

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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**Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.**

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**During the Scottish and UK Parliament summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 10 and 24 August, and 7 September. The Scottish Parliament returns on 31 August, and the UK Parliament on 12 October.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Ministerial Statements

#### NHS Access (Foreign Nationals)

**Ann Keen (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health):** Since the publication of the cross-government immigration enforcement strategy “Enforcing the rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws” the Department of Health and the Home Office have been working together to review the rules on charging non-UK residents for access to National Health Service services in England. ...

The National Health Service was founded over 60 years ago. Sixty years on this Government remain committed to their founding principles; a national health service for the benefit of the people of the United Kingdom, free at the point of delivery and funded by general taxation.

However, it is neither feasible to operate the NHS without proper controls over access, nor fair, in an age of mass global travel and movement, to ask the taxpayer to fund unrestricted access to non-UK/EEA nationals. It is the Government’s responsibility to protect NHS resources from exploitation or inappropriate use.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

That is why, in concluding the review, the Government are today announcing measures to support a clearer and fairer system of access to NHS services—a transparent system that will maintain the confidence of the public by preventing inappropriate access.

The Government have decided to maintain the current system of charging non-residents for most secondary care (hospital) services. Treatment in an accident and emergency department, and treatment for specified infectious diseases that could create a public health risk, will remain free to all. The Government also propose limited extensions to the current range of exemptions from charges for hospital treatment for certain non-residents.

Persons seeking refuge or asylum are already exempted from charges for the duration of their application including the full appeal process. The Government have not been persuaded that this full exemption should be extended to all of those whose application has failed but have not yet left the country. It has however recognised the case for those whose claim has been refused but who are being supported by the UK Border Agency because they would otherwise be destitute, have children and or because it is impossible to return them home through no fault of their own. It is therefore proposed that an exemption from charges is extended to this group.

**To continue reading the lengthy statement see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/wmstext/90720m0002.htm#09072018000028>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/wmstext/90720m0003.htm>

### Citizenship Consultation

**Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration):** Following the successful passage of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill through both Houses of Parliament, Royal Assent is expected to be granted today. The Bill includes changes to the routes used to achieve citizenship. In consideration of this the UK Border Agency will be publishing, during the summer recess, a consultation paper entitled “Earning the right to stay: A new points test for citizenship”. This document will seek views on proposals to build on the system of earned citizenship set out in the Bill and fulfils one of the commitments made by the Prime Minister in the document “Building Britain’s Future”.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/wmstext/90721m0005.htm#09072146000040>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### Visas

**Lord Avebury [HL4618]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice the UK Border Agency's visa service gives to women in the later stages of pregnancy who wish to visit the United Kingdom for less than three months as private patients to give birth on whether to seek entry as a visitor or for private medical treatment.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** There is provision in the Immigration Rules for entry as a general visitor and in various categories of special visitor, including as a visitor for private medical treatment. This would be the appropriate entry category for a woman who wishes to enter the UK in order to give birth in a private medical establishment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90720w0005.htm#09072027000526>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Foreign Workers

**James Clappison** [286461]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the increase in (a) people in employment and (b) people of working age in employment between the third quarter for 1997 and (i) the third quarter for 2008 and (ii) the most recent quarter for which figures are available was accounted for by non-UK citizens.

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

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:* As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the increase in (a) people in employment and (b) people of working age in employment between the third quarter for 1997 and (i) the third quarter for 2008 and (ii) the most recent quarter for which figures are available was accounted for by non-UK citizens.

The information requested is shown in the attached tables. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, including the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

**To read the tables see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0027.htm#0907214000014>

### Immigration

**David Drew** [250959]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people had awaited determination of their application for (a) leave to remain and (b) indefinite leave to remain under the immigration rules for more than (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four years;

(2) [286588] when he plans to answer question 250959, tabled on 21 January 2009, on the timescale for processing immigration cases.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The data you require is provided in the following table.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Leave to remain</i>					
Two years	3,767	4,077	8,127	2,627	1,904
Three years	—	—	1,103	2,713	1,031
Four years	—	—	—	1,487	1,119
Five years	—	—	—	—	1,253
<i>Indefinite leave to remain</i>					
Two years	1,441	3,081	2,623	4,523	2,740
Three years	—	—	797	3,097	1,782
Four years	—	—	—	1,440	1,551
Five years	—	—	—	—	1,194

The above data are not provided under the National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Data for some of these periods is not available. This is because there was a major change in our IT systems in 2002. Data on cases lodged in or before 2002 will therefore not be complete. This means we are unable to supply reliable information on some of the cases you requested. The data could now be reliably gathered only by the examination of individual files for historic information and this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost to the organisation.

