



MEMO

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ISSUE 129

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS](#).

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.

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

George Foulkes (S3W-11617): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the Home Office on immigration rules and legislation.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: Representations to the Home Office on immigration rules and legislation have covered six broad subjects: the points based immigration rules, asylum seekers and the rights children, the displacement of UK medical graduates, academic visitors to Scotland, citizenship and policing issues.

Written representations by Scottish ministers are underpinned by meetings, exchanges and correspondence at both official and ministerial level and have included: First Minister to Home Secretary on the subject of asylum seekers (1 August 2007 and 17 September 2007); Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well Being to the Home Office Minister of State (9 October 2007) and to the Home Secretary (5 January 2008) on the subject of medical graduates and the highly skilled migrants programme; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to Home Office Minister of State on the subject of asylum seekers (17 December 2007); Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to Home

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Office Minister of State on the subject of academic visitors (19 March 2008), and First Minister to Home Secretary on the subject of Citizenship (25 March 2008).

Scottish ministers have also made representations on the points based immigration system covering: the scope for Scottish flexibilities within the system; a reduced qualifying period for settlement in Scotland; the criteria for Tier One - Post Study (the successor to the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme), including retaining Scottish HNDs as an eligible qualification; Scottish representation on the Migration Advisory Committee and the Migration Impacts Forum, and the potential impact on Scotland's cultural festivals and sports events, the Asian restaurant trade and Japanese investment (as a result of the English language requirement).

Official discussions on policing have also been conducted, covering the implications for Scotland of extending police powers to immigration officers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the UK Borders Review, which led to establishment of the UK Borders Agency from April 2008.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0502.htm>

Jeremy Purvis (S3W-12674): To ask the Scottish Executive how many children for whom English is not their first language are enrolled in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools, broken down by local authority area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-06e.htm>

Jeremy Purvis (S3W-12675): To ask the Scottish Executive what special services are provided to children for whom English is not their first language enrolled in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools, broken down by local authority area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-06e.htm>

Holyrood Petition

PE1146 Petition by Jennifer Newman calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme with the Home Office to allow overseas students on the scheme to stay and work in Scotland for an extended period at the conclusion of their academic studies without the need for a work permit and, as a result, ensure greater benefits for all concerned given the amounts of public funding spent training such individuals.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/docs/PE1146.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): I am today announcing the next steps in our programme of comprehensive immigration reform for 2008. I am publishing statements of intent which set out how the points system will work for skilled migrants coming to fill vacancies here, and for those who come to the UK temporarily for cultural and other non-economic reasons.

The Points-Based System

The UK's new points system is central to our plans for controlling the numbers and skills of people coming to the UK, and ensuring only those the UK needs from outside the EEA can come to work or study.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

We began the points system earlier this year with arrangements for highly skilled migrants. The statements of intent I am publishing today outline details on how the system will work for skilled and temporary migrants.

These arrangements will significantly reduce the number of routes to the UK and will include five key changes for skilled workers.

First, all employers who wish to employ skilled migrants will need a licence, provided and monitored by the UK Border Agency. This will help ensure employers are fulfilling their obligations to the UK, for example, helping migrants to understand and comply with our immigration rules.

Secondly, migrants will be required to show English language competence to assist with their effectiveness at work and their integration into British life.

Thirdly, all jobs will be required to meet the resident labour market test before a migrant can be recruited unless the job is in a certified shortage occupations or is an intra-company transfer.

Fourthly, all migrants not filling jobs on the shortage occupation list will be required to earn points through their qualifications and prospective earnings.

Fifthly, there will be a maintenance requirement so that would-be migrants must prove they have the ability to support themselves for the first month they are here.

We are publishing the draft points pass mark today. The final points pass mark for the skilled tier of the points system will be informed by the work of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on economic needs and that of the Migration Impacts Forum on the wider effects of migration.

The MAC will produce shortage occupation lists for the UK, and Scotland only, showing where there are skilled shortages that can be sensibly filled by migration through the points based system.

Statement of Intent for the Temporary Workers and Youth Mobility Tier (Tier 5).

Tier 5 of the points-based system covers temporary workers and the UK's new international youth mobility scheme, allowing people to travel to the UK to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives including five sub-categories: creative and sporting; charity workers; religious; Government-authorised exchange; and international agreement.

As with our arrangements for skilled migrants:

All migrants will need a certificate of sponsorship from a licensed sponsor who will vouch that the migrant will comply with the terms of their stay in the UK, before they even arrive in the UK.

Migrants must also meet the maintenance requirements, demonstrating that they can support themselves while they are here in the UK.

