

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 5 September 2010, and the UK Parliament until 6 September 2010.

During the summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 16, and 30 August, and 13 September, when weekly bulletins will resume.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Immigration (Points-based System)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The immigration rules specify that the detail of how certain requirements will be applied will be set out in UK Border Agency guidance rather than in the immigration rules themselves. This is essential best practice as it enables the UK Border Agency to have the flexibility it needs to make minor changes while staying within the framework set out in the immigration rules.

However, on two particular points successful legal challenges have been brought to the extent to which requirements must be set out in the immigration rules rather than in UK Border Agency guidance. The first is the minimum levels of courses that may be studied under tier 4 (general). The second is the periods of time that applicants must have held available funds for.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

In the light of the court judgments I am bringing the detail of these requirements within the immigration rules. The requirements themselves are not changing, although in the case of English language courses, I am using this as an opportunity to reintroduce the minimum level for such courses which was in place before the judgment was handed down. By doing this, if the requirements do change in future, those changes will need to be laid before Parliament.

I am also making a further change to the tier 4 (general) category today to make it a requirement for some students studying below degree level to provide evidence of having passed a UK Border Agency-approved secure English language test at a minimum of B1 level on the common European framework of reference for languages. This change builds on the previous position where the sponsors of such students were required to make their own assessment of the English language level of the student. The use of an independent test is an advance on this as it should help ensure that sponsors are not duped by students offering false or fake documents to prove their English language ability.

It is right that under the points-based system, all students now need to apply to the UK Border Agency to vary their leave before being able to change institutions. This is essential so that the UK Border Agency can maintain accurate records of where migrants are studying and check that the institutions to which they wish to move are bona fide and are willing to take on the sponsorship of their new students under tier 4. Consequently, tier 4 students are unable to start studying at their new sponsor institution until they have received a positive decision on their application.

The principle of sponsorship-whereby those who benefit most directly from the contributions migrants make to the United Kingdom (employers and education institutions) are expected to play their part in ensuring the UK's migration system is not abused-is an integral part of the points-based system. The new highly trusted sponsor licence introduced for tier 4 sponsors on 6 April 2010 provides a further segmentation of the existing sponsor rating system designed to identify those sponsors who are achieving the highest levels of compliance with their sponsor obligations and whose students are showing the greatest compliance with the terms of their visa or leave. Those holding a highly trusted sponsor licence are granted additional freedoms and offered new services to recognise their previous track record of good compliance.

In recognition of the high levels of student compliance among highly trusted sponsors; I have agreed an additional freedom for their students which is being introduced by the change to the immigration rules for tier 4 (general) and tier 4 (child) students today. The change will allow the students of highly trusted sponsors to commence their studies with them before receipt of UKBA's decision on their application.

In addition, for the avoidance of doubt, I am also making changes today to our general grounds for refusing applicants, (for example on the basis of submitting false documents), to make it absolutely clear that these provisions also apply to applicants who have overstayed their previous permission to be here.

Because of the urgent nature of some of these changes, it has not been possible in respect of some of them to follow the usual convention of laying them before the House for 21 days before they come into force. I regret that this has not been possible in this instance. The changes permitting students to change sponsors where their new sponsor is a highly trusted sponsor and those made following successful legal challenges will come into force tomorrow, on 23 July.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100722/wmstext/100722m0001.htm#10072238000029>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

English Language Requirement (Migrant Spouses)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): On 9 June 2010 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department announced the introduction of a new English language requirement for migrants applying to come to or stay in the UK as a spouse or partner. I wish to inform the House that I am today announcing that this requirement will come into effect on 29 November this year.

Non-European migrants joining a British citizen or non-European national settled in the UK will have to demonstrate a basic command of English as part of the visa application process unless they are a national of a majority English-speaking country. The new language requirement will apply to spouses, civil partners, unmarried partners, same-sex partners, fiancé(e)s and proposed civil partners and will be compulsory for people applying from within the UK, as well as visa applicants overseas.

Migrant spouses and partners will have to demonstrate English language ability at A1 level of the common European framework of reference (speaking and listening), the same level required for skilled workers admitted under the skilled tier of the points-based system. Applicants will be required to provide evidence with their application that they have passed an acceptable English test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers.

Speaking English promotes integration into British society and broadens opportunities. The new rules will help ensure that migrant spouses are able to participate in British life from the outset and integrate more easily into wider UK society.

We are reviewing English language requirements across the immigration system with a view to tightening the rules further in the future. We will inform the House of our conclusions in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/wmstext/100726m0001.htm#1007264000035>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time to process an application for naturalisation was in the latest period for which figures are available. [10567]

Reply from Damian Green: The average processing time for naturalisation applications in June 2010 was 1.45 months.

This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000007>

Citizenship

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which road traffic offences the UK Border Agency will normally disregard in considering an application for UK citizenship; what guidance the Agency issues on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [11262]

Reply from Damian Green: An applicant for British citizenship is expected to be of good character. Although "good character" is not defined within the British Nationality Act 1981, UK Border Agency (UKBA) would not normally expect to naturalise a person with an unspent conviction. There is however some discretion to overlook minor offences.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Where the applicant is of good character in all other respects, UKBA would normally be prepared to overlook a single minor unspent conviction resulting in a bind-over order, absolute or conditional discharge, admonition, relatively small fine or compensation order, or a fixed penalty notice or Scottish fiscal fines. They would not, however, normally disregard any unspent conviction that involved dishonesty or recklessness.

