

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

**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](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum Seekers (Detention)

**Patrick Harvie** (Glasgow) (Green): To ask the Scottish Executive what progress is being made in working with the United Kingdom Border Agency to develop alternatives to the detention of asylum seekers. (S3O-10689)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Michael Russell):** Scotland has been leading the way on ending the detention of children and families, and we are working with the UK Border Agency and Glasgow City Council, in particular to develop the family returns project, which has been very promising.

**Patrick Harvie:** The end to detention of children at Dungavel will be very welcome, but I doubt that any member wants to see the people huddled off instead to Harmondsworth or Yarl's Wood, as has been the case in the past. Will the minister impress on the UK Border Agency and the UK Government the importance of providing alternative accommodation in the communities that people have been living in, so that they can have the emotional support of classmates, friends and neighbours and, crucially, the legal support of their own lawyers? If asylum seekers do not have access to their own lawyers, there can be no justice in the asylum system.

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Michael Russell:** I agree with the member that the detention of children is thoroughly wrong and should not have continued for as long as it did. The move by the coalition Government is welcome and long overdue. Other ministers of this Government and I regularly spoke to ministers of the previous Labour Government but, although there were often warm words, there was no action. It is action that counts.

We need to ensure that the policy of detention of children is eliminated wherever we can have influence, and I will continue to pursue that line. I am sure that members who have more influence with the present UK Government than I have will take that to heart—to be fair to them, they, too, have pursued the issue vigorously.

**Sandra White** (Glasgow) (SNP): When the minister speaks to the UK agencies, will he raise the subject of MSPs representing asylum seekers in Dungavel and outwith? When I phoned the Home Office about a case yesterday, the officials told me that they do not deal with MSPs and hung up the phone. The issue is causing great distress to the asylum seekers whom we are representing. Will he raise that subject?

**Reply from Michael Russell:** I raised the issue in my previous post, and I can confirm to the member the thoroughly up-to-date piece of news that Fiona Hyslop, who is now the relevant minister, will raise it with her Westminster counterpart this very afternoon, refreshed and invigorated, I am sure, by the member's urging on the matter.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0527-02.htm#Col26681>

### English as an Additional Language (Glasgow)

**Patricia Ferguson** (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what additional resources it provides to Glasgow City Council to recognise the pressures placed on it by the number of children and young people with English as an additional language enrolled in Glasgow educational establishments. (S3O-10645)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Michael Russell):** The Scottish Government provides local authorities with funding through its local government settlement. For the period 2008 to 2011, that funding will be £35 billion. The proportion of the funding that goes to Glasgow City Council is determined by a funding formula that has been agreed with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and takes into account a variety of factors. It is then for Glasgow City Council to determine how best to meet the needs of the children and young people with English as an additional language who are enrolled in its educational establishments.

**Patricia Ferguson:** The minister will be aware that deprivation is one category that COSLA and the Government have recognised as relevant to the formation of budgets for local authorities. However, many of the migrants from the European accession countries are unable to qualify for certain benefits and therefore do not show up in the deprivation statistics that apply to the city. Given that Glasgow City Council employs some 130 of the 203 teachers who are specially qualified in the subject, and given that the cost to Glasgow is of supporting not just those young people but their families by providing interpreters for school events and other meetings, will the minister consider the issue in light of the fact that Glasgow's settlement this year is not the one that most of us would wish it to be?

**Reply from Michael Russell:** Of course, the local authority settlement is considerably better than previous settlements under previous Administrations, so I am sorry that the member remains dissatisfied.

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

I can say in a positive tone that we keep the subject under close review. The subject of support for pupils with English as an additional language is discussed regularly with local authorities. Indeed, a further meeting between Scottish Government officials and Glasgow City Council, which will have the issue as one of the topics, is to be held shortly.

I recognise that there is a problem of identifying total numbers, but the work that has gone on for a number of years—I am happy to include the work of the previous Administration in that—has attempted to get more robust statistics and to point services where they are most needed. By and large, those services are providing the required results. I have had meetings with a number of organisations and language groups, including some Polish associations, about their particular needs, and I stand ready to do so again.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0527-02.htm#Col26682>

## Press Release

**Continuing downward trend in net immigration raises questions over the need for a cap**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=4011>

## New publications

**Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom January – March 2010**

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immiq110.pdf>

**Welcome to Europe! A guide to resettlement: A comparative review of resettlement in Europe**

[http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/welcome\\_to\\_europe\\_a\\_guide\\_to\\_resettlement\\_a\\_comp\\_64641.pdf](http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/welcome_to_europe_a_guide_to_resettlement_a_comp_64641.pdf)

**British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009**

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0910.pdf>

## News

**Long-term immigration to UK falls by 9% – survey**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1756907>

**Net migration set to fall below 100,000**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/27/net-migration-drop-figures>