The Tier 5 international youth mobility scheme will allow young people from partner nations to come to the United Kingdom for up to two years to work and travel, while young UK nationals enjoy similar experiences in those countries.

We are publishing these documents today so that those affected by the changes we are putting in place can prepare. We are also giving people the opportunity to comment on the documents. A statement of intent for students under the points-based system will follow later this year.

Copies of the statements of intent on the skilled migrant tier and the temporary worker and youth mobility tier have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the United Kingdom Border Agency's website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080506/wmstext/80506m0002.htm#0805061100021>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3302]: Whether some failed asylum-seekers subject to deportation orders are being kept in immigration detention during the period in which the Home Office obtains emergency travel documents for them; if so, whether they have been detained for more than one year; and, if so, how frequently in the past year detentions of over one year have occurred.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Individuals, including failed asylum seekers, subject to deportation orders may be detained while the travel documentation process to facilitate their removal is taking place. It is not possible to identify separately such individuals from within the statistics on all persons detained under Immigration Act powers. This would only be possible through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Following a change in the system in which information is collected, statistics on all persons detained under sole Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available after September 2006. Information on children has only been made available through the examination of individual cases, which would only be possible for adult detainees at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80508w0002.htm#08050849000018>

Damian Green [202609]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are taken in relation to illegal immigrants detained in police or immigration custody in circumstances where there is a lack of capacity within the immigration detention estate.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Detainees can be held in police cells or Short Term Holding Facilities for a maximum of five nights, or seven nights if removal directions are in place. Within this period they are expected to be removed from the United Kingdom, transferred into suitable long term accommodation, or released.

Alternatives to detention are considered for those who are released from detention such as reporting conditions which restricts an individual's place of residence, employment or occupation, physically reporting to a police or an immigration reporting centre and electronic monitoring.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080507/text/80507w0027.htm#0805087000053>

Press Releases

Tighter rules for skilled foreign workers

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/tighter-rules-skilled-work>

New UK Border Agency requirements for bringing overseas-trained teachers to the UK

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/overseastrainedteachers/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Granted asylum: the Eritrean athletes ready to run for Scotland

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2246798.0.Granted_asylum_the_Eritrean_athletes_ready_to_run_for_Scotland.php

Athletes hope for asylum in the long run

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Athletes-hope-for-asylum-in.4050638.jp>

The only way is up

http://www.theherald.co.uk/sport/headlines/display.var.2246803.0.The_only_way_is_up.php

Faster track to passport for Budd

http://www.theherald.co.uk/sport/thearchive/display.var.2246804.0.Faster_track_to_passport_for_Budd.php

Illegal worker prosecutions rise

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Illegal-worker-prosecutions-rise.4050005.jp>

Big rise in bosses fined for taking on illegal immigrants

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Big-rise-in--bosses.4051892.jp>

Fears immigration rules will hit Highland games

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/624295>

Polish scheme to land better jobs

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/624377>

New immigration points system plan

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/New-immigration-points-system-plan.4052053.jp>

Foreign footballers will have to talk a good game under new rules

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2251122.0.Foreign_footballers_will_have_to_talk_a_good_game_under_new_rules.php

English is new goal for foreign players

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/English-is-new-goal-for.4055519.jp>

City spends £2m in two years on extra services for migrants

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/City--spends-2m-.4056535.jp>

The show can go on as Fringe visa plan ditched

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/The-show-can-go-on.4056468.jp>

Watchdog moves in to end abuse of migrants

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/628735>

Widower loses fight to stay in UK

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wiltshire/7392666.stm>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

NHS error widower cannot stay in UK

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/NHS-error-widower-cannot-stay.4069471.jp>

Filipino whose wife died after blunder by NHS to be deported

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/filipino-whose-wife-died-after-blunder-by-nhs-to-be-deported-825414.html>

Gay Syrian waits for asylum appeal verdict

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Gay-Syrian-waits-for-asylum.4071539.jp>

Pick of fruit crop could be left to rot

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/scotland/Pick-of-fruit-crop-could.4071493.jp>

Illegal immigration: journalists quiz MEPs on emerging deal

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-28265-128-05-19-901-20080505STO28116-2008-07-05-2008/default_en.htm

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Race Relations

Holyrood Time for Reflection

Amanullah De Sondy (Centre for the Study of Islam, University of Glasgow): Ladies and gentlemen, Presiding Officer, good afternoon. You may be expecting someone who comes from an ancient divinity school in the west of Scotland to give you a convoluted theological inquiry. Do not worry, I have no intention of doing that, not least because I have arrived here not from the school of divinity at the University of Glasgow, but from Edinburgh's Craiglockhart tennis centre, where I am officiating as a line umpire at a professional tennis tournament. I wonder if it is possible to mix my passion for theology and tennis. Love-15.