In terms of traffic offences, offences which would constitute "recklessness" would include offences such as drink-driving, excessive speeding, driving without tax or insurance with no reasonable excuse, or driving while using a mobile phone. Driving offences that might be disregarded are those that might be committed inadvertently, such as minor speeding, stopping in a box junction or going the wrong way down a one way street.

Guidance on the good character requirement is published on the UKBA website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/nationalityinstructions/nichapter18/ch18annexd?view=Binary>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000010>

Immigrants: English Language

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the establishment of English language test centres for immigrants. [10426]

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanisms the language skills of migrants applying for spouse visas will be assessed under the proposed new English language requirement. [11041]

Reply from Damian Green: On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

Spouses will be required to meet level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for speaking and listening. The intention is that applicants will need to submit evidence that they have passed a test on a UKBA approved list of test providers with their application for leave to enter or remain, unless they are nationals from majority English-speaking countries.

We have not yet approved test providers for the new spouse language requirement. An announcement about approved test providers will be made at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000021>

Visas

Lord Clement-Jones: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the impact of the points-based visa system on visiting artists and performers.

Reply from Lord De Mauley: My Lords, there are no current plans for such a specific review, but a broader survey across all categories of tier 5 applicants-including, of course, artists and performers-has recently been undertaken, the findings of which will shortly be published. The arts and entertainment task force is closely involved to ensure that the detail of the system reflects the creative sector's needs while being robust and fair. ...

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Geddes: My Lords, where an artist—let us say for reasons of health—has to drop out of a performance at very short notice and the only suitable replacement artist is from abroad, is my noble friend aware of the potential difficulty in obtaining a visa for the artist coming in as a subsidiary?

Reply from Lord De Mauley: My Lords, yes, I am aware of that. As I have tried to explain, there are certain routes to facilitate an artist in that situation, but they have to be used with a system of undertaking proper checks of documentation. ...

Baroness Hamwee: ... does he recognise that in the operation of the system the problem often lies not at policy level but on the ground, where there is insufficient briefing and training for everyone to operate the system in the way that is intended?

Reply from Lord De Mauley: Yes, my Lords, I take that point. My noble friend may be interested to hear that the independent chief inspector has recently published a report on the UKBA's handling of complaints and correspondence that makes a number of important recommendations. We are determined to act on those and improve our existing practices. In future, I am hopeful that the certain lack of helpfulness to which my noble friend referred will be addressed.

To read the full question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100722-0001.htm#10072235000583>

Immigration: Work Permits

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been granted in respect of each occupation in each year since the inception of the points-based immigration system. [10584]

Reply from Damian Green: The numbers of work permits issued for each of the requested categories are set out in the tables placed in the House Library.

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of settlement have been made on the basis of employment with a work permit in (a) each year since 1997 and (b) each quarter since quarter 1 of 2006; and if she will give the corresponding figures for spouses and dependants. [10597]

Reply from Damian Green: The latest quarterly figures were published in table 4.2 in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—January to March 2010". The quarterly figures from 2006 to the first quarter of 2010 are given in table 1. Data for second quarter of 2010 are scheduled for publication on 26 August 2010.

To read the lengthy tables of data from 1997 to 2009 see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000024>

Entry Clearances

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances her Department considers representations from hon. Members on the refusal of visitor visas; and if she will make a statement. [10039]

Reply from Damian Green: We will always give full consideration to representations from hon. Members about visit visa refusals, and any other entry clearance decision. The refusal of a visit visa for a family visit attracts a full right of appeal and the applicant will normally be expected to exercise their right of appeal in order for the decision to be reviewed. Any representations from hon. Members will be taken fully into consideration, along with the grounds of appeal and any additional supporting documentation. If it can be shown that there are exceptional or compelling compassionate circumstances involved, or that a decision is clearly flawed, we will be happy to review a decision outside the appeal process in the light of representations from hon. Members.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that representations from hon. Members on refusals of visitor visas are referred to the relevant entry clearance manager in advance of the applicant exercising their right to appeal in cases where the applicant wishes to attend an imminent event. [10040]

Reply from Damian Green: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to family visitors as, unlike other categories of visitor, they have a full right of appeal in the event of a refusal of entry clearance.

Where an applicant wishes to attend a family event in the UK and (a) has been refused a visit visa and (b) due to the imminence of the event is concerned that there is insufficient time to appeal against the decision, we would normally advise them that they may wish to re-apply, ensuring that, when they do so, they fully address the entry clearance officer's concerns about their original application, as detailed on the formal Notice of Refusal.

Representations from hon. Members in such cases should normally be provided to their constituents, so that the applicant can submit them along with other supporting documentation when re-applying.

Exceptionally, we will forward representations from hon. Members to an entry clearance manager for consideration outside the appeal process, e.g. where there are clearly compelling, compassionate circumstances. Compelling compassionate circumstances would normally be considered to be the death or serious illness of a close family member.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the relevant entry clearance manager is directed to review a visitor visa case when representations are made by hon. Members to the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [10041]

Reply from Damian Green: An entry clearance manager will normally only be asked to review a decision to refuse a visit visa application following representations from hon. Members if there are exceptional or compelling compassionate circumstances involved, or if the decision is clearly flawed. Applicants who intended to visit family in the UK can achieve a review of the decision by exercising their right of appeal.

