

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Patrick Harvie e(S3M-2967) : **International Students and ID Cards**—That the Parliament notes that all non-EU nationals renewing their visas after this week will be required by the UK Government to buy an ID card and that this particularly affects international students studying in Scotland; shares the previous Scottish Executive's view, supported by the Parliament in 2005, that ID cards must not be required for the use of devolved services; notes that, while immigration is currently reserved, universities and education are devolved services; believes that international students contribute substantially to Scottish society and the Scottish economy, and urges the Scottish Government to provide whatever advice and support it can for such students studying in Scottish universities and colleges if they refuse to comply with the ID card scheme.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-26f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debate

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

Lord Avebury rose to move, That the statement, laid before the House on 4 November, be disapproved.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, Phil Woolas says, “We have to bloody well talk about immigration”, so I am sure he will be pleased that we have managed to secure time for this debate just before Prorogation. There is no shortage of talk about immigration in this House where, although the points-based system was supposed to be a simplification, so far this year already we have had two debates on the fees and this is the second debate on changes to the rules.

An EDM has also been tabled in another place by the right honourable gentleman the Leader of the Opposition disapproving this statement. We look forward very much to hearing the Tories’ reasons for their disapproval and to having their company in the Division Lobby at the end of the debate, if any of them are left.

This statement amends the provisions that have already been decided for tier 1, which were agreed with some reluctance by your Lordships last March, and implements tier 2 for skilled workers and tier 5 for temporary workers. It creates a totally new category for business and special visitors who do not belong in any of the five tiers. It amends the general grounds for refusal and curtailment provisions related to sponsorship of tiers 2 and 5, and raises the age for spouses, civil partners and fiancés from 18 to 21. The statement contains 35,244 words, not counting the Explanatory Memorandum. The haste to produce it is shown by the simultaneous publication of an erratum sheet and a page of corrections to the Explanatory Memorandum.

Up to now, this system has been developed below the waterline of formal recognition in law, as ILPA puts it. This is the first opportunity that Parliament has had to look at sponsor licensing under the points-based system. Sponsors, who are largely employers and universities, but include also those who are bringing in sports people and entertainers, have to master the 100,000 words of the Immigration Rules. After reading 130 pages of guidance, they have to fill in an application form of 35 pages and 58 questions. If they make an error of judgment in relation to the candidate, employee or student they risk being fined or ultimately struck off the register. If that happens, anyone else whom they sponsor—not just the candidates who were taken on in error—may lose their job, their student place or contract as an entertainer or sports person.

The London Chamber of Commerce says that the system imposes new burdens on employers who are now being used as the first level of immigration regulation, which is happening at the wrong time, economically and otherwise. The time taken to register as a sponsor and to maintain all the required paperwork is a formidable additional cost which goes straight to the bottom line. London still has particular skills shortages, and yet in spite of the fact that it accounts for 19 per cent of GDP, there is no separate list of skills shortages here as there is in Scotland. The CBI says that the launch on 27 November will be “soft”, with,

“plenty of understanding for a couple of months as employers find their way”.

Can the Minister explain what this means? How are the rules going to be interpreted in a way that benefits those who have to grapple with the difficulties in the first few months of operation?

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81125-0011.htm#08112582000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6150]: What is their response to the advice offered by the Kuwaiti Community Association on the identification of persons claiming Bidoon status seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In order to establish an asylum applicant's identity and nationality, a screening interview is usually carried out when an asylum claim is first made. Any additional information required is obtained by conducting further interviews. This is then considered against the latest available country information on the situation of Bidoon in Kuwait.

The UKBA monitor the human rights situation in all countries that generate asylum seekers to the UK on the basis of information from a wide range of recognised and publicly disclosable governmental, non-governmental and human rights sources. Asylum decision makers take into account the human rights situation in the country of origin of each asylum applicant when making a decision on an asylum claim. Copies of these country reports are published at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81124w0001.htm#08112423000006>

Patrick Hall [237042]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of asylum seekers who were detained during 2007 were subsequently released on temporary admission and then rearrested and detained; [237121](2) how many and what proportion of asylum seekers detained during 2007 were released on temporary admission.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not available.

