has been unable to tell us how many students have been deported for breaching their leave and that it does not recognise the term, “bogus college”. Does she not think it extraordinary that the main agency dealing with these matters does not accept a term that she, I and the whole of Parliament have always used to describe such colleges?

Reply from Theresa May: I think that what matters is not the term we use but the action we take. That is why action is being taken to ensure that those colleges that have not been offering education to students are no longer able to bring in students and that we get rid of abuse in the student visa system, which has been a problem in this country for far too long.

Jim Cunningham: I support any measures that root out any abuses in the immigration system, but what discussions has the Secretary of State had with universities such as the university of Warwick that have expressed concern about student numbers from abroad because they rely mainly on such students to exist?

Reply from Theresa May: Before we put our policy into place, we had significant discussions with representatives from the university sector. We continue to talk to universities about the impact of the student visa system that we have introduced, and that scheme ensures that institutions that are offering a genuine education are able to bring in the brightest and best students, but it is up to them and us to make it clear that students are still able to come and learn at our universities from overseas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111107/debtext/111107-0001.htm#1111073000011>

Deportation: Children

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of control and restraint on children in pre-departure accommodation. [78791]

Reply from Damian Green: Detainee custody officers (DCOs) must be certificated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to carry out their duties and to exercise powers, one of the conditions of which is that they have undergone training on restraint techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service. Officers receive refresher training every 12 months. Separate training is provided for those involved in the overseas escorting of children, using non-pain compliant techniques, Physical Control in Care (PCC). Restraint on a child is only ever used where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property. In very exceptional circumstances officers may be given authority to physically intervene to enforce a child's removal where, despite attempts to persuade them to comply, they refuse to do so. Interventions may start with guiding or shepherding, before PCC techniques are used. There have been no such interventions at Cedars pre-departure accommodation. This information is based on management information, and is not subject to the detailed checks carried out for National Statistics. It is provisional and subject to change. A child is defined as a person aged under 18 years of age.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111110/text/111110w0001.htm#11111095000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Deportation: Children

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions control and restraint has been used on children as part of the enforced removal process in each of the last five years. [78711]

Reply from Damian Green: Detainee custody officers (DCOs) must be certificated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to carry out their duties and to exercise powers, one of the conditions of which is that they have undergone training on restraint techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service. Officers receive refresher training every 12 months. Separate training is provided for those involved in the overseas escorting of children, using non-pain compliant techniques, Physical Control in Care (PCC).

Any use of restraint is a matter of last resort when all other avenues of persuasion have failed and there is no other option to effect the person's co-operation. Its use must be justified, proportionate and for the shortest possible period to achieve the objective. Officers must report in detail where it has been used.

Restraint on a child is only ever used where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property. In very exceptional circumstances officers may be given authority to physically intervene to enforce a child's removal where, despite attempts to persuade them to comply, they refuse to do so. Interventions may start with guiding or shepherding, before PCC techniques are used.

Information on the number of occasions where DCOs physically intervened in the case of children is not available prior to 2008 and there are no occasions of such interventions in 2011.

Of the 1,124 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2008, there were five instances.

Of the 1,007 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2009, there were eight instances.

Of the 737 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2010, there was one instance.

All interventions occurred at the point of boarding an aircraft other than one in 2009 in an immigration removal centre.

There have been no interventions at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The number of people aged under 18 removed as enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in 2008, 2009 and 2010 (2010 figures are provisional), are a subset of published information compiled under National Statistics protocols available on the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

Data on the number of occasions where DCOs physically intervened in the case of children is based on management information, and is not subject to the detailed checks carried out for National Statistics. It is provisional and subject to change. A child is defined as a person aged under 18 years of age.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111108/text/111108w0001.htm#11110885000018>

Press Releases

New policy guidance on the marriage visa age of 21

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/10-marriage-visa-age>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Minimum annual pay best way to determine right to settlement for highly skilled workers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/11-minimum-annual-pay>

Our reaction to reports of a dawn raid in Glasgow

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1415_our_reaction_to_reports_of_a_dawn_raid_in_glasgow

Migrants' countries of origin shouldn't be involved in EU integration policy

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2011-11-09%20integration.pdf>

European Agenda for the Integration of Third Country Nationals

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/policy/08_11_2011_Final_ENAR%20Response%20to%20Integration%20Agenda%20of%20TCNs.pdf

News

Young foreign spouses ban revoked after court case

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-15617871>

Student immigration threat

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/student-immigration-threat-1.1134277>

Why not listen to the voters on immigration?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8877212/Why-not-listen-to-the-voters-on-immigration.html>

Immigration petition set to trigger MP debate after 100,000 join fight to limit population

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8875485/Immigration-petition-set-to-trigger-MP-debate-after-100000-join-fight-to-limit-population.html>