Their grounds of appeal, and any additional supporting documentation submitted, will be taken fully into account. The way forward for other visit visa applicants would be to re-apply, ensuring that they address the concerns about their previous application when doing so.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouse visas her Department issued to people entering the UK from Pakistan in each of the last five years. [11049]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of spouse visas issued to nationals of Pakistan in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Spouse visas issued to Pakistani nationals</i>
2005-06	9,805
2006-07	10,935
2007-08	10,846
2008-09	8,239
2009-10	5,642

Note: This information is based on Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w002.htm#10072635000014>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Married People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouse visas her Department issued to people coming from each foreign country other than Pakistan in each of the last five years. [11322]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of spouse visas issued to nationals of each non-EEA country other than Pakistan, in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10, is given in the table which has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000015>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months were sponsored by institutions (a) accredited by the British Council and (b) inspected by Ofsted. [5122]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained by a manual check of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000016>

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) migrants and (b) dependants of migrants were given leave to enter the UK under (i) the highly skilled migrants programme and (ii) Tier 1 of the points-based immigration system in each quarter since the inception of the system. [10586]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested by my hon. Friend is given in the published Quarterly Control of Immigration Statistics, which is available on our Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/> Please refer to table 1.1: entry clearance visas issued by category, in each quarter since January 2007 to March 2010.

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 20 non-EU nationalities have received the most work permits for (a) doctors and (b) nurses under the points-based immigration system since the inception of the system. [10587]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of work permits issued for each of the requested categories are set out in the following table:

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000017>

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many educational institutions which did not qualify for automatic inclusion as a highly trusted sponsor and were at 30 April A-rated sponsors applied for a highly trusted sponsor licence; how many such applications were granted; and how many were declined.[HL1425]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): We have received 422 applications from tier 4 sponsors who were not automatically deemed highly trusted. Of these, 353 were received before 30 April and 69 after the 30 April. Of these, we have granted 161, refused 37 and rejected 10. The remaining applications are under consideration. All applications for highly trusted sponsorship must come from A-rated sponsors. Any B-rated sponsors who apply will be automatically refused.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100721w0001.htm#10072120000205>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

British Nationality: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, Official Report, column 138W, on British nationality: overseas students, whether time spent on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for UK citizenship. [9808]

Reply from Damian Green: The position has not changed. Time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa can count towards the residence requirements for naturalisation if a person meets the statutory requirements on the date of application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100721/text/100721w0006.htm#10072150000088>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK Border Agency will review procedures which can lengthen the time asylum applicants spend in immigration detention at Heathrow Airport, as illustrated in the report of the Independent Monitoring Board on the immigration detention centres at Heathrow Airport published on 23 March.[HL1393]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The UK Border Agency has produced an action plan which addresses each of the concerns and recommendations in the annual report of the Heathrow independent monitoring board. The agency will continue to regularly update the board on progress. It is a priority of the UK Border Agency to reduce the lengths of stay in immigration detention at Heathrow Airport. Length of stay within holding rooms at Heathrow are continually reviewed and addressed at regular meetings with those who have an interest in this part of our work. Cases involving families and unaccompanied children are already prioritised. Unaccompanied children and young persons are referred to children's services as soon as possible after arrival and are only kept in holding room family facilities in exceptional circumstances, usually for their safety, while alternative arrangements for their care are made. Improvements have been made since the publication of the report to provide applicants with timely access to interpreting services and to address any process issues about the opening hours of the asylum intake unit. The agency and its contractor are working closely to implement a more flexible arrangement for the timing of Transport Plus collections from holding rooms at Heathrow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100721w0001.htm#10072120000210>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of cuts to International Organisation for Migration programmes, including the withdrawal of the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants programme, on single adults and the local authorities and voluntary sector organisations supporting them, in the absence of an alternative independent voluntary return programme.[HL1408]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The level of funding from Her Majesty's Government to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for assisted voluntary return has not been cut and remains at the same level as last year. The option of an assisted voluntary return arranged through IOM remains for recognised victims of trafficking, those in the asylum process, including failed asylum seekers and for families and unaccompanied minors whether irregular migrants or in the asylum process.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Any other person with no lawful basis to remain in the United Kingdom has the opportunity to make a voluntary departure or to engage with the UK Border Agency which will arrange for their removal. Voluntary returns are always preferable to enforced returns but if people do not leave voluntarily, they are liable to have their return enforced.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100721w0001.htm#10072120000207>

Asylum

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to provide guidance on the application of immigration rules to those people granted refugee status from 2005 who must apply for further leave to remain in order to ensure that they will not lose their benefit, housing and voting entitlements. [7779]

Reply from Damian Green: Individuals granted a limited period of five years' refugee status or humanitarian protection since August 2005 will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain from August 2010, in the month before their leave expires.

An application form and information for such individuals on how to apply for settlement is available on the UK Border Agency website. Guidance for officials on considering such applications will also be published on the website shortly.

The UK Border Agency will write to those eligible at the most recently provided address, reminding them of the need to apply. The Agency is also working closely with its corporate partners to communicate the application arrangements as widely as possible.