LTR and ILR outstanding applications are generally complex cases involving ECHR and those overstaying existing leave granted.

We are improving migration workstreams, as new processes are introduced with initial focus on clearing older cases, then improving overall throughput.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0049.htm#09072117000046>

### Immigration

**Lord Krebs [HL5083]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the impact of points-based immigration on the United Kingdom higher education sector.

[HL5084]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received concerning the impact of points-based immigration on the United Kingdom higher education sector.

[HL5085]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they have responded to representations expressing concern about the impact of points-based immigration on the United Kingdom higher education sector.

**Reply from Lord Young of Norwood Green:** Tier 4, the student tier of the points-based system (PBS), was developed in consultation with the education sector and is designed to provide a clear and transparent system for bona fide education providers wishing to bring international students to the UK. Her Majesty's Government continue to welcome genuine international students, who make a valuable cultural and economic contribution to the UK's education system.

Since Tier 4 was introduced at the end of March, there have been a number of representations made by vice-chancellors and others across the education sector, in particular concerning delays in the system and a higher than usual level of refusals. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) continues to work closely with the sector to address these problems, via regular meetings of the Joint Education Taskforce and its sub-groups, as well as through meetings and correspondence with individual education providers. The UKBA has listened to stakeholder views, making changes to policies and clarifying guidance where appropriate.

The latest UKBA figures indicate that application rates for student visas under Tier 4 of the PBS for immigration are now at 2008-09 levels. This follows an initial anticipated dip when the system was first introduced at the end of March. Management information shows that, although refusal rates were initially higher than expected, they have since been falling and this indicates that the new system is bedding down.

There continues to be regular contact between senior officials at the UKBA and this department and with Universities UK about the concerns of the higher education sector.

My right honourable friend the Minister for Higher Education and my honourable friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration are to meet with a group of vice-chancellors on 20 July specifically to ensure that any remaining concerns are heard and to agree any further action to ensure the system can cope with the summer applications peak.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90721w0008.htm#09072149001318>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Entry Clearances

**Douglas Carswell** [273592]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for family visit visas from (a) India, (b) Nigeria, (c) Bangladesh and (d) Pakistan have been refused in each of the last six years.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The number of applications family visit visas (a) received and (b) refused at UK visa-issuing posts in India, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Pakistan in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following tables, together with refusal rates for each country/year. Reliable data is not held for years prior to 2004.

	2004			2005		
	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Refusal rate (percentage)</i>	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Refusal rate (percentage)</i>
Bangladesh	6,703	2,169	43	9,356	3,458	36
India	83,089	15,648	19	99,341	20,024	21
Nigeria	41,157	15,788	41	60,065	25,125	44
Pakistan	31,932	6,727	36	57,122	25,901	43

	2006			2007		
	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Refusal rate (percentage)</i>	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Refusal rate (percentage)</i>
Bangladesh	12,760	4,547	36	13,909	5,351	40
India	108,572	20,548	19	108,233	22,193	21
Nigeria	59,276	30,353	52	52,042	25,309	46
Pakistan	86,664	28,575	33	75,769	31,611	41

	2008		
	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Refusal rate (percentage)</i>
Bangladesh	11,381	3,966	35
India	98,645	16,647	17
Nigeria	42,612	18,532	43
Pakistan	56,477	28,750	47

The data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

**Chris Grayling** [280138]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) visa entry clearance officers and (b) risk assessment officers are employed in (i) Islamabad, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Afghanistan.

**Reply from Alan Johnson:** For security and efficiency reasons, we have transferred visa decision-making for Pakistan to our visa sections in Abu Dhabi and the UK. We have 34 Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) in Abu Dhabi, including seasonal relief staff, and a full staffing capacity of five ECOs in the UK working on Pakistan casework. 13 ECOs currently remain in Islamabad.

Risk and Liaison Overseas Network staff are employed on a risk assessment basis.