**A child's eye of life inside Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/may/26/immigration>

**Identity cards scheme will be axed 'within 100 days'**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/8707355.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8707355.stm)

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Asylum seeker can stay as papers to fight her case were a day late**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Asylum-seeker-can-stay-as.6328355.jp>

**Government plans cap on non-EU immigration**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-plans-cap-on-noneu-immigration-1982400.html>

**Funding crisis over legal aid threatens UK asylum chaos, ministers are warned**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/30/asylum-refugee-migrant-justice>

**Immigration is a problem of perception**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/may/28/immigration-problem-perception>

**UK detention centre to double capacity**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/26/harmondsworth-detention-centre-doubles-capacity>

**Judge orders Home Office to stop deportations without warning**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/25/judge-orders-halt-deportations-without-warning>

**EU border agency says third fewer illegal immigrants spotted in past year**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/25/eu-border-fewer-illegal-immigrants>

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### Press Release

**Intercultural dialogue crucial for world peace, Ban tells Security Council**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34817&Cr=alliance%20of%20civilizations&Cr1>

### New publication

**Runnymede Magazine**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/bulletin/pdfs/Spring2010FinalForWeb.pdf>

### News

**Liberals must stand together**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/may/29/liberal-religion-faith>

**Everyone has a responsibility to make the world a better place Kirk told in historic speech**

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nrga040510.html>

[TOP](#)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### News

#### **Griffin to quit as BNP boss**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Griffin-to-quit-as-6316514.jp>

#### **English Defence League: Inside the violent world of Britain's new far right**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/28/english-defence-league-guardian-investigation>

#### **Muslims must refuse to rise to EDL provocation**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/may/29/muslims-must-refuse-rise-edl-demonstrations>

#### **Teacher and BNP activist cleared of racial intolerance**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/may/25/adam-walker-teacher-bnp-cleared-racial-intolerance>

#### **What does it take for a racist to be ruled unfit to teach?**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/may/26/adam-walker-bnp-teacher>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### Parliamentary Motion

**S3M-6425 Irene Oldfather: Volunteers' Week 2010 and European Year of Volunteering 2010**—That the Parliament welcomes Volunteers' Week 2010, which is scheduled to run from 1 to 7 June and is focused on raising the profile of the voluntary sector; notes that events celebrating the work of volunteers will be held across the United Kingdom; recognises that in Scotland an estimated 3 in ten adults have provided unpaid help to organisations or individuals, equivalent to 142,455,672 hours per annum and worth an economic value of £2.2 billion; believes that volunteers from all strata of society can help to support local communities and, further to this, that the voluntary sector can provide experience and skills that people may otherwise not have the opportunity to access; further notes that the European Commission has declared 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering, with events being planned across Europe to highlight the value and importance of volunteering; acknowledges the hard work of volunteers in Scotland, and hopes that both Volunteers' Week and the European Year of Volunteering will help to encourage greater participation in the sector.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=19129>

### News

#### **Former First Minister Jack McConnell becomes a peer**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/10187187.stm>

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Press Release

**Identity cards and National Identity Register to be scrapped**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/identity-cards-scrapped1>

### News

**Michael Moore named new Scottish Secretary**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/10193440.stm>

**Queen's Speech 2010: Bill by bill**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/8701376.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8701376.stm)

**Queen's Speech outlines new Scottish Parliament powers**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/10149102.stm>

[TOP](#)

## Other News

**Hindu temple damaged in huge blaze**

<http://breakingnews.heraldscotland.com/breaking-news/?mode=article&site=hs&id=N0007281275204056305A>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress \*\* New or updated this week

### Holyrood

**\*\* Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/b46s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/b46s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/b46s3-introd-pm.pdf>

**End of Life Assistance Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

**Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

## **Westminster**

### **Queen's Speech: Bills announced**

*The Scottish Government has announced that it will introduce Legislative Consent motions so that the following five Bills that would not otherwise have applied in Scotland will do so.*

- *Energy Security and Green Economy Bill*
- *Health Bill*
- *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill*
- *Public Bodies (Reform) Bill*
- *Scotland Bill*

#### **Academies Bill**

*Will not apply in Scotland.*

To enable schools in England to opt out of Local Authority control.

#### **Airports Economic Regulation Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To improve the competitiveness of UK airports.

#### **Armed Forces Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To increase support for members of the armed services and their families.

#### **Decentralisation and Localism Bill**

*The majority of the Bill will only apply in England and Wales some measures may also apply in Scotland.*

To give local councils more powers over housing and planning decisions and begin a review of local government finance.

#### **Education and Children's Bill**

*Will not apply in Scotland.*

To give schools greater freedom over the curriculum, and improve accountability.