Phil Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the costs of asylum support of the change in the number of people granted asylum in the last 12 months. [9836]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of main applicants for asylum declined from 27,670 in the 2008-09 financial year to 20,220 in 2009-10. In 2008-09, the total cost of asylum support (excluding UASCs and grants) was £313 million, while in 2009-10 it was £312 million.

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to process asylum applications made prior to 2010. [10498]

Damian Green: In April 2007 the UK Border Agency established a dedicated resource to clear the backlog of older asylum cases that were lodged prior to March 2007. It was estimated in July 2006 that the backlog stood at between 400-450,000 "legacy" cases. The Case Resolution Directorate had concluded around 277,000 cases up until the end of May 2010 and should complete the remainder of these cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

Applications lodged since March 2007 have been dealt with by case owners in teams based in each of the regions around the UK. Those which were not concluded within the six months target remain in those local teams where the progress of each case continues to be managed by a case owner.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000006>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will enable unsuccessful asylum applicants who cannot be returned to their countries of origin to work legally.[HL637]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government believe it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum. Therefore there are currently no plans to allow failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights to take up employment.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will issue an asylum policy instruction following the judgment of the Supreme Court in HJ (Iran) (FC) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and HJ (Cameroon) (FC) v Secretary of State for the Home Department; and whether they will review decisions by the UK Border Agency which may be incompatible with that judgment.[HL1207]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: Asylum decision-makers were instructed to apply the new test contained in the judgment immediately after the judgment was published. They have also been asked to review, in the light of the new test, cases in which a decision has already been made but in which appeal rights have not yet been exhausted.

There will not be an automatic review of cases where appeal rights have been exhausted but individuals are able to ask for their case to be reviewed in light of the new judgment.

An asylum policy instruction will be published within the next few months. This will reflect the judgment and we will develop better training to promote understanding of sexual orientation and identity issues in order to help decision-makers to decide on the basis of the best available information and knowledge.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100721w0001.htm#10072120000194>

Asylum: Deportation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers awaiting deportation are in prison. [11300]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency seeks to deport foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria for deportation:

A court recommendation;

For non-European Economic Area nationals-a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession);

For EEA nationals-a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

At the point where no barriers to removal exist, the UK Border Agency will set a direction to remove. According to provisional management information, on 16 July 2010 approximately 140 foreign nationals who met the relevant deportation criteria had removal directions set against them.

Of these, approximately 30% had also submitted a claim for asylum at some stage prior to the removal direction being set and approximately 80% of those who had submitted a claim for asylum were detained either in an immigration removal centre or prison.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000007>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detainees

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer: To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance is given to the UK Border Agency on informing consulates when foreign nationals are detained; and whether there have been instances when consulates were not so informed.[HL1435]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Such guidance is provided in Chapter 31 of the Immigration Directorate Instructions and Chapter 55 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance.

The guidance requires that all persons who are detained be asked whether they wish to contact their high commission or consulate. Those who wish to are given the means to do so. Where a person is likely to be detained beyond 24 hours he is required to be asked if he wishes his high commission or consulate to be notified on his behalf. The UK also has a bilateral consular convention relating to detention with a number of countries. The convention imposes an obligation on detaining authorities to notify consular representatives of a detainee even if the detainee has not requested this. An exception to this requirement is where there is or has been an asylum claim or a suggestion that one might be forthcoming.

There is no bar to detainees being in a position to contact their high commission or consulate at any time during their detention. Details of whether or not notifications have been made in individual cases are not held centrally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100721w0001.htm#10072120000209>

Immigration: Detention

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the context of their comments about mistreatment of detainees in other countries, they will investigate allegations of the mistreatment during their removal from the United Kingdom of persons who have been detained following failed applications for asylum.[HL1076]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): We would prefer that those with no basis of stay in the UK left voluntarily. Where they fail to comply with a requirement to leave, escorts are empowered legally to use force, so long as its use is justified, proportionate and for the shortest possible period. Escorts are accredited by the UK Border Agency to exercise their powers and are trained to a high standard in the use of control and restraint techniques.

I am aware of allegations that Iraqi returnees removed from the UK on 16 June were mistreated by escorting staff. We strongly reject these. Two members of staff from the UK Border agency were on board the flight and were satisfied that all staff acted with utmost professionalism throughout the flight.

Complaints or allegations of mistreatment of persons during removal are nonetheless taken very seriously and are subject to a rigorous investigative process by the UK Border Agency's Professional Standards Unit (PSU). Allegations of assault are automatically referred to the police. Any police investigation is completed in parallel to that of the PSU.

The UK Border Agency has not received any complaints directly from returnees about their treatment during removal although we are liaising with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to gather information about any allegations that may have been lodged elsewhere.