Border official 'gave away visas for tens of thousands of pounds'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8882858/Border-official-gave-away-visas-for-tens-of-thousands-of-pounds.html>

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Race Relations

Press Releases

How Europe Treats its Biggest Minority – The Fundamental Rights Situation of Sinti and Roma in Europe

<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/MortenKjaerum-Speech-RomaConf-Berlin-10112011.pdf>

EU disintegration poses threat to Roma

<http://euobserver.com/851/114218>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Mental Health: Ethnic Minorities

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evidence of a higher prevalence of mental illness among the United Kingdom's African, Caribbean and mixed race communities; and why there is a disproportionality of detention rates under the Mental Health Act 1983 affecting men of African or Caribbean origin.[HL12974]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Prevalence of different mental health problems does vary by ethnicity. The latest Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey highlights that the black population experiences highest rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide attempts, psychotic disorder and drug use and drug dependence, while the white population experiences the highest rates for suicidal thoughts, self-harm and alcohol dependence. The results of the survey can be found here: www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/mental-health/nhs-specialist-mental-health-services/mental-health-bulletin--fourth-report-from-mental-health-minimum-dataset-mhmnds-annual-returns-2010.

People from some black and minority ethnic (BME) groups are more likely to be admitted to mental health services under the Mental Health Act. The reasons for this are not fully understood but there are likely to be many factors which play a part. Work is under way to better understand the complex reasons for these differences.

The Government's Mental Health Strategy *No Health Without Mental Health*, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, acknowledges the lower well-being and higher rates of mental health problems of some BME groups. It is explicit about ensuring that health promotion and ill-health prevention approaches must be targeted at high-risk groups. This means that programmes must be delivered in such a way that they are accessible to families from black and minority ethnic groups. Such approaches, which combine targeted and universal approaches, will lead to a narrowing of the health inequality gap between groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111109w0001.htm#111109102000435>

New Publication

TUC Guide to Equality Law 2011

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/tucfiles/130/GUIDEEQUALITYLAW2011.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Hate Crime

Angela Smith: What steps is [the Minister for Equalities] taking to tackle hate crime. [79668]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): Tackling hate crime is an issue that the Government take extremely seriously, and we are committed to doing more to support and protect victims. We are meeting the coalition commitment to improve the recording of such crimes, and working with

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the police and other partners to encourage more victims to come forward. We are also working with the Government's independent advisory group to develop an action plan on tackling all forms of hate crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111110/debtext/111110-0001.htm#11111068000030>

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days in (a) 2010 and (b) 2011; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78675]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Individual police forces collate and analyse intelligence on the number of anti-Semitic attacks, in order to inform local operational decisions and to provide adequate protection at times of demand. In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers analyses this intelligence, to inform forces of any emerging challenges. Data on attacks on Jewish High Holy Days are not separately identified.

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78676]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Hate crime, including that targeting a person's religion, is an issue the Government take very seriously. We are working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners to encourage the reporting of all hate crime and improve the response of the police and other criminal justice agencies to ensure better protection for victims.

The cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism and the police regularly meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the protection of the Jewish community against anti-Semitic attacks. The anti-Semitism working group and the cross-Government Hate Crime Strategy Board have a number of actions in train to tackle anti-Semitism, which are reassessed on a regular basis. These include funding the security needs of Jewish faith schools within the state school sector, challenging anti-Semitism in online media, improving the recording of all hate crime, including anti-Semitic hate crimes, and improving the training of hate crime prosecutors.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111108/text/111108w0001.htm#11110885000006>

Press Releases

FRA and Yad Vashem Launch Educators' Toolkit on the Holocaust and Human Rights

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/news_and_events/infocus11_0911_en.htm

OSCE meeting on preventing racism and hate crimes begins with calls for greater efforts to combat intolerance

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/84923>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

New Publication

Toolkit on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education in the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/toolkit-holocaust-education/index.htm>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Scottish Government meetings

Drew Smith: To ask the Scottish Executive on how many occasions it has met (a) religious organisations, (b) anti-sectarian groups and (c) equality groups regarding (i) the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications Bill and (ii) its consultation on equalising marriage rights; who it met, and which of these meetings involved the First Minister. (S4W-03296)

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: So far, the Scottish Government has met with 10 religious organisations, three anti-sectarian groups and 28 equality groups in relation to the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications Bill. It has met with eight religious organisations and four equality groups in relation to the consultation on equalising marriage rights.

Of those organisations, the government has met with religious organisations on 22 occasions, with anti-sectarian groups on seven occasions and with equality groups on 42 occasions regarding the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications Bill. It has met with religious groups on 10 occasions and with and equality groups twice regarding its consultation on equalising marriage rights.

