

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Jack McConnell (S3W-16800): To ask the Scottish Executive how many Leave to Remain visas have been requested in each year since the launch of the Fresh Talent initiative.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: This is a matter for the UK Government. The Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme was managed by the Home Office, and information on the total number of Leave to Remain visas requested in each year is not routinely made available to the Scottish Government. I have asked the Home Office to write to you direct with this information.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16801): To ask the Scottish Executive how many Leave to Remain visas have been granted in each year since the launch of the Fresh Talent initiative.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme was managed by the Home Office, who have provided the Scottish Government with the following information on the number of visas granted under the scheme.

Year	Total
July 2005 to June 2006	1,904
July 2006 to June 2007	2,785
July 2007 to June 2008	3,786

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jack McConnell (S3W-16802): To ask the Scottish Executive what evaluation has taken place of the Leave to Remain scheme and the Relocation Advisory Service.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: We have recently published a review of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme which is available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/15155422/0>. An evaluation of the Relocation Advisory Service Phase 2 – Research Findings was published on the Scottish Government website in May 2008 and is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/20093224/2>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16803): To ask the Scottish Executive what arrangements there are for overseas students graduating in Scotland to provide them with opportunities to remain in Scotland for an extended period following graduation and how these compare with arrangements elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: International students (from outside the EEA) graduating in Scotland can apply to remain in the UK for up to two years under Tier 1: Post Study, part of the new UK managed migration arrangements. These arrangements now apply across the whole of the UK. In Scotland those graduating with a Higher National Diploma can also apply under Post Study for two years' leave to remain. That is not the case in the rest of the UK.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16804): To ask the Scottish Executive how often Scottish ministers met UK ministers between May 2007 and September 2008 to discuss the new UK immigration policy.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Fiona Hyslop, has met with Liam Byrne and had a telephone conversation with Bill Rammell, and the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabiani, has had a telephone conversation with Liam Byrne to discuss the new UK points based system for managed migration.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16805): To ask the Scottish Executive whether written representations were made to the UK Government by Scottish ministers in advance of the launch of the new UK Government immigration policy and what representations were made between May 2007 and September 2008.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: Scottish ministers have been in correspondence with UK Government ministers about 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; 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); student visas and the proposals for citizenship.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jack McConnell (S3W-16806): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations have been, or will be, made by Scottish ministers to UK ministers to allow trainee doctors to complete their training using the provisions of the Fresh Talent initiative.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing has written to the Home Secretary on 10 October requesting that the necessary changes are made to ensure graduates from Scottish medical schools currently on FT:WISS are granted equal access to transfer into Tier 1 without restriction.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16807): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations have been made by Scottish ministers to UK ministers to allow financial services trainees to complete their training and remain in Scotland beyond the two years of the Leave to Remain scheme under the Fresh Talent initiative and what decisions have been implemented as a result.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: There have been no representations made to UK ministers for a specific scheme to allow financial services trainees to remain in Scotland beyond their time on the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme (FT:WiSS). People on FT:WiSS can apply to transfer to remain in Scotland on another migration route at any time during, or at the end of, their two years leave to remain.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

Frank McAveety (S3O-4613): To ask the Scottish Executive what additional resources it will provide to Glasgow City Council to support schools that have a substantial number of pupils who do not have English as a first language.

Reply from Adam Ingram: The Scottish Government is investing record levels of funding in local government—£34.9 billion over the period from 2008 to 2011. All education authorities have the flexibility to allocate the resources that are available to them to meet their local needs and priorities. That includes providing for pupils for whom English is an additional language.

In addition, we continue to encourage schools and colleges to work in partnership to meet the needs of learners. As part of our adult English for speakers of other languages strategy for Scotland, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council have recently allocated £2.7 million of additional funding to community learning and development partnerships and colleges, along with advice encouraging them to develop the ESOL strategy for families and to actively link with schools as one of the key priorities.

Frank McAveety: The purpose behind my question relates to the unforeseen pressures that have emerged in my constituency as a result of the intake of more than 2,000 new residents from the Slovakian Roma community, due to recent changes in the European Union. That has resulted in major pressure for Annette Street primary school in particular.

Will the minister meet me and local parents and community representatives to address the pressures that that school and one or two others in the Govanhill area are facing, so that we can ensure that the good reputation that Annette Street school has for meeting the needs of diverse communities, which it has done for a number of years, is upheld, and address ways in which we can, in partnership with the city council and the Scottish Government, find ways in which resources can be used to meet the needs of those new, emerging communities?

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Adam Ingram: I would be happy to meet Mr McAveety to discuss that situation. He will be well aware that Glasgow City Council recently reviewed its provision of English as an additional language service and found that it did not meet the needs of all its children. It is reorganising its staff, deploying them more efficiently and targeting them in areas in which the most need has been identified—Govanhill might well be in that category. I note that there have been significant increases in funding for some colleges in Glasgow. John Wheatley College, which is in the member's constituency, has received £36,000 in extra funding for the teaching of English as an additional language.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1030-02.htm#Col11934>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17187): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the Migration Advisory Committee regarding the minimum threshold for low-skilled workers, such as Indian curry chefs, coming from outside the European Union.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17188): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the UK Government regarding the minimum threshold for low-skilled workers, such as Indian curry chefs, coming from outside the European Union.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17189): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with restaurateurs regarding the effect of the UK Government's new points-based immigration system

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-27e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Bill Wilson (S3M-2762): All Citizens Equal—That the Parliament notes the recent controversy regarding the right of naturalised citizens to play football for the Scottish national team and affirms its view that all citizens of Scotland are equal and that a naturalised citizen is no less a citizen, and has no fewer rights, than those born in this country.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-28f.htm>

Michael McMahon (S3M-2762.1): All Citizens Equal—As an amendment to motion (S3M-2762) in the name of Bill Wilson, insert at end "and acknowledges the right of those from ethnic minorities born in Scotland to choose to play international football for countries other than Scotland, free from being singled out for abuse owing to this perfectly legitimate decision."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-30f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Debate

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2008

Lord Brett rose to move, That the Grand Committee do report to the House that it has considered the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2008. The noble Lord said: In moving this Motion, I will repeat things said recently in the other place and in this House. The Government are determined to continue to drive through the real improvements in the immigration system that we have said that we will deliver. In April 2008, we created a new force, the UK Border Agency, which brings together UKvisas, the Border and Immigration Agency and Customs at the border. We are seeing the results. I realise that I am in danger of repeating what was said to most noble Lords here just a few moments ago but, since April, we have seen the prevention of some 10,000 individuals crossing the channel; we have searched more than 500,000 freight vehicles; and we have confiscated and detected more than 1,000 forged documents. In addition, anyone applying for a visa now has their fingerprints checked against UK databases. So far, we have enrolled some 3 million sets of fingerprints.