Following a change in the computer system in which information is collected; summary statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by reason for leaving detention are not available after September 2006. Information for 2005 and January to September 2006 is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.3 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081124/text/81124w0002.htm#0811249000019>

Neil Gerrard [237060]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale she has set for actions and decisions concerning children subject to immigration control to be taken in compliance with the full obligations and rights set out within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency's treatment of children must be as sensitive as possible.

Withdrawing the reservation was made possible largely because of the way we have transformed our child protection arrangements since 1991. This includes legislating to impose a duty on UKBA to abide by a code of practice.

This code is designed to ensure that while exercising its functions in the UK, UKBA takes appropriate steps to ensure that while children are in the UK they are safe from harm. No additional changes to legislation, guidance or practice are currently envisaged.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081124/text/81124w0004.htm#0811249000045>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [237099]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations have been made to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission on cases of deportation on the grounds of threat to national security; how many cases there are where individuals are awaiting deportation; how many applications have been rejected in the last (a) year and (b) five years; how many cases are awaiting tribunal decisions; what the average length of time taken to process a tribunal case has been since the Commission's inception; and in how many cases individuals are under watch on bail after a successful appeal against their deportation.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are 12 cases where individuals are subject to deportation on national security grounds and 11 of these are at various stages of the appeals process. In the past year, one national security deportation case has been determined by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). That appeal was dismissed. In the past five years, a further 12 national security deportation appeals have been determined by SIAC; three were allowed, and the other nine were dismissed. Two national security deportation cases are currently awaiting hearings before SIAC.

The Home Office does not collect information about the length of time taken between an appeal being lodged with SIAC and a determination issuing.

As a matter of policy, we do not comment on operational matters affecting national security. I therefore cannot say whether or not any of those who have had their appeals allowed (or where the notice of intention to deport has been withdrawn) are subject to surveillance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081124/text/81124w0003.htm#0811249000030>

Anne Main [238873]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were recommended for deportation from England and Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by county;

(2) [238874] how many people were recommended for deportation from England and Wales on more than one occasion in each of the last three years, broken down by county.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply. The following table shows the number of recommendations for deportation orders issued by judges in the Crown Court in England and Wales in each of the last three financial years.

Figures are broken down according to the county in which the relevant Crown Court centre is located. This may differ from the county of residence of the defendant and other key parties involved in the court case. Some counties do not have a Crown Court centre located within their boundaries; these are not shown in the table.

During this period there were 28 occasions where a defendant was the subject of a recommendation for a deportation order having already been the subject of a previous such recommendation at some point since April 2000 (the earliest point at which data are available). There were six such occurrences in 2005-06, seven in 2006-07 and 15 in 2007-08. However, these data are not broken down to county level.

These figures only show judicial recommendations for deportation made during criminal proceedings in the Crown Court. More general immigration statistics can be found on the Home Office website <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0018.htm#08112618000022>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Sarah Teather [227896]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many minors have been held in detention centres for the purposes of immigration control in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) age and (b) sex.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The requested information is not available; the Home Office published the number of persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers between January 2005 and September 2006. The accompanying table shows the number of children who left detention by age and sex for this period. Information outside this time period is not available.

National Statistics on detention are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Control of Immigration. Information on the number of persons detained, as at the last Saturday of the quarter, broken down by sex and those who are under 18 years of age, are published in table 10 of the Quarterly Asylum Bulletin, which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

Children⁽¹⁾ recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, January 2005 to September 2006, by age^(2,3,4) (excluding Oakington and Harwich)

	Number of children					
	2005			January to September 2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	405	390	795	280	245	530
5 to 11	305	280	585	240	185	425
12 to 16	210	185	395	120	105	230
17	40	40	85	35	20	50
Total children	960	900	1,860	675	560	1,235

⁽¹⁾ Persons recorded as under the age of 18 at the end of their period of detention.

⁽²⁾ Recorded age at the end of their period of detention.

⁽³⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.