Love is the language of theology, faith and practice but, at times, it is lost in the sea of our own delusions. As a Scot who happens to be Muslim, I grew up thinking about what it meant for me to be a Muslim in Scotland. At times, I was stuck between Scottish society and the culture that my parents brought from Pakistan in the 1950s. It was inevitable that those in that position would have an identity crisis. Many tried in vain to create an identity, but the label "Scottish Muslim" truly confused me, for there has to be a Scottish Islam for there to be a Scottish Muslim.

The Scottish Muslim label is stuck between the Pakistani Islam that the first generation brought with them and the medieval Islamic utopia of the golden age that many preach. I found myself unable to accept any of those. I strived for my faith to be complemented by Scottish society and for that to be accepted and, most importantly, criticised by those around me—warts and all, beyond political correctness—for it is only through reflection with the other that our own identities are strengthened.

Race Relations

Holyrood Time for Reflection (continued)

Love is a great vehicle to shape this. For me, love is the essence of the Qur'an—a text that, for me, is perfectly ambiguous, with its many shades of black, white and grey. It is a scripture that can quite easily support the actions of those who wish to promote love and those who wish to promotewar. After all, it is a text and every reader has their own way of interpreting that text.

Love is a term open to multiple interpretations. Love brings with it its own challenges that we must all consider. The famous 20th century Urdu poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, who lived in Pakistan and was from the same city as my parents—Sialkot in the Punjab—was what I would consider a progressive Muslim. Seeking the beautiful in Islam through a critical inquiry into its ugliness, Faiz offers us all some food for thought on love:

"The self of a human being, despite all its loves, troubles, joys and pains, is a tiny, limited and humble thing."

Faiz's most famous poem has changed my outlook on life. It is titled "Mujh Sey Pehli Si Mohabbat Meray Mehboob Na Mang", which translates as "Don't ask me for that love I once gave you, my beloved". He weaves love between the harsh realities of war, hatred and self-interest. He says that, when one realises harsh realities, one is unable to return to the utopia of love or absolute ideals and that love cannot prosper in isolation from all that surrounds it.

So it is my heartfelt prayer that we are all led in our duties as theologians or as politicians in a realistic love, considering the realities and rationalities, weaving our Scottish tartan with its diverse shades of black, white and grey. Only then will our beloved Scotland win—game, set and match.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0507-02.htm#Col8279>

News

New Mayor must stop our schools separating out along race lines, equality chief warns

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23483348-details/New+Mayor+must+stop+our+schools+separating+out+along+race+lines,+equality+chief+warns/article.do>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Consideration of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Equalities Report 2007

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-0702.htm#Col450>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (1491) Judicial Appointments and Diversity - That this House is both alarmed and disappointed that the system of judicial appointments has failed to appoint a single black and minority ethnic candidate to a senior judicial position in the two years since the inception of the Judicial Appointments Commission; notes that this system has also failed to recommend a sufficient number of black and minority ethnic candidates for appointment in other competitions; believes that it is of crucial importance that the judiciary properly reflects the society it serves; and calls for an open and independent inquiry by the Government into the judicial appointments system to identify the specific causes for these failures and to take action to address them as a matter of urgency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80508e01.htm>

New publications

Evaluation of the Fair Cities Pilots 2007

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep495.pdf>

Estimating ethnic parity in Jobcentre Plus programmes: A quantitative analysis using the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep491.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3091]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith on 19 February 2007 (WA 175), whether they will identify the religion or belief of perpetrators as well as those of victims in the *Racist Incident Monitoring Annual Report 2007-08*.

Reply from Baroness Scotland of Asthal: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) introduced the facility to record the religion or belief of defendants and victims in April 2007. Figures for the first year's data collection between April 2007 and March 2008 have yet to be audited and validated as suitable for publication; initial indications are that the police did not provide the CPS with the required information in a large number of cases.