We have started rolling out the tough new Australian points-based system. Analysis has shown that, if the points-based system had been in place last year, around 10 per cent fewer skilled and temporary migrants from outside Europe would have been allowed into the United Kingdom. Since we introduced new penalties for employers to combat illegal working in February 2008, fines worth about £8 million have been issued. We have also unveiled foreign national ID cards, which will go live later this month.

The problem with all this is the cost to the Exchequer and the taxpayer. This year, we will spend more than over £2 billion on securing our borders and managing the immigration system, of which £670 million will have come from fees paid by those using the system. It is right and fair to the users of the immigration system and to the general public in the UK that those who benefit most from the immigration system should contribute proportionately more to the true end costs.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029-gc0002.htm#08102944000005>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Mark Harper [229777]: What recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the co-ordination of migration policy.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Home Office Ministers discuss migration policy with ministerial colleagues on a regular basis through the Cabinet Committee structure, in particular the Ministerial Committee for Domestic Affairs Sub-Committee on Migration.

Several Departments are represented on the Migration Advisory Committee and the Migration Impact Forum. We also work closely with individual Departments on a range of more specific issues about migration policy.

Mark Harper: I thank the Minister for that answer. Is it not the case that, when he said that it has been too easy to get into this country in the past, he was right, and that is the reason for the failure of the Government's attempts at welfare reform? In the past three years, 365,000 fewer UK-born citizens were in work, while 865,000 more foreign migrants were in work. I listened to his answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field). Even if he takes the steps that he announced, are they not too little, far too late?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: No, I do not accept that. If the hon. Gentleman is fair—I know that he is—he will examine the policies of a range of Departments, including the changes that have been introduced today to incapacity benefit to help the welfare-to-work programme. Of course, the needs of the economy are being put first, as he says, by the points-based system. I therefore disagree with him—I believe that the steps will be sufficient.

Dominic Grieve: Last week, the immigration Minister unrepentantly and repeatedly made it clear that he supports an upper limit on immigration to the United Kingdom to prevent excessive population growth. The Home Secretary has made it clear that she does not support an upper limit. Which is Government policy?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I thank the hon. and learned Gentlemen for the question. There has been much debate in the House, including last Tuesday, although he did not take part, about the population trend that the Office for National Statistics published and that my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead so articulately highlighted. It identifies the total population, including the impact of migration. The Government's point, with which my right hon. Friend agrees, is that the points-based system allows for controlling migration for workers in a method that ensures that the trends do not come to fruition. That is the policy.

Dominic Grieve: I detect that, when the immigration Minister is in the sight of the Home Secretary, he suddenly starts to lose his independence of thought. It is clear that two Government positions are coming from the Home Office—the immigration Minister's and the Home Secretary's—and they cannot be reconciled. If the immigration Minister wants to achieve what he says, and prevent a population of 70 million, there must be curbs on immigration. The Home Secretary does not accept that. Given that the Prime Minister appears to endorse the immigration Minister's view, are we to assume that we should defer entirely to the immigration Minister on those matters and forget what the Home Secretary tells us?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I think that we have confirmation that those on the Conservative Front Bench have no credible policies. The Government have repeatedly stated that had the points-based system that we have introduced been in place 12 months ago, 12 per cent. fewer migrants would have come to this country to work than otherwise. In that way—it seems to be almost a primary-school mathematical point that the hon. and learned Gentleman is seeking to make political mischief out of—the policy is reconciled. I wish that he could say the same of his.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081027/debtext/81027-0003.htm#0810274000021>

Andrew Mackay [229791]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas workers were granted visas to enter the UK in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between October 2007 and September 2008, around 57,000 visas were granted to overseas nationals with Home Office work permits. In addition, over 39,000 visas were issued in permit-free employment categories. Had the new points based system been in place last year there would have been 12 per cent. fewer people coming in to work through the equivalent work permit route.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081027/text/81027w0016.htm#08102732000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [228442]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of foreign workers in employment who have lived in the UK for less than six months.

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

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of foreign workers in employment who have lived in the UK for less than six months. I am replying in her absence.

Using the latest available Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, that is for April-June 2008, it is estimated that there were 55,000 foreign-born people aged 16 and over in employment who had been resident in the UK for less than six months and were living in private households.

It should be noted that the LFS is a survey of private households only and excludes most kinds of communal establishments, such as hotels and hostels, in which foreign-born workers may also be resident.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. In sampling error terms the above estimate is considered to be acceptable as the coefficient of variation (CV) lies between 10 and 20 per cent. The CV indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The figure is derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081027/text/81027w0038.htm#0810281800027>

Daniel Kawczynski [227836]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that other European Union states share responsibility for providing asylum to those from outside the EU who require it.

Reply from Caroline Flint: The Government have actively participated in the existing Common European Asylum System of directives establishing minimum standards for asylum practices and procedures, and the Dublin Regulation determining responsibility for examining asylum claims.

The Government welcome the opportunity afforded by the European Commission's Policy Plan on Asylum and the Migration Pact which was agreed at the October European Council, to develop greater practical cooperation between member states and non-governmental organisations in the area of asylum.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0002.htm#0810286100020>

Peter Soulsby [222790]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what grounds may a work permit be refused to an asylum seeker who has been awaiting a decision upon an asylum application for more than a year.