2. The Scottish Government has met with the following organisations and groups:

Religious Organisations

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Bill	Equalising Marriage Rights
Action of Churches together in Scotland	Augustine United Church
Catholic Church	Evangelical Alliance
Christian Institute	Free Church of Scotland
Church of Scotland	Methodist Church
Evangelical Alliance Scotland	Muslim Council of Scotland
Muslim Council of Scotland	Roman Catholic Church
Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church	Scottish Episcopal Church
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (ScoJeC)	Unitarian Church
Scottish Interfaith Council and Edinburgh Inter Faith Association	
Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland	

Anti-Sectarian Organisations

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Bill	Equalising Marriage Rights
Nil By Mouth	None
Sense Over Sectarianism	
Show Racism/Bigotry the red card	

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Equality Groups

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Bill	Equalising Marriage Rights
Amnesty International	Equality Network
Barnardo's Scotland	LGBT Youth Scotland
Cairde Scotland	Scottish Transgender Alliance
Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland	Stonewall Scotland
Campaign for Racial Equality and Rights	
Central Scotland Regional Equality Council	
Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland	
Equality for all	
Equality Network	
Equality Grants Programme	
Gay Men's Health	
Glasgow Disability Alliance	
Harps Community Project	
Human Rights Consortium	
Iona Community	
LGBT Youth Scotland	
No2ID	
Salvation Army	
Scottish Campaign for Freedom of Information	
Scottish Human Rights Commission	
SCVO	
Sharpe Thinking	
Stonewall Scotland	
Take A Liberty Scotland	
The Connolly Foundation	
YoungScot	
Youthlink Scotland	
The Scottish Youth Parliament	

3. The First Minister has been involved in one meeting with Bishop Tartaglia of Paisley where both the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill and the consultation on equalising marriage rights were discussed.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03296&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

Same-sex Marriage

Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will introduce legislation on same-sex marriage in 2012 following completion of its current consultation. (S4O-00335)

Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy (Nicola Sturgeon): The consultation has not yet been completed and no decisions have been taken. However, as indicated in the foreword to the consultation, if the Scottish Government should decide to introduce a bill to Parliament, we will consult on the detail of any draft bill before it is formally introduced.

Patrick Harvie: I entirely accept that the final decision will, of course, be made after the

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

consultation. However, if the Government's initial view continues to be that legislation should be brought forward, will the cabinet secretary confirm that there is no technical or legal barrier to introducing legislation next year, instead of delaying it until 2013? If Parliament and Government both want this done, surely it is best that it be done quickly.

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: I am sure that Patrick Harvie will understand that I am not going to be drawn too far into the post-consultation debate at this stage. It is right that we are having a consultation and that the Government listens to all the views that are put forward in that consultation.

In the consultation, we set out our initial view, as Patrick Harvie says. We also set out an indicative timeline, should our decision be to proceed. It is the case that some complicated issues would need to be resolved if we did so. Some of those issues have been raised by people on both sides of this debate. That is why, if the decision is to proceed, we need a period of consultation on the draft legislation.

Once the consultation period has concluded, the Government will come back in due course to the chamber to outline our final decision and say what the next steps forward will be.

John Mason: I thank the cabinet secretary for what she has already said, but could she reassure people who are thinking of responding to the consultation that doing so is worth while and that the Government certainly has not made up its mind on how to proceed?

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: I have said many times before and I will say it again: this is a consultation. In the interests of honesty and transparency, the Government set out our initial view at the outset of the consultation. However, we also said that no final decision had been taken, and none will be taken until the consultation concludes and the responses to the consultation have been properly considered and analysed.

This is a genuine consultation. I have met a number of groups and individuals on both sides of the debate. We are listening to all the views that are put forward. In the few remaining days of the consultation, I encourage everyone with a view on the issue, no matter what that view is, to submit it to the consultation, in order that it be fully considered.

Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (SNP): I am aware that, during the consultation, the cabinet secretary has met a wide range of representatives of Scotland's religious faiths. Have they presented a diversity of opinion on the issue? I have a feeling that the media perception is that there is a particular view on their part, rather than a range of views.

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: I have not personally met representatives of every religious group that has submitted views to the consultation. However, among those who have submitted their views, there is a diversity of opinion. A few weeks ago, five of the groups that might be described as the smaller religious groups submitted a view that was in favour of legislation.