Baroness O'Loan was appointed in September 2008 by the then Home Secretary to investigate allegations of systematic abuse of immigration detainees by escorting staff published in a dossier entitled Outsourcing Abuse. Her review centred on investigations into the complaints detailed in the dossier and the UK Border Agency's complaints and investigation systems.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness O'Loan's findings were published on 12 March 2010. She found that there was no evidence to substantiate the central allegation of systematic abuse by escorting staff. At the same time, she recognised that many of the concerns she had about the way a number of the investigations into complaints had been handled in the past had been addressed already by the UK Border Agency following a decision to transfer responsibility for complaints handling from Detention Services to its Professional Standards Unit in February 2008. She none the less made a number of recommendations, accepted by the UK Border Agency, to strengthen the supervision of staff and improve our complaints handling further. The UK Border Agency committed to implement all those recommendations by the end of this financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100726w0001.htm#1007268000746>

Detainees: Children

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from what date children will no longer be detained for immigration purposes; and if she will make a statement. [9763]

Reply from Damian Green: This Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. We want to replace the current system with something that ensures that families with no right to be in this country return in a more dignified manner. I have asked for a review to identify ways in which this could be achieved. An announcement on the way forward will be made once that process is complete.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100721/text/100721w0006.htm#10072150000091>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government, with reference to the report of the Independent Monitoring Board on the immigration detention centres at Heathrow Airport published on 23 March, how many children (whether or not accompanied by a responsible adult) were detained for immigration purposes at Heathrow Airport in 2009. [HL1392]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Individuals can be detained in a holding room at Heathrow for up to 24 hours while a decision is considered to refuse or grant leave to enter the UK under the Immigration Act 1971. In the case of unaccompanied children, detention is used only for the short periods while arrangements are made with local children's services for their care. In 2009, 1,691 children were detained under Immigration Act powers at Heathrow Airport. Of these, 329 were unaccompanied. These figures include children detained on arrival and those brought to the airport for the purposes of removal from the UK.

The data are taken from local management information which has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change. We are committed to ending the detention of children. Data on the numbers detained in the holding rooms at Heathrow Airport are collected daily on a 24 hour period from midnight to midnight the following day. There may therefore be double counting if children were held in the holding rooms past midnight. A report that excludes duplicate records can be obtained only by detailed examination of individual holding room records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100726w0001.htm#1007268000747>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions since 12 May pilots have refused to carry persons due to be deported from the United Kingdom from (a) British airports, and (b) transit airports. [HL1059]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):

There have been five occasions for the period 12 May to 31 May 2010 when pilots have refused to carry individuals due to be deported or removed from the United Kingdom from British airports (the UK Border Agency do not hold data on transit airports) mainly due to the disruptive behaviour of the individual concerned. Four of these individuals have subsequently been removed.

In order to ensure data quality, information held by the UK Border Agency is reconciled with data from the travel service provider. As this is provided one month in arrears, data for June are not yet available.

This is internal management information and has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100720w0001.htm#10072024000491>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many factors are taken into account in assessing whether an individual has been trafficked. [10628]

Reply from Damian Green: Decisions about who is a victim of trafficking are made by trained specialists in designated 'Competent Authorities'. A Competent Authority will take into account multiple factors when considering whether an individual meets the definition of trafficking given in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. There is no prescribed list of factors that must be present before trafficking can be recognised, but the detailed training and guidance used by Competent Authorities and frontline staff includes a range of indicators drawn from international best practice. These indicators include being deceived about the nature of the job, location or employer, violence or threats of violence against victim, confiscation of a passport, debt bondage, isolation, confinement or surveillance, forced tasks and excessive working hours.

Detailed information on the Competent Authority consideration procedure can be found in the UK Border Agency's trafficking guidance:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/victimsoftrafficking.pdf?view=Binary>

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria the police use to decide whether an individual has been trafficked. [10629]

Reply from Damian Green: The decision as to whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking is made by trained specialists in designated "competent authorities" within the UK Border Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre, not the police.

Police officers who encounter an individual they suspect may be a victim of trafficking are asked to refer that person to the UK Human Trafficking Centre so an assessment can be made by competent authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/text/100726w0002.htm#10072635000019>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliamentary Questions (continued)

People Trafficking

Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): If she will discuss with the Secretary of State for the Home Department proposals for border controls to identify young women entering the UK from European Economic Area countries who may have been trafficked. [10302]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities (Mrs Theresa May): I welcome my hon. Friend's tireless work in this field. Let me also do something that I tried to do a little prematurely on a previous occasion, which is to congratulate him properly on his election as joint chair of the all-party group on human trafficking. Tackling human trafficking is a coalition priority, and the Government are currently considering how to improve our response to this terrible crime, including through the creation of a border police force. I would be happy to ensure that border controls and the protection of vulnerable groups are covered in our consultation.

Peter Bone: Could the Minister for Women have a conversation with the excellent Home Secretary about citizens coming from the European economic area who bring in children who are not of the same name as themselves? They are waved through at the moment. Could they not be separately interviewed, to ensure that they are coming in for a proper purpose and are not being trafficked?

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend has raised an interesting point, although I have to say that if I start speaking to myself, people might get the wrong idea. The separate interview is done in relation to non-EEA nationals, based on a risk assessment undertaken by UK Border Agency officials, and is something that has been important. We can and do interview EEA nationals. Obviously trafficking is covert, and it is often tricky to detect. Our border controls must be part of a much wider approach on the issue, but I am certainly happy to take away the suggestion that my hon. Friend has made and have a look at it.

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): But is it not critical to reduce the demand for sexually exploited trafficked women, which is how the organised crime behind trafficking makes a profit? What is the Minister doing to reduce the demand for the sexual exploitation of women?