Reply from Phil Woolas: An asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will only be considered if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0005.htm#0810287800028>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of absconding was of (a) single men, (b) single women, (c) families and (d) unaccompanied child asylum seekers who were not held in detention and whose claim for asylum had (i) been refused with removal from the United Kingdom imminent, (ii) been refused and where removal from the United Kingdom was not possible on human rights or humanitarian grounds and (iii) were yet to be processed in the latest period for which figures are available. [227555]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0005.htm#08102878000026>

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department provides to the authorities in the country of origin of an asylum seeker without documents as part of the re-documentation process. [229278]

Reply from Phil Woolas: In cases where a travel document is required information is exchanged with embassies and high commissions, but this is limited to personal biographical data related to the individual applicant. Information relating to any asylum claim is treated in confidence and is not disclosed to the authorities, unless the claimant has given his consent for the transfer of the data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0005.htm#08102878000026>

James Clappison [179817]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested were identified as illegal immigrants in each of the last five years; and how many of these were (a) detained in police cells or immigration removal centres and (b) not detained but referred to a Home Office Unit.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Data on numbers of individuals arrested was only available from April 2005. Arrests on suspicion of being illegal immigrants during this period were:

	<i>Arrests on suspicion of being illegal immigrants</i>	<i>Operational enforcement visits</i>
2005 (April to December)	9,209	8,364
2006	11,870	13,991
2007	10,757	15,099

In "Enforcing the Deal: Our plans for Enforcing the Immigration Laws in the United Kingdom's communities", published on 19 June 2008, we set out our enforcement priorities. Our attention is centred on taking action against organised criminals, facilitators and employers who break the law. We have focussed over 1,000 additional enforcement staff on enforcement duties whose duties include issuing civil penalties against employers, compliance visits and removal of those who present the greatest harm.

Information on those detained in police cells, immigration removal centres or not detained but referred to a Home Office unit is not collated. Relevant information might be recorded on individual case files but could be obtained only by detailed examination of each record at disproportionate cost.

The data provided is based on management information and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0006.htm#08102878000039>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [229267]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers received section (a) 4 and (b) 95 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in each year since the Act came into force.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows.

(a) Published information on the number of asylum seekers who were supported under section 4 is available from 2005 in the Asylum Statistics Annual Bulletin available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

The following table shows the number of applicants, excluding dependants, recorded as being in receipt of Section 4 support as at the end of the period in each respective year.

(b) Published information on the number of asylum seekers who received section 95 support is available from 2000 in the Asylum Statistics Annual Bulletin available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

The following table shows the number of applicants, including dependants, recorded as being in receipt of section 95 support (dispersed accommodation and subsistence only) as at the end of the period in each respective year.

<i>Applicants, excluding dependants, in receipt of support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 at the end of the period⁽¹⁾</i>	
<i>As at end</i>	<i>Number of applicants on section four support</i>
March 2005 ⁽²⁾	5,200
December 2005	5,180
December 2006	6,555
December 2007	9,140

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
⁽²⁾ This was the first snapshot produced on Section 4.

<i>Supported asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 support at the end of the period⁽¹⁾</i>								
	<i>December each year</i>							
<i>As at end:</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation	13,530	40,325	54,045	49,760	40,750	35,140	36,420	34,150
Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support	8,870	25,310	37,815	30,360	20,875	14,290	11,355	8,900
Total	22,400	65,635	91,860	80,125	61,625	49,430	47,775	43,050

⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0015.htm#08102962000021>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [229268]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of administering section (a) 4 and (b) 95 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 has been in each year since the Act came into force.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency provides a range of support for asylum seekers who are, or who may become, destitute. It is not possible to identify separately administrative costs relating to individual lines of support. Total Home Office expenditure on asylum seekers for the years 2000-01 to 2007-08 inclusive is shown as follows, as is the cost of direct support and also total administration costs:

<i>£ million</i>			
		<i>Of which:</i>	
	<i>Total Home Office expenditure on asylum support</i>	<i>Support costs</i>	<i>Administration costs</i>
2000-01	783	750	33
2001-02	1,082	1,046	36
2002-03	1,124	1,092	32
2003-04	1,070	1,035	35
2004-05	854	814	34
2005-06	667	626	34
2006-07	550	515	25
2007-08	531	485	25

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0015.htm#08102962000021>

Michael Meacher [229985]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many immigrants to the UK from (a) other EU member states, (b) Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, (c) African countries, (d) the Caribbean countries and (e) other countries there were in each year since 1979.

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

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how many immigrants to the UK from (a) EU member states, (b) Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, (c) African countries, (d) the Caribbean and (e) other countries there were each year since 1979.

Table 1, attached, gives an estimate of immigration to the UK from these countries of last residence between 1979 and 2006. This table is based solely on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), so excludes immigrants not covered by the IPS such as asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with respect to their length of stay in the UK and those from the Republic of Ireland.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0025.htm#08102969000009>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Soames [227449]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits were issued under the highly skilled migrant programme or tier 1 of the points based system in each month of 2008; which the top 10 countries of origin were in this period; and how many permits were issued to applicants from each of those countries.

To read the lengthy tables provided in reply by Phil Woolas see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0016.htm#08102962000030>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0017.htm>

John Mann [225481]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrant workers have (a) applied for and (b) received national insurance cards in the last five years.

Reply from Tony McNulty: Information on the number of applications made is not available.

A national insurance card is not automatically issued for every national insurance number registered. The available information on the number of national insurance registrations is provided in the following table:

<i>Year of registration</i>	<i>Thousand</i>
2003-04	373.50
2004-05	435.35
2005-06	663.06
2006-07	705.84
2007-08	733.09

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10 and displayed in thousands.
2. Financial years used.
3. Figures provided do not include national insurance numbers issued to young foreign nationals under the juvenile registration process.
4. Figures are on registrations for any purpose not specifically for the purpose of employment.
5. The information is published on the DWP website at http://83.244.183.180/mgw/final/finyr/ccsex/a_stock_r_finyr_c_ccsex_apr08.htm

Source:

100 per cent. DWP extract from national insurance recording system at 29 July 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081030/text/81030w0008.htm#08103048000064>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5416]: What is their assessment of the quality and consistency of decision-making in the new asylum model, in the light of (a) the UK Border Agency's new asylum model quality team report, (b) the Refugee Council's survey of January 2008, and (c) the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees's quality initiative; and what conclusions they have reached, in particular concerning implementation of the gender asylum policy instruction and the giving of due attention to such issues as experience of sexual violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking and sympathetic treatment of torture victims.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead): Continuous improvement in the quality and consistency of asylum interviewing and decision-making is very important to the UK Border Agency.