⁽⁴⁾ Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081124/text/81124w0003.htm#0811249000031>

Dominic Grieve [237726]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals who are issued with biometric immigration documents before the National Identity Register has been established will have their details entered on the Register when it has been set up.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control and apply for biometric immigration documents before the national identity register is established will not have to enter their biometric details onto the register. However, once biometric immigration documents are designated under the Identity Cards Act 2006, foreign nationals applying for a designated biometric immigration document will be required to provide their details for the register.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000034>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Dominic Grieve [219357]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken in support of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking; what steps have been taken in the UK as a result of the UK high level delegation's participation in the Vienna Forum on the Global Initiative held on 12 to 15 February 2008; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Human trafficking is largely a cross border crime and the UK recognises the need for effective international collaboration to tackling this horrendous problem. The UK Government have supported UN.GIFT from the outset. The formal launch took place in London on 26 March 2007 at which my hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism and Policing, Vernon Coaker spoke on behalf of the Government. The UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking provides an important forum to discuss and facilitate global action against trafficking.

The Vienna Forum, at which my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security, Vernon Coaker, also spoke, delivering a keynote speech, provided an excellent opportunity to outline the UK's approach to tackling human trafficking and to develop new relationships and enhance existing ones with international partners.

Recommendations from the Vienna Forum discussions are reflected in the UK Action Plan on Human Trafficking and are being taken forward as part of our on-going work. Examples include, further demonstrating our existing commitment to adopting a victim-centred, human rights approach to preventing and combating human trafficking by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention, which we are on-track to do by the end of the year; conducting research and analysis into the nature and extent of trafficking through the Police and the UK Human Trafficking Centre; on-going co-operation at operational level at home and abroad between key agencies like SOCA and its counterparts and at home between SOCA, the UKHTC, police, Government departments and NGOs especially in terms of investigations and victim identification; and continuation of the 'Blue Blindfold' awareness campaign led by the UK Human Trafficking centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000029>

James Clappison [234430]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with (a) other EU member states and (b) EU institutions on the trafficking of Roma children from other EU member states to the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We are very concerned about the trafficking of Roma children from certain EU member states by organised criminal networks for the purpose of criminal exploitation.

In addition to targeted operations led by the Metropolitan Police Service to bring the traffickers to justice, officials are working with the Romanian embassy in London to agree a protocol for the safe return of trafficked children where it is in their best interests.

On 1 September 2008, the Metropolitan Police Service signed an agreement with Romania, setting up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on Human Trafficking. This is the first such JIT on human trafficking in Europe.

No direct discussions have been held with EU institutions on this issue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000030>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [234431]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent of trafficking of Roma children from other EU member states to the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Earlier this year, the Metropolitan Police Service estimated that more than 200 Roma children were being exploited in London and other locations in the UK by Romanian organised crime gangs. The Romanian police have identified 1,300 children whom they believe have been trafficked from Romania to western Europe for criminal exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000030>

Michael Gove [220791]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department had discussions with the Department for Children, Schools and Families or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on ETS before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The selection of organisations to provide independent assessment of an applicant's English Language skills for Immigration purposes has no impact on, or relevance to, either the Department for Children, Schools and Families or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

Consequently it was not considered necessary to consult either department before the decision was taken to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000033>

Michael Gove [220793]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what references her Department obtained in order to verify the record of ETS's past performance in delivering the Test of English as a Foreign Language before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system;

(2) [220794] what assessment was made of ETS's previous record of delivery of the Test of English as a Foreign Language before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency undertook an assessment exercise to ensure that all the tests included on the list of approved English Language tests for tier 1 satisfied our required standards of assessment and test security. In support of their application, ETS provided information on:

Award security features

Test methodologies

Test security

Test verification procedures

How ETS mapped their test to the Common European Framework Reference for Languages: Learning, Training, assessment (CEFR)

How ETS train their test markers and how marking standards are set

The bona fides of their organisation

The results of ETS's English language tests are recognised by employers and institutions the world wide. However, the actual procurement of testing services is between ETS and the individual applicant taking their test.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0020.htm#08112618000033>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6037]: Whether possessing a copy of Legal Action for Women's self-help *Guide against Detention and Deportation* is contrary to the interests of safety or security within the meaning of the detention centre rules; and, if so, whether they will place a copy of the guide in the Library of the House, identifying the passages in it which are contrary to safety or security.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Possession of the aforementioned guide is not contrary to the interests of safety and security within the meaning of the detention centre rules. As this is not a government publication I do not consider it appropriate to place a copy of the guide in the Library of the House.