The CPS will publish its first annual hate crime report covering the year 2007-08 by November 2008. This report will for the first time draw together performance information about all hate-crime prosecutions. It will replace the *Racist Incident Monitoring Annual Report*.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80507w0001.htm#08050780000006>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Gordon Prentice (203705): To ask the Solicitor General, how many people were (a) prosecuted for and (b) convicted of religious hate crimes where the victim was (i) a convert from Islam to Christianity and (ii) a convert from Christianity to Islam in each year since 2000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80506w01.htm>

Press Release

Venue and duration of 2009 anti-racism review conference to be decided on 26 May

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Anti-racismReviewConference.aspx>

New publications

Extending EU Anti-Discrimination Law: Report of an ENAR Ad Hoc Expert Group on Anti-Discrimination Law

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/Extending%20EU%20Anti-Discrimination%20Law%20final.pdf>

European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance: Annual Report 2007

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/1%2Decri/1%2Dpresentation_of_ecri/4%2Dannual_report_2007/Annual%20Report%202007.pdf

News

Surge in racist crimes shows disharmony in our communities

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/628756>

Police bid to tackle Islamophobia

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7391852.stm

Muslim police group to tackle anti-Islam prejudices

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslim-police-group-to-tackle.4070298.jp>

Concerns as SNP say they have 'no plans' to continue to hold anti-sectarian summit

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2262623.0.concerns_as_snp_say_they_have_no_plans_to_continue_to_hold_antisectionarian_summit.php

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Lord Steinberg asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3127]: What is their position on faith schools.

Reply from Lord Adonis: Faith schools have historically been and continue to be an integral part of the school system in England, constituting around one-third of the 20,501 maintained schools in England. They play a very valuable role and have much to contribute to our common aim of building a more just and cohesive society and improving the life chances of all children, particularly the most disadvantaged.

We set out our position in the document *Faith in the System* in September last year. This is now being taken forward by the faith groups.

We are committed to supporting the establishment of new schools by a range of providers—including faith organisations—where local consultation has shown that this is what parents and the local community want, where the school is willing and able to comply with the requirements on all maintained schools, and where this greater diversity will help to raise standards. This is subject to parental demand and proper local consultation and decision-making.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80507w0003.htm#08050780000027>

Ministerial Letter

Safeguarding Children from Forced Marriage

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/doc/12619/FM%20Letter%20to%20schools%20and%20LAS.pdf>

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Other News

Row over health risk to cousins who marry

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/may/11/genetics.medicalresearch>

After 30 years, black archive gets a permanent home

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/may/09/britishidentity>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Creative Scotland Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm>

Finance Committee Report on the Financial Memorandum of the Creative Scotland Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/reports-08/fir08-creative-scot-bill-fm.htm>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/index.htm>

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill has been passed

**** Public Health Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm>

proposed amendments at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-stage2-ml.pdf>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-08g.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Counter-Terrorism Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pb0630805m.181-187.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630805a.217-222.html>

House of Commons Committee consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmpublic/counter/080506/am/80506s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmpublic/counter/080506/pm/80506s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmpublic/counter/080508/am/80508s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmpublic/counter/080508/pm/80508s01.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/criminaljusticeandimmigration.html>

House of Commons consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080506/debtext/80506-0004.htm#0805068000001>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments ("Ping Pong")

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80507-0002.htm#08050775000011>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80507-0017.htm#08050792000003>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments ("Ping Pong")

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080507/debtext/80507-0019.htm#08050789000003>

The Bill was passed and received Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80508-0001.htm#08050867000012>

summary of measures

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease090508b.htm>

Draft Bill

The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/draft-constitutional-renewal-bill.pdf>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System

(14 May 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/pathtocitizenship?view=Binary>

Cohesion Guidance for Funders (26 May 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681891>

Consultations (continued)

Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections

(12 June 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216422/0058059.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Call for help with Human Rights Inquiry

(21 June 2008)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/Inquirycallforevidence.aspx>

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked (3 July 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/219212/0058832.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in *MEMO+ Recruitment*

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Funding Opportunities

**** closes this week!**

Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme

Closing date for applications: 16 May 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of individuals and their communities through volunteering. The grant aims to increased volunteers' access to employment, education, training and other volunteering opportunities, improve social and support networks, provide new and improved services to support vulnerable people and communities, and increase participation in community processes such as planning.

For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/vsgs>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV

13 May 2008 in Glasgow

Children in Scotland seminar to explore issues surrounding working with children and families who have unsure immigration status and are living with HIV. For information contact Megan Rodgers 0131 222 2426 / training@childreninScotland.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 May 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland; particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

Diversity in the UK / Diversity in Scotland

1 – 7 July 2008 in Aberdovey (Wales)

13 – 20 October 2008 at Loch Eil (Scotland)

Encompass programmes for young people aged 17-23 from religiously, ethnically, economically, socially and geographically diverse backgrounds. These include challenging outdoor team-building activities, and controversial, hard-hitting discussions focusing on issues such as identity, and stereotypes. For information see http://www.scojec.org/MEMO/Files/08iv_Encompass.doc or contact Erika 020 7493 9739 / erika@encompasstrust.org

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

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** 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. <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>