Reply from Theresa May: I recognise that the hon. Lady has had a long-standing interest in the issue, and has fought and campaigned hard on it for some time. As she will know, her Government introduced a new offence of paying for sex with somebody who had been exploited or forced into that position, which is intended to deter men from paying for sex with those who have been exploited, a category into which those who have been trafficked would obviously fall. We are currently waiting to see how that offence plays out, in terms of its impact.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100722/debtext/100722-0001.htm#1007224500040>

Children: Trafficking

Baroness Massey of Darwen: To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they will provide for trafficked children.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): My Lords, this Government are committed to tackling human trafficking and to supporting and protecting the victims of this vile crime. Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims falls under the statutory responsibilities of local authorities. They must ensure that the child's needs are assessed, that they are placed in safe accommodation and that they are given social work support to plan for their care.

To read the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100727-0001.htm#10072739000575>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Petition

Human Trafficking

The Petition of the people of Croydon, Declares that human trafficking continues to blight our town. The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to use their influence to maintain a dedicated anti-trafficking unit in the Metropolitan Police. And the Petitioners remain, etc. -[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling , Official Report, 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 348 .] [P000783]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department: The Government totally condemn the horrendous crime of trafficking people into, out of and within the United Kingdom and are committed to ensuring the UK is a hostile environment for those who seek to profit from this vile trade.

From 1 April 2010, responsibility for tackling human trafficking in London has rested with an expanded Clubs and Vice Unit which is supported by being part of the Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD) of the Metropolitan Police Service. This change will reduce duplication, improve leadership governance, accountability and clarity for partners and victims. The move to SCD will enable an increased focus on organised crime and enable better access and use of that Directorate's assets in order to improve the response to human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/petntext/100726p0001.htm#10072642000066>

Press Releases

Home Office to appeal High Court ruling

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ho-appeal-high-court-rule>

Home Office disappointed by Supreme Court asylum ruling

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ho-disappointed-sup-court>

Changes to the certificate of approval scheme

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/32-coa-changes>

Worker limit comes into force

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/worker-limit-begins>

Immigration limit for Tier 1 (General) of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/27-intro-limit-for-t1-pbs>

Family unit at Yarl's Wood to close

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/yarls-wood-family-unit>

New publication

The Costs of 'Returning Home'

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/TheCostsOfReturningHomeJuly2010.pdf>

News

Fast-track deportations from UK 'unlawful'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10761723>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Family wing at Yarl's Wood detention centre to close

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-10715149>

Yarl's Wood itself is the moral outrage

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jul/23/yarls-wood-outrage-empty-rhetoric>

Immigration inspector criticises dawn raids on families facing deportation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/27/asylum-families-dawn-raids-deportation>

Fast-track deportation ruling protects access to justice

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jul/26/fast-track-deportation-protects-access-justice>

Asylum seekers paid £13m in error

<http://breakingnews.heraldscotland.com/breaking-news/?mode=article&site=hs&id=N0073931280613994098A>

Leading Square Mile financiers label coalition's immigration cap 'a disaster'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/aug/01/city-government-rethink-immigration-policy>

Home Office bids to restrict jobs for asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/29/restrictions-sought-asylum-seekers-jobs>

Precious 'victory' as coalition ends detention of child asylum seekers

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Precious-39victory39-as-coalition-ends.6433047.jp>

Human rights outcry as African journalist who fled to Glasgow faces deportation

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/human-rights-outcry-as-african-journalist-who-fled-to-glasgow-faces-deportation-1.1045111>

University under fire for wiping records of foreign students late with fees

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/university-under-fire-for-wiping-records-of-foreign-students-late-with-fees-1.1045122>

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Race Relations

New publications

Women, faith and social cohesion

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/women-faith-social-cohesion-full.pdf>

Muslims and community cohesion in Bradford

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Muslims-cohesion-Bradford-full.pdf>

Race Relations (continued)

News

MPs line up against private Bill to ban burqa

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/mps-line-up-against-private-bill-to-ban-burqa-1.1042121>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Travelling towards a better understanding of gypsies

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Travelling-towards-a-better-understanding.6431136.jp>

The limits of multi-culturalism

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/christina-patterson/christina-patterson-the-limits-of-multiculturalism-2036861.html>

Manners, multiculturalism, and the battle of Stamford Hill

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/manners-multiculturalism-and-the-battle-of-stamford-hill-2040039.html>

An online interfaith discussion forum is being launched by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). The Interfaith web forum is the first of its kind to be used by police forces and partnership agencies across Scotland to gather opinions from young people of all faiths. Chair of ACPOS Religion and Faith Reference Group, Deputy Chief Constable Iain MacLeod, said:

'The website is unique in Scotland and will have a lasting impact, not only for those involved now, but for all the young adults who will access it in the future. It's vital that young people from all backgrounds and faiths are given a voice and this website and conference aims to do just that.' For more information see

<http://www.interfaithconnect.org/forum/>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lord Dholakia: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Equality and Human Rights Commission to appoint a permanent chief executive. [HL1449]

Reply from Baroness Verma: In the light of the current spending review and of the review of non-departmental public bodies, Ministers have asked the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to suspend the competition to appoint a permanent chief executive until there is greater clarity about the size and functions of the EHRC later in the year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100722w0001.htm#10072237000481>

New publication

Did They Get it Right? A Re-examination of School Exclusions and Race Equality

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/DidTheyGetItRight-2010.pdf>