#### **Energy Security and Green Economy Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To promote enhanced energy efficiency and low-carbon energy production.

#### **European Communities (Amendment) Referendum Lock Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To make a referendum compulsory before the UK gives any more powers to the European Union.

#### **Equitable Life Payments Scheme Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To secure compensation for policyholders who have lost money as a result of the collapse of 'Equitable Life'.

#### **Financial Services Regulation Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To move responsibility for regulating the banking system from the Financial Services Authority to the Bank of England.

## Westminster

### Queen's Speech: Bills announced (continued)

#### **Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill**

*Will not apply in Scotland (but will adopt current Scottish procedures).*

To limit the amount of time that DNA profiles of innocent people can be held on national database, tighten regulations for the use of CCTV cameras, and remove limits on right to peaceful protest.

#### **Identity Documents Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To repeal legislation introducing identity cards and the National Identity Register.

#### **Health Bill**

*Some measures will apply in Scotland.*

To give health professionals and patients a greater say in NHS decision-making.

#### **Local Government Bill**

*Will not apply in Scotland.*

To block the creation of single-tier councils in Exeter and Norwich.

#### **National Insurance Contributions Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To increase National Insurance contributions from April 2011.

#### **Office for Budget Responsibility Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland*

To establish a new Office of Budget Responsibility with responsibility for issuing independent economic forecasts.

#### **Parliamentary Privilege (Draft Bill)**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To reform and clarify the law on parliamentary privilege.

#### **Parliamentary Reform Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To introduce a 'fixed term' for UK Parliaments so that elections will be held every five years unless 55% of MPs vote for an earlier election; to give constituents the right to recall corrupt MPs during a Parliament.

#### **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill**

*Some measures will apply in Scotland.*

To establish a new border police force, and to improve regulation of local police forces.

#### **Postal Services Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To allow the Royal Mail to make use of private capital investment whilst ensuring that the post offices are not privatised.

#### **Pensions and Savings Bill**

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To restore the link between the state pension and average earnings from 2010.

#### **Public Bodies (Reform) Bill**

*Some measures will apply in Scotland.*

To abolish some non-department government bodies, and limit the powers of others.

## Westminster

### Queen's Speech: Bills announced (continued)

#### Scotland Bill

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution (the Calman Commission), including giving the Scottish Parliament more powers over tax-raising and borrowing.

#### Terrorist Asset Freezing Bill

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To expand the scope of existing legislation to include new organisations thought to present a threat to UK security.

#### Welfare Reform Bill

*Will apply in Scotland.*

To simplify the benefits system, and make payment of benefits conditional on willingness to accept work.

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Representing victims of trafficking**

4 June 2010 in Glasgow (12.30 – 5.00)

Scottish Refugee Council and Murray Stable seminar aimed at those working to represent adults and children who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude or forced labour. Academics and those working to support victims of trafficking are also invited to attend. For information see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Trafficking\\_Seminar](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Trafficking_Seminar) or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

8 June 2010 in Glasgow

22 July 2010 in Glasgow

26 August 2010 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. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact Jamie Spurway [jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=87>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### Refugee Week 14 - 20 June 2010

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. During Refugee Week events take place all across the UK, all of which explore refugee experiences. This year, everyone is being asked to do a Simple Act - one small, everyday action that can change perceptions of refugees and help create a society we all want to live in. For information see <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/>. [Click here](#) for a calendar of events.

### Rural Diversity Uncorked... Putting the fizz back into community action

16 June 2010: central event in Inverness linking with events throughout Scotland (9.30 – 4.30) Scottish Rural Equality Network national networking conference using internet technology to link people from across rural Scotland to share experiences and ideas about how to involve communities in making life better for everyone in their own local areas. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/SRENOOnline/showthread.php?t=241> or contact [srenadmin@scvo.org.uk](mailto:srenadmin@scvo.org.uk) / 01463 251 734

### \*\* Show Racism the Red Card Intercultural Summer Camp

5-10 July 2010 in Co Donegal, Ireland

Summer camp for young people between the ages of 11 and 16 to enable them to acknowledge diversity whether it is cultural, linguistic, religious or other and to explore differences in a positive way, break down social barriers, which may prevent positive interaction, and empower young people by enhancing their communication skills and allowing them to engage in community building exercises. For information see [http://www.theredcard.ie/camp/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3](http://www.theredcard.ie/camp/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3)

### Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / [helen.swatton@scvo.org](mailto:helen.swatton@scvo.org)

### The needs and experiences of refugee women

22 October 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Kirsty Thomson, Solicitor, Women and Children's Department at Legal Services Agency.

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway [jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

[TOP](#)

## 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](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>

## Useful Links (continued)

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

Scottish Refugee Council [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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

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

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

ACAS [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)



*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>*



***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>*



*The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>*