Any deviation in this particular case was a genuine error by the private contractor operating the centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0005.htm#08112647000050>

Damian Green (239278): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries her Department cannot return unsuccessful asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds; and how many unsuccessful asylum seekers from each such country were present in the United Kingdom at 1st November 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81124w01.htm>

Ministerial Speech

Sadiq Khan, Parliamentary Under Secretary for State at the launch of the voluntary code of practice on employing migrant workers

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/1072786>

Press Releases

First identity cards are issued

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/first-id-cards-issued>

First identity cards issued

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

Tiers 2 and 5 launch - what's new for sponsors

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

Tiers 2 and 5 and business visitors launch - what's new for migrants and visitors

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

Maintenance for dependants of tier 2 migrants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/maintenancefortier2>

Immigration and Intercultural dialogue: Fostering communication between individuals and groups with different cultures supports the European identity

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=ada6864c-11ef-4883-a068-853868d2acb9>

Immigration and Asylum

New publications

What future for immigrant families in Europe

http://www.migpolgroup.com/multiattachments/4213/DocumentName/MIPEXPolicyBrief_1_familyreunion_11.08.pdf

Migrant women in the European labour force

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_analysis/imm/migr_wom_fin_rep08_en.pdf

The Refugee Law Reader (5th edition)

<http://www.refugeelawreader.org/>

News

Foreigner with all the answers on Britishness

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5212420.ece>

Migrants 'put strain on services'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Migrants-39put--strain-on.4736067.jp>

Sentamu attacks Woolas on asylum

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7753359.stm

Language key to saying 'I belong to Glasgow

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Language-key-to-saying-39I.4744837.jp>

Citizen test not so easy

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2471767.0.citizen_test_not_so_easy.php

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Race Relations

New publication

Religion, beliefs and parenting practices

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2264-faith-parenting-youth.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6319]: How many associations based on race, colour, gender or religion exist in (a) the Metropolitan Police, and (b) other United Kingdom police forces; and what they are.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Home Office does not maintain records of such associations which support police officers and police staff within individual police forces. There are four associations with membership drawn from across police force areas: the National Black Police Association (NBPA); the British Association for Women in Policing (BAWP); the National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP); and the Christian Police Association (CPA).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0007.htm#08112647000070>

Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6320]: Whether any associations based on race, colour, gender or religion operating in the Metropolitan Police or other United Kingdom police forces receive grants from public funds; and, if so, what they are.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Home Office does not maintain records of such associations, and funding received, which support police officers and police staff within individual police forces. The Home Office is paying grant-in-aid to two associations with membership drawn from across police force areas. They are the British Association for Women in Policing (BAWP) and the National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0007.htm#08112647000070>

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6183]: Further to the Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 28 October (*Official Report*, House of Lords, col. 1469), whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the assessment of the recruitment, retention and progression of minority-ethnic staff of police forces.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My right honourable friend the Home Secretary published the *Policing Minister's Assessment of Minority Ethnic recruitment, Retention and Progression in the Police Service* on 20 November 2008.

A copy of the assessment, which sets out the considerable progress which has been made and the actions we intend to take to build on this, has been placed in the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0007.htm#08112647000071>

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6184]: What are the targets set for black and minority ethnic police officer recruitment for each police force for each of the last five calendar years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My right honourable friend the Home Secretary set 10-year race employment targets for police forces in 1999. Police forces' targets and their progress against them are published every year in *Race Equality: The Home Secretary's Employment Targets*. The latest report, for 2007-08, which was published on 20 November 2008, can be found on the Home Office website, at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/staff-equality-targets/.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0007.htm#08112647000071>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6321]: Whether there are legal or other impediments to the formation of a white policemen's association.

Repln from Lord West of Spithead: Any police staff association, whatever its scope, must demonstrate that its objectives, membership policies, and activities further the aims and objectives of the police service. These include that associations and their members must comply with applicable statutory requirements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0007.htm#08112647000073>

New publications

Scottish Government Race Equality Scheme 2008-2011

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/250116/0072390.pdf>

General Register Office for Scotland Race Equality Scheme 2008-2011

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/about-us/race-equality-scheme-2008.pdf>

Procurement and supplier diversity in the 2012 Olympics

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Pages/Procurement2012Olympics.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6266]: What assessment they have made of any institutional racism in United Kingdom media organisations that may prevent black and minority ethnic individuals from reaching senior positions; and whether the Equality and Human Rights Commission has taken action against any United Kingdom media organisations on such matters or intends to do so.