Joint working with UNHCR on this agenda has proved effective and many of the improvements made have been recognised in each of their five separate reports to Home Office Ministers. The Refugee Council's survey also provided some key pointers to the improvements made recently and to further improvements that could be achieved. The agency's own internal quality team adds to the battery of resource available to drive up the quality of work. Our overall assessment is that quality is improving but that room for further improvement remains.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81028w0001.htm#08102864000008>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5650]: What documentation of their qualifications migrants from the European Union need before obtaining employment in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Young of Norwood Green): Any national of a member state has a right to live, work and set up business in any other member state. However, in most member states certain professions are regulated. A migrant wishing to become established in the UK and pursue a regulated profession must have his qualifications recognised by the competent authority that allows access to the profession. The competent authority will provide the migrant with the appropriate documentation.

If the profession is not regulated, there is no official requirement for further documentation relating to the qualification, and an employer would decide whether the migrant's qualifications were acceptable.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81028w0001.htm#08102864000009>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5649]: Whether migrant workers from the European Union can participate in training courses in the United Kingdom to enhance their skills.

Reply from Lord Young of Norwood Green: Yes. European economic area (EEA) migrant workers are eligible for funding through the Learning and Skills Council for further education and skills courses at FE colleges and providers based in England so long as they have been resident in the EEA for three years prior to the start of their course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81028w0001.htm#08102864000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Greaves asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether the remarks of the Minister for Borders and Immigration, Phil Woolas, about limiting the population of the United Kingdom to 70 million represent government policy; and, if so, how they will achieve it.

Reply from Lord Brett: My Lords, the Government are introducing the tough, new Australian-style points-based system so that the UK gets only the people it needs, and no more. We have the flexibility to alter the thresholds and are taking expert independent advice on where our economy needs migration. We also take into account the impacts on public services and communities.

Lord Greaves: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that response, but I remind him that when the Minister, Mr Woolas, was asked on the Radio 4 "Today" programme if he stood by his assurance that the Government will not let the population rise to 70 million or more, he answered rather more directly. He said, "Yes". Given that population levels over decades depend on birth and death rates, and rates of migration in and out over that period, and that the Government have no direct control over any of those—except in some circumstances—will the Minister advise all of his government colleagues that they really ought not to go on the media making populist announcements about such things? It only makes them look foolish.

Reply from Lord Brett: My Lords, for a clearer understanding of government policy and intentions in this area, I commend to the noble Lord a perusal of the debate on immigration controls held in another place on 21 October. I do so because, whether it is a half-page article that can be edited or, indeed, a two or three-minute question-and-answer session on Radio 4, a well debated three-and-a-quarter hour endeavour on the same subject in another place will be quite clear on the Government's position and will, indeed, help to answer the noble Lord's question.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029-0002.htm#08102937000007>

Lord Alton of Liverpool asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5681]: What notice and time for response the Home Office gives asylum seekers with a further right to appeal before proceeding with a re-documentation interview with the embassy of their country of origin.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The United Kingdom Border Agency can arrange re-documentation interviews with the embassy of asylum seekers' country of origin, once a decision to refuse the application has been made. In some areas case owners will wait until the asylum seekers appeal rights are exhausted before seeking a re-documentation interview.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029w0001.htm#08102935000004>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5826]: Why the authorities at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre removed the Legal Action for Women's *Self-Help Guide against Detention and Deportation* from a detainee on 15 October.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Detention centre rules entitle every detained person to retain their personal property save where such retention is contrary to the interests of safety or security.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029w0002.htm#08102935000014>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green (231580): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many legacy asylum cases she expects to have been determined by 31st December 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81029w01.htm>

Damian Green (231582): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the additional cost to local authorities of decisions made under the Case Resolution Programme for asylum legacy cases which have resulted in the granting of leave to remain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81029w01.htm>

Keith Vaz (231732): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions exist in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum to help share the burden of immigration more fairly amongst member states.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81029w01.htm>

Keith Vaz (231733): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for developing a common asylum and immigration policy as a result of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum; and if she will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81029w01.htm>

Damian Green (231587): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of students at universities required to pay full fees because of changes to the immigration status of their parents as a result of amendments to the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81029w01.htm>

Westminster Early Day Motion

David Drew (2359) **Home Office treatment of Darfur asylum seekers** – That this House believes recent events in Sudan, including the Justice for Equality Movement attack of 10th May 2008 on Khartoum, have led to a drastic change in circumstances and have reinforced the need for Darfuris to be protected from persecution; notes the September 2008 report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Sudan, Sima Samar, in which she warns that at least 500 civilians are still in National Intelligence and Security Services detention and that most are thought to have been arrested on grounds of their Darfurian ethnicity; further notes concerns raised by human rights group Waging Peace regarding severe breaches of law and procedure which occurred during re-documentation interviews of Darfuri asylum seekers by a Sudanese official in Home Office facilities in March and April 2007; expresses concern at the one-year delay for a Home Office response to the report; expresses concern at reports that Home Office officials have recently encouraged Darfuri asylum seekers to sign voluntary return forms without the presence of interpreters; welcomes the upcoming guidance case in November in which returns to Khartoum of individuals of Darfurian origin will be reassessed; urges the Home Office to acknowledge the growing evidence of targeting and persecution of Darfuris in Khartoum; and requests that the Home Office engage as a matter of urgency with the Home Affairs Select Committee and Waging Peace in order to address remaining questions regarding the re-documentation interviews of Darfuri asylum seekers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81028e01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

Points-based system goes live 27 November 2008

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/tiers2and5employers>

Points-based system: approved English language tests for tier 2

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pbsapprovedenglishlanguage>

Kirk: we will stand by failed asylum seeker's children

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr721008.htm>

Ministerial Conference on Integration: ENAR calls for a positive approach to integration

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-10-31%20Vichy%20Integration%20Meeting.pdf>

New publication

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (Provisions commencing on 3 November 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/circular-criminal-justice-031108.htm>

News

'Resentment of immigrants will rise'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2464019.0.Resentment_of_immigrants_will_rise.php

Blocking a passport to exploitation

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/focus/display.var.2464278.0.Blocking_a_passport_to_exploitation.php

20M undocumented migrant kids worldwide

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20081024-168299/20M-undocumented-migrant-kids-worldwide>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Eric Pickles [229638]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements local authorities will have to set up a tension monitoring committee or working group.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Tension monitoring is not a mandatory requirement for local authorities. "The Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring", published on 6 May 2008, set a framework which each local authority can use to monitor local issues that may lead to tension and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. It is the responsibility of each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081029/text/81029w0028.htm#08102969000030>

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Greaves asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5853]: What procedures were followed in deciding the membership of the Young Muslim Advisory Group; what opportunities organisations had to nominate members; what opportunities young Muslims had to apply; and who chose the members.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families worked in partnership with the Muslim Youthwork Foundation and the National Youth Agency, to establish the Young Muslims Advisory Group. The National Youth Agency placed a recruitment advert on their website, which was also sent to government offices, youth work organisations, and national and regional stakeholders from both the Department for Communities and Local Government and DCSF. Interested young people had two and a half weeks to apply, and 150 application forms were received.