We do not have a visa office in Afghanistan.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0047.htm#09072117000031>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Immigration: Gurkhas

**Jo Swinson** [273542]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) legal status and (b) residency rights Gurkhas who do not qualify to settle in the UK but who are not subject to immediate deportation have.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** On 21 May 2009 the Home Secretary announced a revised policy for former members of the Brigade of Gurkhas who had been discharged prior to 1 July 1997. Under the terms of this policy any former Gurkha with more than four years' service who had been discharged from the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1 July 1997 would be eligible for settlement in the UK.

All Gurkhas who meet the criteria and who wish to settle in the United Kingdom will be eligible to do so unless there are particular reasons for excluding an individual from settlement, for example criminality. We therefore cannot foresee circumstances in which ex Gurkhas in the UK do not meet the criteria but are not subject to immediate administrative removal or deportation. If this unlikely situation did arise the legal status and residency rights of the individual would be considered on a case by case basis.

**Jo Swinson** [276908]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what potentially analogous categories of immigrant his Department considered when formulating its policy on the rights of residence of Gurkhas; and what elements of the Government's policy on such rights of residence would apply to each such category.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** When formulating the policy on the settlement rights of former Gurkhas it was important to find a package which met the needs of the Gurkhas, which was affordable and was consistent with our broader immigration policies. This included consideration of the settlement rules for Commonwealth soldiers, the policies on other immigration categories that provide a route to settlement, the time limits on applications, dependants and the UK Government's wider responsibilities under the Human Rights Act.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0049.htm#09072117000048>

### Asylum Seekers

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL4126]: To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries they do not return failed asylum seekers because they might be ill-treated on their return.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** There are no countries to which the Government has a blanket approach of not returning failed asylum seekers for safety reasons.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. The United Kingdom also fulfils its obligations under the UNHCR Gateway programme.

Failed asylum seekers of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90721w0001.htm#09072149001259>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Iran

**David Howarth** [286308]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the effects on policy on Iranian asylum seekers of the recent unrest in Iran.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** We have not received any such representations. We continue to monitor closely the political and human rights situation in Iran through key governmental, non-governmental and other human rights organisations. The visa operation in Tehran is monitored on a daily basis by UKBA and FCO.

The asylum determination process assesses the protection needs of claimants and where the recent unrest in Iran

impacts directly on the circumstances of an individual claimant, then it is duly considered as part of that individual's claim.

All Iranian asylum and human rights applications are considered by the Home Office on their individual merits, in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN refugee convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR).

Each application is assessed against the latest available information about the situation in Iran. Specially-trained case owners consult these sources via the Iran Country of Origin Information Report produced by UKBA's Country of Origin Information Service, and the Iran Operational Guidance Note which gives guidance on the most common types of asylum claims received and the circumstances in which they are likely to prove founded or unfounded.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0042.htm#09072117000005>

### Human Trafficking

**Shailesh Vara** [277244]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, Official Report, columns 94-5W, on human trafficking, what guidance has been issued by his Department to the agencies involved in the national referral mechanism on systematic identification of victims of human trafficking.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** Specialist teams within the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the UK Border Agency have been set up to act as decision making competent authorities within the multi-agency national referral mechanism.

Comprehensive guidance and training, utilising expertise from within and outside Government, has been provided to these teams. Staff within these teams have been instructed to engage with external agencies to assist in the identification process.

In addition, myself and the ACPO lead for human trafficking wrote to all chief officers to direct them to

the Home Office website which holds information about the national referral mechanism:

[http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/human trafficking005.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/human%20trafficking005.htm)

All other relevant agencies have also been directed to this information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0049.htm#09072117000040>

## Press Releases

**Immigration Act gives UK Border Agency customs powers**

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/immigration-customs-powers>

## Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

### Report on bogus colleges published by Committee

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/07/report-on-bogus-colleges-published-by-committee/>

### Changes to our policy on judicial review challenges

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/july/policy-changes-on-jr-challenges?area=allNews>

## New publications

### House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Report: Bogus Colleges

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmhaff/595/595.pdf>

### UK Border Agency public attitudes survey

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/public-attitudes-surveys/wave-5.pdf?view=Binary>

### Social housing allocation and immigrant communities

[http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/ehrc\\_report\\_-\\_social\\_housing\\_allocation\\_and\\_immigrant\\_communities.pdf&a=skip](http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/ehrc_report_-_social_housing_allocation_and_immigrant_communities.pdf&a=skip)