Reply from Lord Carter of Barnes: Equality of opportunity in employment makes business sense and is an economic necessity. The Government consider it to be an important issue and that is why on 26 September the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport invited the Cultural Diversity Network to set out proposals on how to move forward more effectively in the broadcasting industry.

The Government have not made any assessments. The public service broadcasters are subject to obligations under the Communications Act and BBC Charter and Agreement to promote equality of opportunity in employment between men and women, for disabled people and between persons of different

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

racial groups. This is a matter taken very seriously by the broadcasters, which monitor such matters closely. The obligations are enforceable by Ofcom or the BBC Trust as appropriate.

Separately, I understand that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has indicated that it intends to conduct assessments of the extent to which the BBC and Channel 4 have applied, among other things, equality duties to the development and implementation of their public functions. The terms of reference concerning the scope and nature of the assessments have yet to be determined.

The UK Film Council and the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT) published a study in 2004 on the problems faced by black and minority ethnic professionals in the film and television sectors about difficulties in developing their careers. In 2007 the UK Film Council published *Barriers to Diversity in Film*, which considered institutional barriers to recruitment in the film sector. The UK Film Council regularly monitors lottery applications and, with Skillset, monitors workforces in terms of equality issues.

More generally, *Creative Britain*, which was published in February 2008, included a commitment that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will work with its non-departmental public bodies, and through them with its sectors, to agree actions to promote a more diverse workforce.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81124w0008.htm#08112423000052>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6441]: Whether they will institute independent investigations into the Hertfordshire Probation Area and the East of England Probation Training Consortium, following allegations of institutional discrimination, bullying and harassment.

Reply from Lord Bach: A tribunal application is in the process of being heard. We will await the outcomes/recommendations once the tribunal process has been completed and will take the appropriate action necessary in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0006.htm#08112647000059>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6442]: How many complaints of discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation there were in each area of the National Probation Service since 2004.

Reply from Lord Bach: Information has been collated locally in each National Probation Service area since 2004. National data are available only since 2006 and show the following:

2006-07 Bullying and Harassment 13 Sexual Harassment 8 Racial Harassment 18 Total 139
2007-08 Bullying and Harassment 124 Sexual Harassment 8 Racial Harassment 6 Total 138

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0006.htm#08112647000059>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6443]: Whether the National Probation Service has a race equality scheme; and whether such a scheme has been approved and monitored by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Reply from Lord Bach: The National Probation Service has never been a body listed as subject to the specific duty to publish a race equality scheme. This duty instead lies with the 42 individual probation boards and trusts.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

At a national level the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is responsible for ensuring that the individual boards and trusts comply with the duty. The MoJ has published a race equality scheme. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has critically assessed this scheme and offered guidance.

The National Offender Management Service—the agency of the MoJ that includes the Probation Service—and the EHRC have agreed that from April 2009 there will be a National Offender Management Service (NOMS) single equality scheme. This will include NOMS national functions regarding probation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0006.htm#08112647000059>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6444]: Whether the Equality and Human Rights Commission has raised concerns about any institutional discrimination in the National Probation Service; what complaints it received about the National Probation Service in the past year; how it responded thereto; and whether it will undertake any formal investigations into the National Probation Service.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has continued to pursue concerns about the National Probation Service which were originally raised by one of its predecessor bodies, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). These concerned assurances in spring 2007, following a central review originally agreed with the CRE, that all 42 probation boards were compliant with the statutory duty to promote race equality schemes. The CRE's small dip sample in summer 2007 threw doubt on this, as did a larger dip sample conducted by the EHRC after it had assumed responsibility. Therefore, the EHRC earlier this year engaged with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) stressing its advice that statutory equality duties placed upon the Ministry of Justice included action to secure compliant practice by probation boards and trusts. In response the NOMS has this month set out its programme of guidance and training designed to secure equality schemes which comply with all the equality duties by the end of March 2009. The aim is that that practice based on sound equality schemes will prevent and combat institutional and other discrimination.

In the past year, the EHRC has received five individual complaints against probation services concerning alleged discrimination on grounds of age, race and disability. The appropriate advice and guidance was provided in each case. Furthermore, the EHRC has said it will discuss with the NOMS its role in relation to probation boards and trusts after it received allegations of non-delivery of the race equality duty.