These initial application forms were assessed by officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government and DCSF and staff from the Muslim Youthwork Foundation against previously agreed criteria, and the 40 strongest applicants were invited to attend a three-day residential assessment centre. At this they were assessed on skills such as listening, teamwork and leadership. Officials from Communities and Local Government and DCSF, and staff from the Muslim Youthwork Foundation again assessed the applicants against previously agreed criteria, using these scores as a basis from which to choose the members of the group. These decisions were then put to ministers in both Communities and Local Government and DCSF.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029w0002.htm#08102935000017>

Ministerial Speeches

Speech by Jack Straw to the Islamic Finance and Trade Conference

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/sp301008a.htm>

Speech by Bill Rammell to the Global Peace and Unity event

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=8361252>

Press Releases

Diwali message from Gordon Brown

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17302>

Diwali Greeting from Sadiq Khan

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/sadiqdiwali2008>

Diwali greeting from Hazel Blears

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/hazeldiwali2008>

Diwali message from David Milliband

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=8290955>

Race Relations Press Releases (continued)

Help white working class, or risk fuelling anti-immigrant surge, warns Trevor Phillips

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

News

Festival is in Pole position to cross the cultural divide

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Festival-is-in-Pole-position.4631695.jp>

Muslim scholars to meet Pope

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKTRE49T51N20081030?rpc=401&=undefine&sp=true>

We can't ignore Scotland's link to slavery

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2464962.0.we_cant_ignore_scotlands_link_to_slavery.php

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Eric Pickles [230323]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government Offices for the Regions gave to regional equality and diversity partnerships in the last period for which figures are available.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Government Offices for the English Regions gave £20,000 to regional and equality and diversity partnerships in the last period for which figures are available as follows:

<i>Government Office</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>£</i>
GO North West	Contributed to the North West's annual "Celebr8 Diversity" festival led by North West Equality and Diversity Group	5,000
GO West Midlands	Provided over the last three years to the West Midlands Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity	10,000
GO South West	Paid in 2007-08 to the equality and diversity partnership for a short term secondment	5,000

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081027/text/81027w0026.htm#08102749000057>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government: What steps they are taking to encourage recruitment of ethnic minorities to the police force.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the Government have introduced initiatives, including targeted advertising, mentoring, familiarisation days and specific training to support candidates who may need assistance with language skills. In addition, the Green Paper on policing proposes the introduction of local targets to enable local representation within forces and will feature in the 2010 HMIC inspection. An assessment of the recruitment, retention and progression of minority ethnic staff has just been completed and is now with the Home Secretary.

Lord Sheikh: I thank the Minister for that reply. I have encouraged and will continue to encourage the recruitment of ethnic minorities to the police force. I therefore totally disagree with the recruitment boycott proposed by the Metropolitan Black Police Association. Following the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, the Government set each police force a target for BME recruitment based on the make-up of the local population. Have those targets been achieved? If not, what measures are being taken to ensure that the police forces achieve their targets and how best can we monitor their progress?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord for his comment on the statement about not recruiting into the Metropolitan Police; that was an outrageous and damaging thing to say and I thank him for his support. I am afraid that we are not making the targets. The NPIA is being enlisted to assess the police forces that are not making them. It is clear that we must do better in this area. We have done a huge amount, but we are not doing as well as we should. However, we are absolutely intent, as are the police, to ensure that we get a correct representation of BMEs in our police forces. It is essential that we do that.

Lord Waddington: My Lords, does the Minister agree that it is about time that the Metropolitan Black Police Association in the metropolis was wound up? Is not its very existence divisive and does its existence not smack of racism?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I cannot agree with the noble Lord's final statement. However, these are very difficult issues. It is interesting that I was asked last time we debated this question about the percentage of superintendents who are of BME background; the figure was, I think, about eight out of 300, which is about 2 per cent. But it takes about 20 to 22 years to grow a superintendent and, about 20 or 22 years ago, less than 2 per cent of the police were BME. These things take a considerable time. We have done a great deal and have put a lot of things in place. Everyone is struggling to make it happen. When people make outrageous statements, as some have, that does not help at all.

Lord Elystan-Morgan: My Lords, is it not the case that for at least 40 years, under-recruitment from ethnic minorities to the police has bedevilled successive Administrations? Since the success over that period was so meagre, will the Government undertake a robust and imaginative programme, as soon as is humanly possible, which concentrates on the fertile areas of schools and universities?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, we already do that. We go to special recruitment fairs at schools and universities. A great deal has been done not just by this Government but also by other Governments. Post the Macpherson report we have had the breaking through action plan, the *Winning the Race* report and the *Positive Action Events Toolkit* document; SEARCH has been established for recruitment; and we have had the Home Secretary's race, equality, employment targets bulletin and the *From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together* Green Paper. A whole raft of those things have been put in place and people looking at them and trying to do things.

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

It is very exciting that a large number of BMEs are going in as PCSOs; the figure is, 11.5 per cent, which is very good. A number of those PCSOs become officers, which is good. In a funny way, that neighbourhood policing initiative and the use of PCSOs is probably a better lever in some ways than some of the other mechanisms.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine: My Lords, while the MPA's boycott might be unhelpful, does the Minister agree that when every one of the six most senior non-white officers in the Met has brought a discrimination case against their employer, something extremely serious is afoot, perhaps not in recruitment but in retention? Will the Minister consider leadership counselling and career development for senior levels, and when does he expect the Coaker report to be released by the Home Secretary?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the specifics referred to by the noble Baroness are a cause for concern—absolutely—but what they reflect is difficult to know and will take some assessment. I do not believe that it is up to central Government to tell the MPS and the MPA what they have got to do. As she knows, the Mayor of London has put in hand a review—it may take some time because the terms of reference will not be ready until 27 November—which is the correct approach to tackling these issues. The assessment for the Home Secretary—it is not really a report—stems from the fact that there were concerns about what lies behind this. The assessment is with the Home Secretary now, but I do not yet know exactly how it will move forward. As soon as I do, I shall let the House know.

Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe: My Lords, would my noble friend care to comment, first, on yesterday's press reports that the Mayor of London intends to reduce recruitment targets for the police force in London? Secondly, if it happens, what does he believe will be the consequences for the recruitment of people from ethnic minorities in the London area?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I am afraid that I do not know the answer to my noble friend's question; I have to say that I am unsighted on that. Over the past 10 years or so we have increased the number of police in this country overall, and I hope that if there is any adjustment, it would not have any effect on the number of BME officers coming in. Within London, one in four of the new recruits is BME, and I think a rate of 25 per cent is rather good. However, we have to remember that about a third of the population in London now comes from a BME background, and therefore that is the proportion we should be looking at. Interestingly, in New York some 45 per cent of the police come from that background because that is the split there. Clearly, the police should reflect the society they represent; that is why the PCSO initiative is so good. When I was in the military, we always expected our forces to represent the nation they were defending. I think that the same is true of our police.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81028-0001.htm#08102852000003>

New publication

The changing pattern of earnings: employees, migrants and low-paid families

<https://www.irf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2323.pdf>

Equality (continued) News

Call for positive discrimination in police force recruitment

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2463981.0.Call_for_positive_discrimination_in_police_force_recruitment.php

Trevor Phillips calls for positive discrimination to help young whites

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3270989/Trevor-Phillips-calls-for-positive-discrimination-to-help-young-whites.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-17040): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16055 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, how much funding it has awarded in each year between April 2008 and March 2011 to (a) Nil by Mouth, (b) Sense Over Sectarianism, (c) Football for All (specifically for the Kick-out Bigotry campaign) and (d) Youthlink Scotland.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: Current Scottish Government funding agreements will provide the following:

Financial Year	Organisation		
	Nil by Mouth	Sense Over Sectarianism	Youth Link Scotland
2008-09	£51,000	£112,500	£817,511
2009-10		£150,000	£625,060
2010-11		£150,000	
Total:	£51,000	£412,500	£1,442,631

There is no current funding agreement with Football for All.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Pauline McNeill (S3W-17045): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to tackle Islamophobia.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-15005 on 3 September 2008 which details some of the initiatives which will help to tackle Islamophobia that are currently being funded by the Scottish Government. In addition educational resources are being developed for the *Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It* online schools resource and we are working with groups representing Scottish Muslim communities to develop work in this area. Broader initiatives, such as that described in the answer to question S3W-16054 on 2 October 2008, which support multicultural community engagement and inter-faith dialogue will have a positive impact for all communities in Scotland, including the Muslim community.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/wa.search> .

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17191): To ask the Scottish Executive how many racially aggravated crimes have been reported in the last three years, broken down by police force.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-27e.htm>

Press Release

Council of Europe to fight discrimination, foster integration in Europe-wide events next month

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1363893&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

News

One in five would not vote for a Muslim or an atheist, poll finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/3264844/One-in-five-would-not-vote-for-a-Muslim-or-an-atheist-poll-finds.html>

Two Muslim women accuse City firm of religious discrimination

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3275445/Two-Muslim-women-accuse-City-firm-of-religious-discrimination.html>

Undying hatred – why the spectre of anti-semitism is still haunting us today

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/features/Undying-hatred--why-the.4644013.jp>

Unions call for right to expel BNP members

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/nov/02/trade-unions-bnp-far-right>

Scottish town where green is beyond the pale

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/scottish-town-where-green-is-beyond-the-pale-981747.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Johann Lamont (S3W-16810): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16025 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, whether it will release the minute that confirms the First Minister's approval in principle of the funding of the IslamFest.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: This document was published on 3 September 2008, and can be accessed through the following link

<http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/onescotland/387.html>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Johann Lamont (S3W-16817): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16022 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, whether it will list the individuals who were originally involved in the IslamFest proposal.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The individuals who submitted the original IslamFest proposal to the previous administration were Osama Saeed, representing the Muslim Association of Britain and Salah Beltagui, representing the Muslim Council of Britain.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Johann Lamont (S3W-16818): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16022 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, how individuals were invited to be involved in the IslamFest proposal.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Muslim Council of Britain and the Muslim Association of Britain developed the initial proposal for IslamFest and were responsible for decisions on the involvement of other organisations or individuals during the period of the previous administration.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Johann Lamont (S3W-16819): To ask the Scottish Executive when it received written confirmation of the establishment of the Scottish Islamic Foundation.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Islamic Foundation was constituted in January 2008 and formally launched in June 2008. Organisations do not routinely write to the Scottish Government to confirm they have been formally established.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Johann Lamont (S3W-16820): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16022 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, why partner organisations were not invited to be involved in the establishment of a group to take forward an IslamFest.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Islamic Foundation are co-ordinating the delivery of IslamFest and are responsible for decisions on the involvement of other organisations or individuals.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

George Foulkes (S3W-16900): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-15009 by Fergus Ewing on 14 July 2008, what the purpose was of the meeting between the Minister of Europe, External Affairs and Culture and the organisers of IslamExpo on 17 January 2008 and whether the Scottish Government will publish details of the agenda and papers discussed.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: This was a meeting to discuss the potential development of a Scottish-based IslamFest event. There was no formal agenda or papers tabled.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

George Foulkes (S3W-16901): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-15009 by Fergus Ewing on 14 July 2008, whether IslamFest, to be organised by the Scottish Islamic Foundation, will be modelled on IslamExpo.

George Foulkes (S3W-16902): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-15009 by Fergus Ewing on 14 July 2008, what best practice lessons it has learnt from discussions with the organisers of IslamExpo.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: IslamFest is a specifically Scottish event which is being developed for Scottish communities. It is expected that the organisers will draw ideas from a range of sources.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

George Foulkes (S3W-16903): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Minister of Europe, External Affairs and Culture was invited to IslamExpo in July 2008.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture was invited to IslamExpo in July 2008, but did not attend.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

George Foulkes (S3W-16904): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Minister of Europe, External Affairs and Culture attended IslamExpo in July 2008; whether she asked another minister to attend in her absence, and whether officials were sent to observe on her behalf.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture did not ask another Minister to attend in her absence. One official from the Scottish Government attended the launch event for IslamExpo in July 2008.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1029.htm>

Johann Lamont (S3W-16808): To ask the Scottish Executive which voluntary organisations have been allocated monies from the current third sector funding package and how much they have received in each case.