### Maximising the Development Outcomes of Migration: A policy perspective

[http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/maximising\\_devt\\_outcomes\\_migration.pdf&a=skip](http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/maximising_devt_outcomes_migration.pdf&a=skip)

## News

### Bogus college action 'inadequate'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8159227.stm>

### Thousands of bogus students 'at large' in UK

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2521124.0.Thousands\\_of\\_bogus\\_students\\_at\\_large\\_in\\_UK.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2521124.0.Thousands_of_bogus_students_at_large_in_UK.php)

### Colleges welcome call for tackling bogus institutions

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/07/21/newsstory13487732t0.asp>

### Bogus colleges letting in illegal immigrants

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2521187.0.bogus\\_colleges\\_letting\\_in\\_illegal\\_immigrants.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2521187.0.bogus_colleges_letting_in_illegal_immigrants.php)

### New migrants make positive contribution to public purse

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2521771.0.New\\_migrants\\_make\\_positive\\_contribution\\_to\\_public\\_purse.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2521771.0.New_migrants_make_positive_contribution_to_public_purse.php)

### Immigrants urged to live in Scotland

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigrants-urged-to-live-in.5494243.jp>

### Points bonus for Scots immigrants

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8169285.stm>



## Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

### **Jim Murphy: A clear solution to demographic woes**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/Jim-Murphy-A-clear-solution.5494257.jp>

### **EU migrants 'good for UK economy'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-migrants-good-for-uk-economy-1759279.html>

### **WorldBridge - the UK's new drawbridge?**

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2009/july/bw000028.html>

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## Equality

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### **Equality Bill**

**David Evennett** [288122]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received from religious organisations on the provisions of the Equality Bill.

**Reply from Michael Jabez Foster:** My officials and I have received a number of representations from religion and belief organisations and individuals since the introduction of the Equality Bill in April this year.

Since April there have been meetings with the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the General Synod of the Church of England and the National Secular Society.

In that same period we have also received 45 letters from religious or belief organisations and members of the public on the provisions within the Bill. The main issues raised were:

The public sector equality duty;

The occupational requirements employment exception;

Catholic adoption agencies;

The harassment provisions;

The curbing of religious freedom and expression; and

A perceived hierarchy of rights where some protected characteristics take precedence over others.

In addition to the representations mentioned above, a number of religious and belief organisations made submissions to the House of Commons' Public Bill Committee on the Equality Bill. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the British Humanist Association presented written evidence. Oral evidence was presented by the British Humanist Association, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the General Synod of the Church of England, the National Secular Society and the Muslim Women's Network.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/text/90720w0021.htm#0907212000005>

## Equality

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

#### Equality

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch** [HL4986]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the status of the proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (Com(2008) 426 final); what effect they expect that proposal to have in the United Kingdom; and what is their stance on the proposal.

**Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon:** The draft EC proposal for an equal treatment directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation was published in July 2008.

Negotiations on the directive are still under way and the UK will continue to contribute positively. A 12-week public consultation will close on 28 July.

There are some areas where the draft proposal differs from current or planned legislation in the UK but it is not yet possible to say what effect any final directive will have as negotiations are still under way.

The UK is supportive of the aims of the draft directive to complete the existing legal framework by addressing the remaining four grounds of discrimination.

The UK will be seeking to agree a directive that is clear, robust and complementary to the Equality Bill and existing domestic legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90721w0005.htm#09072149001296>

#### Diversity (Judiciary)

**Keith Vaz:** What steps his Department is taking to increase levels of diversity in the judiciary. [288136]

**Reply from Jack Straw:** Entry to the legal profession is now well balanced in terms of women and black and Asian people. That makes it all the more frustrating and paradoxical that, since the creation of the independent Judicial Appointments Commission in 2006, the data suggest that the situation for black and Asian people has, if anything, gone backwards. To provide more robust solutions and process, in April I established an advisory panel on judicial diversity and look forward to its report later in the year.

**Keith Vaz:** May I welcome that rather astonishing criticism of the Judicial Appointments Commission by the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor? I agree with it—we have not made progress on judicial diversity and I was pleased that he appointed a panel to consider the issue. When does he think that its recommendations will be before him? How long will it take him to implement them and put right what has not happened with the Judicial Appointments Commission in the past few years?