The commission currently has no plans to undertake any formal investigations into the National Probation Services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0006.htm#08112647000059>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6445]: Whether ethnic monitoring takes place in the National Probation Service; and whether this is part of any equality impact assessments.

Lord Bach: The National Probation Service collects a range of ethnic monitoring data for both employment and service delivery. There is published guidance about how these should be used in conducting equality impact assessments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0006.htm#08112647000059>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6223]: Whether institutional racism in the United Kingdom's political bodies is preventing black and Asian individuals from reaching high office.

Reply from Lord Bach: We do not believe that political parties in the United Kingdom are institutionally racist.

Nevertheless, we recognise that the current make-up of our legislature is not reflective of the diverse make-up of the United Kingdom as a whole, especially with regard to the number of woman MPs and black, Asian and minority ethnic MPs.

On 12 November, following a debate led by my right honourable friend the Minister for Women and Equality (Harriet Harman), the House agreed to establish a Speaker's Conference which will consider the under-representation of women, ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons. We look forward to the findings of the conference.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81126w0008.htm#08112647000080>

Andrew Dismore (239541): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what information his Department holds on which countries (a) have withdrawn and (b) are considering withdrawal for the UN Durban II anti-racism conference due to the language used concerning Israel in the draft statement; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81124w01.htm>

Andrew Dismore (239542): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the UN on the draft statement for the UN Durban II anti-racism conference; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81124w01.htm>

News

Top Asian officer settles claim

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7747934.stm>

Race-claim police chief accepts out-of-court settlement

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Raceclaim-police-chief-accepts-outofcourt.4730676.jp>

Fans arrested in Subway over sectarian singing

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2470589.0.fans_arrested_in_subway_over_sectarian_singing.php

Anti-sectarian campaign backed by MEP

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2471313.0.Antisectarian_campaign_backed_by_MEP.php

Marchers join anti-racism rally

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7755279.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Murphy in racism rally

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Murphy-in-racism-rally.4746167.jp>

Racist incidents on the increase in Highlands

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/nov/30/racism-scotland>

Taking prejudices to work is fraught with potential for pitfall

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Innes-Clark-Taking-prejudices-to.4746613.jp>

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Other Westminster

Prorogation

Prorogation marks the end of a parliamentary session. It is the formal name given to the period between the end of a session of Parliament and the State Opening of Parliament that begins the next session. The parliamentary session may also be prorogued when Parliament is dissolved and a general election called.

The Queen formally prorogues Parliament on the advice of the Privy Council.

Prorogation usually takes the form of an announcement, on behalf of the Queen, read in the House of Lords. As with the State Opening, it is made to both Houses and the Speaker of the House of Commons and MPs attend the Lords Chamber to listen to the speech.

The same announcement is then read out by the Speaker in the Commons. Following this both the House of Commons and House of Lords are officially prorogued and will not meet again until the State Opening of Parliament.

The prorogation announcement sets out the major Bills which have been passed during that session and also describes other measures which have been taken by the Government.

Prorogation brings to an end nearly all parliamentary business. However, Public Bills may be carried over from one session to the next, subject to agreement.

To read the Queen's prorogation speech see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081126/debtext/81126-0025.htm#08112650000002>

Debate

Human Rights Judgments: Joint Committee on Human Rights Report

Lord Lester of Herne Hill rose to move that this House takes note of the Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Monitoring the Government's Response to Human Rights Judgments: Annual Report 2008* (31st Report, HL Paper 173).

The noble Lord said: I am a member of the committee, as are the noble Lords, Lord Dubs and Lord Bowness, who I am delighted to say will be contributing to the debate. The report was published on 7 October, although many of its recommendations were made

Other Westminster

Debate (continued)

much earlier. We welcome the fact that the noble Lord, Lord Bach, will reply to the debate, and we hope that he will be able to be more positive in his response than ministerial colleagues in his department have been hitherto. We are greatly indebted to our highly skilled and overworked staff, parliamentary clerks, legal advisers and other staff for their outstanding support. Without their skill, judgment and dedication, the committee could not publish well informed and timely reports, often at short notice.