News

Work experience at the Foreign Office? Not if you're a middle class white male

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1297421/Work-experience-FO-Not-middle-class-white-male.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-6755 Jack McConnell: Nil by Mouth Marks Ten Years in Campaign Against Sectarianism—That the Parliament acknowledges the 10th anniversary of the formation of Scotland's only dedicated anti-sectarianism charity, Nil by Mouth; recalls that the charity was set up in response to the senseless sectarian murder of Mark Scott in Glasgow in 1996; notes that over the last decade Nil by Mouth has encouraged and supported a range of community-led anti-sectarianism projects and events, delivered workshops to thousands of school children across Scotland and worked with government, football clubs, workplaces and community groups to promote greater religious tolerance and understanding; considers the progress made over the last decade in challenging sectarian attitudes and behaviour, including anti-sectarianism summits, new penalties for conviction, agreements on rules for parades, school twinning projects and the introduction of the first National Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in 2006 and commends the charity on the role that it has played in challenging sectarianism in Scotland, and applauds the commitment of the charity's trustees, volunteers and staff to tackling sectarian attitudes wherever they are found.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=19499>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Racism

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what information is collected on the incidence of anti-Semitism in Scotland. (S3W-34776)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government publishes annual statistics on racist incidents recorded and cleared up by Scottish police forces:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents>.

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service also publishes statistics for crimes of racial and religious prejudice in Scotland which have been reported to them:

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/About/Departmental-Overview/diversity/racist-crime/Statistics0506>

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/About/Departmental-Overview/diversity/racist-crime/Analysus>.

Information on incidents related specifically to anti-Semitism is not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-34776>

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether there is evidence to suggest that recent anti-Semitic graffiti at Glenduffhill cemetery can be considered an isolated incident. (S3W-34777)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has no information to suggest that the incident was anything other than an isolated incident of anti-Semitic graffiti at this cemetery.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-34777>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Early Day Motions

Jeremy Corbyn (572) National Institute of Economic and Social Research study of caste-based discrimination in the UK - That this House notes that the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has been commissioned to carry out in-depth research to examine the extent of caste-based prejudice and discrimination in the UK; welcomes a provision in the Equality Act 2010 inserted by amendment of the Equality Bill, which enabled the Government to make caste-based discrimination illegal in the UK; and calls on the current Government to share the findings of the research in order to permit the outlawing of discrimination on the grounds of caste.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41529&SESSION=905>

David Anderson (607) Show Racism the Red Card Charity - That this House recognises the excellent work of the anti-racist charity Show Racism the Red Card which was established in 1996 with the aim of harnessing the high-profile status of professional footballers as anti-racist role models to combat racism through education; notes that hundreds of top footballers and managers take part in its activities which have made racism the exception rather than the rule at football matches in contrast with experience abroad; further notes that the campaign employs 12 former professional footballers throughout England, Scotland and Wales to coach young people using football as a way of engaging young people with anti-racist messages; welcomes the possibility that the campaign could be selected as the Football Association Charity of the year for 2011 and has so far won the support for this of Gordon Taylor and the Professional Footballers' Association, as well as former England Manager Graham Taylor; and wishes them the best in their endeavours.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41564&SESSION=905>

News

Crackdown on hate crime

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Crackdown-on-hate-crime-.6442800.jp>

BNP leader Nick Griffin banned by Buckingham Palace

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10723764>

Tory MP warned over requests to remove face veils

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10750908>

Man jailed for Muslim veil attack

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-10766880>

Racist group planning to target fans at Pittodrie

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1851577>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Independent Budget Review

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/07/29082429>

Other Holyrood (continued) New publication

Independent Budget Review

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/319964/0102358.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Forced Marriage

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of forced marriages which occurred in the UK in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [8536]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The Government are clear that forced marriage is an abuse of human rights, a form of domestic violence and, where minors are involved, child abuse.

The very nature of forced marriage means that cases often go unreported. The statistics we do have are based on the work of the Forced Marriage Unit. In calendar year 2009 the Unit dealt with 1,682 reports of possible forced marriage and, as of the end of June, has dealt with 893 in 2010. This includes cases in the UK and involving British nationals overseas. It is likely that there are many more cases that are not drawn to the Unit's attention and we will continue to raise awareness of the help available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100720/text/100720w0001.htm#10072052000012>

Early Day Motion

Eleanor Laing (586) Forced Marriage - That this House supports the work of the newly-formed charity Freedom Community Organisation (Freedom) which has been set up to highlight the plight of many thousands of young British Asians, male and female, who are forced into marriage against their will and often under threat of violence if they do not comply, and to end the horror of so-called honour killings which claim the lives of many young British Asians every year in this country; recommends use of the term dishonour killings rather than honour killings in order to convey the true horror of these dreadful acts; abhors the practice of forced marriages and supports Freedom's call to strengthen the laws to protect and support those being coerced into marriage against their will or who have been forced into such a marriage and for the prosecution of all those engaged in such coercion, making it a criminal offence to use intimidation of any kind to force someone into marriage; condemns forced marriages of gay men to women, an area of growing concern and which has led to an increasing number of cases handled by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit; calls on forced marriages to be annulled if it can be proved that either or both parties were coerced by threats or other psychological means; further calls for greater border controls to stop young people, often schoolchildren, being sent abroad for weddings against their will; and further calls on the Government to make the effective tackling of this issue a priority.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41543&SESSION=905>