Reply from John Swinney: The current Third Sector funding package provides £93.6m for the sector over three years. The package provides: investment funding for the sector through the Scottish Investment Fund (£30 million) and the Enterprise Fund (£12 million); activities to support enterprising behaviour and address barriers facing the sector as outlined in the Enterprising Third Sector Action plan (a number of these through competitive tendering and contracting), and direct support to third sector infrastructure bodies and specialist intermediaries providing services to third sector bodies.

The following grant funding figures are for 2008-09 and do not include the Scottish Investment Fund, or Enterprise Fund, which will be reported on separately, or funding which has been contracted for through competitive tendering, rather than allocated through a grant. Grants or funding allocated below £1,000 are also not included.

In all cases, the monies received to date are dependent on the submission of claims against relevant grant milestones outlined in the individual award letters.

To read the lengthy tables detailing grants awarded see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1030.htm>

George Foulkes (S3W-17246): To ask the Scottish Executive on what occasions since May 2007 the First Minister has met with (a) Cardinal Keith O'Brien, (b) the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, (c) representatives of the Jewish community, (d) representatives of the Muslim community and (e) interfaith bodies.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-28e.htm>

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-17140): To ask the Scottish Executive what progress it is making in relation to consultation on the issue of forced marriage.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-27e.htm>

Press Release

Young Scottish Muslim Awards

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/10/30162107>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Annette Brooke [230264]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on individual local authorities to make provision for sites for (a) permanent and (b) transient Travellers.

Reply from Iain Wright: The Housing Act (2004) requires local housing authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments provide information about the need for long-term residential Gypsy and Traveller pitches and short-term transit pitches and temporary stopping places within the assessment area. These assessments are used by regional planning bodies to inform regional spatial strategies, which will set out the number of pitches that must be provided in each local planning authority area. Planning authorities are in turn required to allocate specific land for the required pitches in development plan documents. These pitches may be provided by the local authority, a registered social landlord, or privately.

Local planning authorities need not await the publication of pitch numbers in regional spatial strategies to take steps to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. We expect authorities where there is clear and pressing need for accommodation (both residential and transit) to take action now.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081027/text/81027w0028.htm#08102749000074>

Annette Brooke [230427]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on small groups of local authorities working together to produce a joint strategy to make provision for Travellers on (a) a temporary and (b) a permanent basis; what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the matter; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Iain Wright: The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in and resorting to their area and to act strategically to prepare a strategy in respect of the meeting of such accommodation needs.

The Department welcomes joint working between local authorities in planning for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across local authority and regional boundaries. Many local authorities have already produced their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments in partnership with neighbouring areas. Planning policy on Gypsy and Traveller sites is contained within ODPM Circular 01/2006 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". This confirms that joint Development Plan Documents can be prepared on a sub-regional basis to identify the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites, so long as there is agreement by all of the local planning authorities involved.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0040.htm#08102915000100>

Eric Pickles [229631]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the period of time is that the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine whether a traveller caravan is too transient for occupation of the caravan to be rated for council tax purposes.

Reply from John Healey: It is the transience of the site or pitch that is relevant, not the transience of the occupation. Where a Traveller's caravan occupies a non-established site or pitch for a period materially less than 12 months, with no sign of likely future use, this will generally be regarded as too transient to establish the pitch as a dwelling. For established sites or pitches, even if the occupier changes often, a banding will apply and liability to council tax will remain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/text/81028w0040.htm#08102915000101>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi asked Her Majesty's Government: What advice they have received from the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group since it was established in November 2007.

Reply from Lord Patel of Bradford: My Lords, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government formally launched the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group in January 2008. This is an independent informal group to advise the Department for Communities and Local Government on issues to empower Muslim women and increase their participation in civic, economic and social life. The group also contributes to cross-government work on issues affecting Muslim women.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, I welcome the Minister to the Dispatch Box and thank him for his reply. Can he confirm that the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group met in May this year and identified three areas of work that it would take forward; can he explain what initiatives, if any, have been identified to do so; and can he further explain what evaluation process is in place, if any, to assess the effectiveness of any initiatives?

Reply from Lord Patel of Bradford: My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her kind remarks about my presence here. Since its establishment in January, the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group has contributed to a number of areas of government policy, such as the preventing violent extremism agenda, and to a number of cross-government support groups. It is embarking on three projects: one to improve the media presence of Muslim women and to address the stereotypical views that have been portrayed by many; one on capacity-building and leadership in civic establishments; and one to ensure that Muslim women are represented across the board and have leadership skills. The projects have not yet been funded, although funding is earmarked. Once that has been put into place, an evaluation process will be established.

Baroness Prosser: My Lords, does the Minister agree that the establishment of various Muslim women's advisory groups in recent years has been one of the mechanisms that have enabled Muslim women to make a significant contribution to developing community cohesion and to society generally?

Reply from Lord Patel of Bradford: My Lords, I agree. Muslim women's advisory groups have contributed immensely over the years to a number of government areas. Muslim women play a key role in helping to address alienation and disfranchisement among families and young people, and have a pivotal role particularly in community cohesion. That is why we support the development and engagement of women both nationally and locally as active leaders and advocates. Muslim women in particular face a number of barriers to being actively involved, including low unemployment, low skills and stereotypical negative views, and we are working with them to overcome many of those barriers.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81027-0001.htm#0810273000004>

Lord Rana asked the Chairman of Committees [HL5730]: Whether there is scope for including multifaith prayers at the beginning of sittings of the House of Lords.

Reply from Lord Brabazon of Tara: Prayers are read by the Lords Spiritual in their capacity as representatives of the established Church. If any Member submits a written proposal to change these arrangements, I will ensure that it is considered by the Procedure Committee.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81027w0003.htm#08102716000017>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government: [HL5600] Who are their principal advisers on human rights; when they were appointed; what remit, if any, they were given; for how long they are appointed; whether they are remunerated; whether their advice is published; and, if so, in what form.