The subject matter of the report is not theoretical, esoteric or arcane. It concerns the practical and effective protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of everyone within this jurisdiction by Parliament, the Executive and the judiciary. The UK, like every other state party to the convention, is bound by Article 1 to secure the convention rights to everyone within its jurisdiction. The UK is bound by Article 13 to provide effective British remedies for breaches of the convention rights. The UK, like every other state party, is also bound by Article 46 to abide by judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in cases where the UK is a party. Where the Strasbourg court gives judgments against other countries on issues of general importance and relevance to all state parties, which in legal Latin is *erga omnes*, it is also essential for third-party states to give effect to them, even though they are not parties to the particular case. That is why, for example, Cyprus and Ireland promptly gave legislative effect to the Strasbourg court's judgment in the prisoners' voting rights case against the UK.

The convention system is based on the three linked pillars of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. It requires a working partnership between European and national institutions and adherence to the governing principle of subsidiarity, which means that European supervision comes into play only where national systems are unable to provide effective protection and redress. The convention institutions—the court, the parliamentary assembly and the Committee of Ministers—depend on the legislative, executive and judicial authorities in each of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe to give prompt and full effect to the Strasbourg court's judgments, in the interests of the citizens of Europe and of the European rule of law.

The British judiciary has responded well to the pressing need to give domestic legal effect to convention rights. It did its best even before the Human Rights Act required it to interpret and apply domestic law compatibly with the convention rights. The case law under the Human Rights Act is highly influential and persuasive in the Strasbourg court. The problem of implementation arises not with our courts but with the political branches of government.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81124-gc0001.htm#0811248000002>

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6239]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord Bach on 6 November (WA 80—82), whether English courts may refuse to give effect to a consent order embodying the terms of an agreement reached by the parties to a family dispute in a Sharia council, rabbinical court or other religious body, on grounds of public policy; and

[HL6240] Further to the Written Answer by Lord Bach on 6 November (WA 80—81), whether they will consider requiring applicants seeking to enforce a consent order under the Arbitration Act 1996 to inform the court where the order has been made under the auspices of a Sharia council or other religious body.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bach: I refer the noble Lord to my Answer to Lord Avebury on 6 November (*Official Report*, col. WA 81), which explained that it is the function of the court to question any order which appears unfair irrespective of the process through which the parties to a family dispute reached that agreement and, if appropriate, to refuse to make the order requested. The Answer made it clear that this applies to agreements reached by parties having gone through religious councils as well as any other process.

The Government have no plans to amend the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996. Arbitration is not a system of dispute resolution that may be used in family cases. The issue of enforcement of an arbitrated decision only arises in civil disputes.

The Government are considering changes to applications for consent orders in ancillary relief proceedings so that the statements of information indicate the means by which agreements were reached. Any proposed changes will be included in the family procedure rules consultation process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81124w0004.htm#08112423000029>

Lembit Öpik [229294]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the incidence of forced marriage in the UK.

Reply from Gillian Merron: It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of cases of forced marriage in the UK, due to the underground nature of the abuse, as well as issues around recording of forced marriages by agencies, and the sharing of recorded information. The joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has been involved in 1,308 incidences of forced marriage or potential forced marriage in the first three quarters of 2008. As well as cases where the FMU has directly intervened, this statistic also includes incidences where the unit has provided support to an individual facing potential forced marriage who has made an anonymous call for advice to the public helpline and incidences where the FMU has provided referral support and guidance to agencies handling a case locally. We believe that this figure represents only a fraction of the total number of incidences of forced marriage in the UK, with many more being handled by local statutory or voluntary sector agencies without referral to the FMU and a far greater number going unreported.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081124/text/81124w0004.htm#0811249000040>

Eleanor Laing [237752]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to a local authority was of providing (a) an authorised site and (b) an authorised pitch for gypsies and travellers in each of the last three years.

Reply from Iain Wright: Based on the value of successful bids for Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, the average cost of providing a pitch on a new local authority site was £57,154 in 2005-06, £93,692 in 2006-07, and £81,615 in 2007-08. This cost will be affected by the location of the site—often sites are on brownfield land which requires remediation, or are some distance from essential utilities—and whether land needs to be purchased. The cost of a new site will also vary according to the number of pitches it provides.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0028.htm#08112618000082>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Eleanor Laing [237788]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many gypsies and travellers there were in England in (a) 1988, (b) 1998 and (c) 2008.