So far in the consultation, I have met representatives of the Catholic Church, the Muslim Council of Scotland and—yesterday—the Church of Scotland. Those three religious faith groups have said to me that they do not agree that we should have legislation on this. We are listening to all the views on all sides of this debate and, as a Government, we will come to a final decision in due course and in the appropriate way.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6534&mode=html#iob_59388

Other Holyrood (continued) News

New leader Ruth Davidson announces front bench team

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-15671037>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriages and Honour Killings

Douglas Carswell: What her policy is on reducing (a) forced marriages and (b) honour killings; and if she will make a statement. [79667]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The Government are committed to ending the abusive practices of forced marriage and honour killings, and to ensuring that victims are protected. These practices are indefensible and never acceptable. Our action plan to end violence against women and girls sets out our approach, which includes raising awareness, development of training for police and prosecutors, support for victims, and improving the international response.

Douglas Carswell: How quickly will the Government move to ensure that forced marriage is made a criminal offence?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Up to now, this has been a civil matter under protection orders. We are making it a criminal offence to breach a civil order, and we will be consulting on the actual offence becoming a criminal one before Christmas.

Mary Glendon: What discussions is the Minister having with colleagues in the Department for Education to ensure that schools spot any early signs of vulnerability to forced marriage?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We have an inter-ministerial group on violence against women and girls, to which the Department for Education sends a Minister. As the hon. Lady knows, issues relating to forced marriage are principally, though not exclusively, explored within personal, social and health education. The Department for Education continues to work closely with other Departments, and it reports to us in the inter-ministerial group.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111110/debtext/111110-0001.htm#11111068000029>

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New Publications

Charities' use of the internet

<http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/NT%20SoA%203%20-%20Charities%20use%20of%20the%20internet.pdf>

EU Agency For Fundamental Rights (Fra): A Reality Check

<http://jrcb-lar.byu.edu/common/files/fra%20a%20reality%20check.pdf>

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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/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/29678.aspx>

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

**** Referendum On Separation For Scotland** (two separate consultations closing on 11 and 18 November 2011)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/news/referendum-inquiry-tor/>

Public Sector Equality Duty (25 November 2011)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357629/0120853.pdf>

**** The census and social science** (30 November 2011)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news/111109-new-inquiry---census/>

Reasonable accommodation of cultural diversity in the workplace
(no closing date given)
<http://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=e80f85dd-1859-41b3-80b8-c1ffbccddc76>

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>

Migration Advisory Committee: level of the 2012/13 annual limit on tier 2 and associated policies (21 December 2011)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-evidence-document>

Public Focus Strategy (closes 23 December 2011)
http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/279989/public_focus_strategy.pdf

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Job Opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Human Rights & Equalities

15 November 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.00)

Ishara workshop explain how human rights apply to our daily lives in Scotland. The session will introduce the human rights based approach to improving the quality of life for you and the people you work with. It explores links with developing equality policy and legislation. For information contact Tasnim Sharif Tasnim@deafconnections.co.uk / 07749 211 524.

**** this week!**

Ethnic Minority Third Sector Network

18 November 2011 in the Scottish Parliament (12.00 – 4.00)

Joint BEMIS and CEMVO event to discuss the promotion of equality and diversity, and ethnic minority community contributions to build a cohesive multicultural Scottish society. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11x_em3n.pdf or contact BEMIS 0141 548 8047 / info@bemis.org.uk.

**** this week!**

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

Equality in Employment

23 November 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to help organisations meet their legal and ethical responsibilities. Issues covered include recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and equality in volunteering. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/6cv62u8>

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

Opening of Interfaith Week

27 November 2011 in Glasgow (1.30 – 3.45)

For information contact Frances Hume fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org / 0141 420 6982.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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, and in protecting the vulnerable, and whether human rights offer an effective tool for people wishing to challenge the impact of service cuts or changes. 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.

Meet Your Muslim Neighbour

DATE CHANGED!! 3 December 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

Collecting & Using Equalities Information

7 December 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to provide best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/5ta8f3p>

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

**** Equality in Scotland's Third Sector**

8 December 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 2.30)

Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services launch of a new online equality resource. For information contact Stacey Anderson stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

**** Third Sector Forum Launch**

9 December 2011 in Glasgow (2.00 – 3.30)

The Third Sector Forum will bring together voluntary organisations, social enterprises and volunteering organisations from across Glasgow. For information contact Tom Warrington tom.warrington@gcvs.org.uk.

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (9.30-12.30pm) January 2012 in Edinburgh

13th (9.30-4.30pm) & 14th(9.30-12.30pm) February 2012in Edinburgh

19th(9.30-4.30pm) & 20th(9.30-12.30pm) March 2012in 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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Research, Ethics and Active Citizenship: Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

18 January 2012 in Glasgow (11.30 – 3.30)

BEMIS and GRAMNet seminar to discuss how changes in social science and humanities research methods have led to a deeper commitment to active citizenship and human rights education. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

Week of 13 February – date still to be confirmed – in Edinburgh

BEMIS and GRAMNet consultation on the subject of guidelines for ethical research practice in social sciences and humanities. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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