Reply from Lord Bach: Officials in the Ministry of Justice, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other departments advise government Ministers on human rights issues. It is part of the statutory duties of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to advise the Government when requested on matters relating to human rights. The Government may also from time to time consult on an ad hoc basis interested parties or experts on specific topics; with the exception of counsel providing legal advice who are paid accordingly, these advisers are not remunerated, do not hold a formal position, and do not provide published advice. As part of his role as an independent and unpaid adviser on constitutional issues to the Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Lester has also advised on the work towards a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81030w0001.htm#08103035000005>

Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): My right hon. Friend Prime Minister made a commitment in the National Security Strategy statement of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 929, to take “stronger action against those we suspect of stirring up tensions”. In the light of that, I have reviewed existing policy on the exclusion from the UK of those individuals who encourage violence or hatred in support of their ideology. We will:

Create a presumption in favour of exclusion in respect of all those who have engaged in the types of behaviour set out in the Home Secretary's statement of 24 August 2005;

Provide that where an individual claims to have repudiated their previous extremist views or actions the burden of proof is on them to demonstrate this is so and that this has been publicly communicated;

Introduce changes that will allow me to exclude from the UK nationals of the European economic area, and their families, before they travel to this country where they constitute a threat to public security or policy;

Work with other agencies and community groups to improve the evidence base underpinning our exclusion decisions to ensure that we identify those who pose the greatest threat to our society;

Consider in all future cases whether it would be in the public interest to disclose that an individual has been excluded with a presumption to inform the public;

Make greater use of UK watch lists to ensure that individuals who might fall to be excluded, should they seek to come to the UK, are identified and any future visa application is considered with full regard to previous extremist activities.

Over the summer my officials have been working to implement these measures, in consultation with key partners across government and representatives of community groups. Most of these measures have been implemented today and amendments will be brought forward shortly to the Immigration (European Economic Areas) Regulations 2006 to ensure that I personally may exclude EEA nationals and their family members.

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

I am clear that these proposals should be implemented in a way that has the greatest impact on those who seek to enter the UK to stir up hatred within our society. It is therefore right that we have an ongoing engagement with interested parties in order to strike the appropriate balance and ensure we protect public safety and vital national interests here and abroad. Therefore my officials will continue to engage with community representatives to seek their views on the way this policy is operating.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081028/wmstext/81028m0001.htm#08102850000008>

Press Release

Excluding extremists

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/tough-measures-hate>

News

Brown's plan for 'national British day' is shelved

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2463692.0.Browns_plan_for_national_British_day_is_shelved.php

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New Publications

Improving care in residential care homes: a literature review

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialcare/pdf/2326.pdf>

Promoting intergenerational understanding through Community Philosophy

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2251-community-people-communication.pdf>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Summary Guidance - Meeting the Charity Test

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=659c6049-5388-4bf2-9992-304a25296f1d>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Assessing the ability to pay for the fees charged by charities (Stage 1 Report)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=e9f1a2ab-f30c-47ee-b829-f1be1c708bab>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Rolling Review phase 1a

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=917637b9-e0b8-4442-8a2d-9aa96a161fa1>

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Other News

Black and Asian donors are needed

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/devon/7692665.stm>

Fighting for Muslim women's rights

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/7689897.stm>

Kirk selects Moderator Designate

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr701008.htm>

Contribution of young Muslims recognised

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2464559.0.Contribution_of_young_Muslims_recognised.php

Jack Straw makes clear Sharia principles subject to English law

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article5050838.ece>

Organisers delighted at success of LGBT Muslim conference

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-9383.html>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/b6bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from Rape Crisis Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid, and Victim Support Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-2502.htm#Col1221>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

**** Counter-Terrorism Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/082/amend/am082-d.htm>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/083/amend/ml083-i.1-5.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81029-0006.htm#08102948000004>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (30 November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (30 November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities

(8 December 2008)

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/8248-Report%20-%20Health%20in%20our%20Multi-ethnic%20Scotland.pdf>

The Modern Scottish Jury in Criminal Trials (11 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238536/0065469.pdf>

Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2009 (19 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/240124/0066276.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

Monitoring of Cross-border charities (23 December 2008)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=6990ead9-bbfc-427d-9f8c-3f3495363092>

Appendix 1 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=0be569cc-6efc-45f9-9829-43a784b3c6b7>

Appendix 2 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=11a26977-b23e-4c67-b083-6e3bd00c2d90>

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.pdf>

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme** (no closing date given)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultnov08.aspx>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Conference

3 November 2008 in Carnoustie (9.15 – 2.30)

OSCR will report on its work over the past 12 months and its strategic and operational priorities for 2009. For information see

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f0d64243-9ef7-4354-a89a-4e756d2680c2>

**** this week!**

PAiH AGM

7 November 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 -)

For more information contact home@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

International Journey of Understanding

Applications must be received by 7 November for a programme taking place 23 November – 1 December 2008 in Loch Eil

Encompass programme to bring young people aged 17-23 from the UK, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, the US and Indonesia together for a week-long programme based at the Outward Bound centre, Loch Eil, Scotland. Participants will engage in a combination of challenging outdoor team-building activities and facilitated discussion workshops focusing on controversial issues including identity, conflict and stereotypes. The programme aims to set its participants on the road to promoting peace, tolerance and inter-cultural understanding by developing ideas within their own communities, and will also give them the opportunity to make friends from all over the world. For information see http://encompasstrust.org/file_download/70/Information

Leadership Development Day

12 November 2008 in Glasgow

Radar Disability Network training day designed to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions realise their leadership potential and thus increase the number of disabled people in positions of leadership and influence around the UK. For information contact Judith Simpson Judith.Simpson@radar.org.uk

**** Scotland's Migration Challenges: fit for a creative age?**

21 November 2008 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 3.00)

Centre for Scottish Public Policy and East of Scotland European Consortium conference to discuss migration challenges Scotland faces with a dual focus on education and skills. For information contact info@cspp.org or see <http://cspp.org.uk/public/Policy/ProgrammesEurope.jsp> or

Statutory Review and Reconsideration Orders: Access to Justice for Asylum Seekers

24 November 2008 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Training event organised jointly by the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group, Scottish Refugee Council, and the Murray Stable. For more information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/GILPA_Training_Event or contact train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

St Andrew's Day anti-racism march and rally

29 November 2008 in Glasgow

March organised by the STUC to celebrate unity and challenge racism and fascism everywhere. For information see <http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/496/st-andrew-s-day-march-and-rally>

Discrimination Law Update

9 December 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an awareness and understanding of the up-to-date changes in discrimination law, consider the impact of these changes and how to apply those changes in the workplace, and consider any forthcoming changes to the law. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate.aspx> or contact 0141 353 3354.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Glasgow

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 /

graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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>



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/>