Reply from Iain Wright: We do not collect information on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in England. The bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans provides information on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Communities and Local Government website at www.communities.gov.uk. The number of caravans counted was as follows:

	<i>Number of caravans</i>
January 1988	10,816
January 1998	13,064
January 2008	17,898

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0028.htm#08112618000082>

Eleanor Laing [237789]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the occupancy rate was for publicly-owned authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers in (a) Essex, (b) Suffolk, (c) Norfolk, (d) Kent, (e) Hertfordshire, (f) Berkshire, (g) Cambridgeshire and (h) Greater London in each of the last three years.

Reply from Iain Wright: The occupancy rate recorded for residential pitches on authorised local authority sites was as follows:

<i>Percentage</i>			
	<i>January 2008</i>	<i>January 2007</i>	<i>January 2006</i>
Essex	96.5	98.7	99.1
Suffolk	92.2	100	92.9
Norfolk	91.3	100	93
Kent	98.6	99.1	97.3
Hertfordshire	95.6	94.8	96.4
Berkshire	96.7	97.5	96.6
Cambridgeshire	100	100	100
Greater London	98	97.9	95

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081125/text/81125w0028.htm#08112618000082>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6430]: How many appeals there were against refusal of planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the two years before and after the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Circular 1/2006; how many were granted; how many refused; and how many pitches there were in each case.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: In the two-year period leading up to publication of ODPM Circular 1/2006 (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites) on 2 February 2006, the inspectorate considered a total of 268 appeals relating to Gypsy and Traveller sites, of which 86 (32 per cent) were allowed and 182 (68 per cent) were dismissed. In the two-year period following publication of Circular

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

1/2006, the inspectorate considered a total of 246 appeals, of which a higher proportion 65 per cent (160 cases) were allowed with 35 per cent (86) dismissed. The inspectorate does not hold information on the number of pitches affected.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81125w0002.htm#08112576000012>

Press Releases

Victim protection for forced marriages - new law comes into force

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement241108b.htm>

Information Commissioner to be given tougher powers

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease241108a.htm>

Government's response to the Data Sharing Review

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement241108a.htm>

New publication

Government Response to the Data Sharing Review Report

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/response-data-sharing-review.pdf>

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New Publication

Small charity accounts comparative study

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=edcf081c-3149-4db7-aedacacce1232431>

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Other News

Muslims to be offered Sharia-compliant pensions by Government

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/pensions/3496730/Muslims-to-be-offered-Sharia-compliant-pensions-by-Government.html>

New laws against forced marriages

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7747267.stm>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

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

**** Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill**

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

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing Scotland, UNISON, COSLA, South Lanarkshire, and West Lothian councils, Consumer Focus Scotland, Inclusion Scotland, and Voluntary Health Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-2802.htm#Col1292>

Subordinate Legislation Committee: Stage 1 report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-08/sur08-HealthBoardBill.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-2902.htm#Col1403>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Counter-Terrorism Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/096/amend/am096-i.1-6.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81124-0002.htm#0811247000005>

Royal Assent received 26 November 2008

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

summary

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Actsandbills/DH_080211

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7373/7373.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities

(8 December 2008)

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring of Cross-border charities (23 December 2008)

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

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

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

Discussion paper: Coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

(12 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0069128.pdf>

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

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

online consultation <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

UK Border Agency race, disability and gender equality scheme, 2009 to 2010

(28 January 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingforus/racedisability_genderscheme/

**** Publication of candidates' addresses at UK Parliamentary elections**

(28 January 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/candidate-address-consultation.pdf>

Identity Cards Act secondary legislation (13 February 2009)

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

Proposed Palliative Care Bill (28 February 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/PalliativeCareConsultation.pdf>

**** Big Lottery Fund** (28 February 2009)

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

Discrimination Law Update

9 December 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

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

Child Trafficking and the UK

8 December 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.40)

Legal Services Agency Seminar to present recent research on child trafficking in Glasgow, discuss specialist services in respect of child trafficking which already exist in the UK, and discuss issues around, age assessment, guardianship, legal safeguards and learning from services for adult survivors of trafficking. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/childtraffickingtheuk.aspx> or phone 0141 353 3354.

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Glasgow

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 / graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



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

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



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

<http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>