Other Westminster (continued) Press Releases

PM launches National Citizen Service pilots

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/topstorynews/2010/07/pm-launches-national-citizen-service-pilots-53775>

Prime Minister to launch National Citizen Service pilots for young people

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100722-citizenservice.aspx

Government publishes referendum question and confirms plans to change boundaries

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100722-boundaries.aspx

Ministers talk Big Society with Faith leaders

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/1643068>

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Other News

Domestic abuse campaign targets mosques in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-10702041>

A healthy minority

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/real-lives/a-healthy-minority-1.1044718>

Female circumcision growing in Britain despite being illegal

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/25/female-circumcision-health-child-abuse>

British girls undergo horror of genital mutilation despite tough laws

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/25/female-circumcision-children-british-law>

Muslim schoolgirls show that faith and fashion are not incompatible

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/21/muslim-schoolgirls-islamic-fashion-course>

Help the Scottish Human Rights Commission to map the third sector in Scotland

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/canyouhelpusmapthethirdsectorin-scotland>

Understanding the links between poverty and ethnicity

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is developing a new programme focusing on poverty and ethnicity, to be launched in 2011. As part of an extensive scoping process for the programme, six papers are being commissioned to discuss various aspects of the relationship between poverty and ethnicity. The papers will help to generate and shape ideas for the new programme.

The deadline for the receipt of proposals is 6 August 2010. For information see

http://www.jrf.org.uk/funding/calls-for-proposal/poverty-and-ethnicity-distillation-papers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Emailmarketingsoftware&utm_content=264978152&utm_campaign=JRFCallforProposalsEthnicityandpoverty&utm_term=Understandingthelinksbetweenpovertyandethnicityexpertdistillationpapers

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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>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Palliative Care Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

House of Lords Reform Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/houseoflordsreformhl.html>

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/humantraffickingbordercontrol.html>

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0010607m.15-17.html>

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/parliamentaryvotingsystemandconstituencies.html>

Return of Asylum Seekers (Applications from Certain Countries) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/returnofasylumseekersapplicationsfromcertaincountries.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Palliative Care Bill (1 September 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/PalliativeCareBill/PallCareC allforevid.htm>

Consultations (continued)

**** Migration Advisory Committee: level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK** (7 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-consultation-annual-limit/0610/mac-consultation-annual-limit?view=Binary>

Draft National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (17 September 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/313390/0099355.pdf>

Limits on non-EU economic migration (17 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/limits-on-non-eu-migration/>

Taking action on rights, support and protection of victims of crime and violence (30 September 2010)

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0053_en.htm

**** Single Equality Scheme: NHS Quality Improvement Scotland** (30 September 2010)

<http://www.nhshealthquality.org/nhsqis/8098.html>

Data protection legislative framework (6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

£2.5 million fund opened to youth groups

Closing date: midday 27 August 2010

<http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/Index.asp?MainID=11384>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** next week!**

Being aware of ME/LGBT people and issues

10 August 2010 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** next week!**

Certificate in Equality and Diversity Practice

Glasgow University

Applications must be submitted by mid-August, course begins September 2010

This new one day/week work-based programme has been developed in partnership with BEMIS and Glasgow Works and other partners, who are key players within the field of equality and diversity practice. Recognising current developments in legislation and social policy, the programme provides a solid foundation of theoretical understanding and practice methodologies in relation to equality and diversity issues. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10vi_bemis_gu.pdf

or contact Liz Docherty 0141 330 1812 / e.hodge@educ.gla.ac.uk or Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

Legal seminar on fresh claims and further leave applications

20 August 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council information seminar on writing fresh asylum claims and lodging applications for further leave to remain. The seminar will outline the basic legal framework and procedures for fresh claims and further leave applications, cover some of the more recent legal , and discuss some areas of current controversy. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=100> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

The Housing Rights of Refugees: Supporting those with Leave To Remain into appropriate housing

24 August 2010 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with refugees who need a comprehensive knowledge of their rights to housing in Scotland. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=99> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

26 August 2010 in Glasgow

30 September 2010 in Glasgow

2 November 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people whose work involves asylum seekers and refugees and who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=89> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

Working with Interpreters

7 September 2010 in Glasgow

25 November 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. For information see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

Making services more inclusive for ME/LGBT people

10 September 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Gender and Gender Identity

12 October 2010 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / 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 / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

Scottish Refugee Council annual conference

29 October 2010 in Glasgow

The conference will focus primarily on the new Coalition Government's stated agenda for asylum seekers and refugees - including: speeding up the asylum process; ending child detention and treatment of LGBT people seeking asylum. For information contact Graeme Corbett events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Judge a book by its cover? Not me!

3 November 2010 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.30)

SCVO training course to find out more about the processes of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements can lead to prejudice and discrimination. For more information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugees

5 November 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

**** Youth Interfaith Connect Conference**

2 December 2010 (10.00 – 3.00)

Conference for young people organised by ACPOS to discuss issues such as the impact of faith in Scotland today, the impact of religious and sectarian hate crime on our communities, the role of the media in representing faith communities, religious education in schools, identity faith and belief, and faith and social action. An associated discussion forum has been set up at <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/forum/>. For information see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/> or contact Fiach OBroin-Molloy 01786 456000 / 07769920462.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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



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



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