**Mr. Straw:** I was not seeking to make an astonishing criticism of the Judicial Appointments Commission, but merely referring to the data, which—although there are big problems with some of them—suggest that the situation for black and Asian people has gone backwards. We want the panel on judicial diversity to consider carefully all the processes and bars on people who work their way through the profession to a certain point and then, whether they are women or black or Asian people, are discouraged from applying, or, if they apply, are less likely to be successful. That is particularly true of the more senior judicial appointments

**To continue reading the question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/debtext/90721-0001.htm#0907216100022>

## **Equality** (continued) **Press Releases**

**Denham announces successful projects to support communities in promoting race equality**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1293524>

**Stop and searches on ethnic or religious grounds are not effective**

[http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/viewpoints/default\\_EN.asp?](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/viewpoints/default_EN.asp?)

**Commission launches Equality Measurement Framework**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-launches-equality-measurement-framework/>

**Commission's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-8 published**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-s-annual-report-and-accounts-for-2006-8-published/>

## **New publications**

**Equality Measurement Framework**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/fairer-britain/equality-measurement-framework/>

**Annual Report and Accounts 18 April 2006–31 March 2008**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/annual\\_report\\_and\\_accounts\\_2006-8.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/annual_report_and_accounts_2006-8.pdf)

**Immigrant, Muslim, Female: Triple Paralysis?**

[http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/images/stories/pdfs/quilliam\\_immigrantmuslimfemale\\_triple\\_paralysis\\_july\\_2009.pdf](http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/images/stories/pdfs/quilliam_immigrantmuslimfemale_triple_paralysis_july_2009.pdf)

## **News**

**Equality loses out in the battles of victim groups**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/5906926/Equality-loses-out-in-the-battles-of-victim-groups.html>

**Watchdog criticised over payments**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/8159313.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8159313.stm)

**Equality boss 'played race card to save job'**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6727742.ece>

**Shock! A quango boss who talks sense**

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading\\_article/article6727726.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article6727726.ece)

**Fresh charges rock equality watchdog**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jul/26/ehrc-trevor-philips-juniper-tv>

**'Hopeless' Phillips condemned for equality watchdog spending**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hopeless-phillips-condemned-for-equality-watchdog-spending-1754397.html>

## Equality

### News (continued)

#### **Activists call for human rights chief to stand down**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/activists-call-for-human-rights-chief-to-stand-down-1761473.html>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Ministerial Statement

#### **Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 10 Years On**

**Alan Johnson (Secretary of State for the Home Department):** On 24 February the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, supported by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), held a conference to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report. The conference, with an opening speech by Doreen Lawrence, OBE, reviewed the progress that has been made over the last 10 years, shared good practice, and helped to set out a focus for future work.

On or around this anniversary three reports were published: “Stephen Lawrence Review” an independent commentary by Dr. Richard Stone; “Police and racism: what has been achieved 10 years after the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report” by the EHRC and “The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 Years On” an analysis of the literature by the Runnymede Trust.

I am today publishing a report of the 10 anniversary conference and a Government response to Dr. Stone’s, the EHRC and Runnymede Trust reports.

The conference and the reports acknowledge that the police service and other criminal justice agencies have made progress since the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, in 1999. There have been many positive changes in relation to race equality and the fact that the overwhelming majority of the recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report have been addressed is a measure of this. However, we must, as the conference proceedings and the reports also demonstrate, not become complacent. Much has been achieved, but there is still considerably more to do. That is why we have published an action plan with the conference report, setting out areas for particular focus, building on existing work, as we move forward from the anniversary. This work includes: increasing the recruitment, retention and progression of minority ethnic police officers and police staff; reducing unjustified disproportionality in the use of stop and search powers; and continuing to improve the reporting and recording of racist incidents.

Copies of the conference report and the government response to Dr. Stone’s, the EHRC and the Runnymede Trust reports will be placed in the Library of the House later today.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/wmstext/90721m0004.htm#09072146000035>

## Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Question

### Racial Hatred

**Lord Ahmed:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been convicted of offences of racial hatred under (a) the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006; and (b) Sections 17—23 of the Public Order Act 1986. [HL5115]

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** Available information provided by the Ministry of Justice, covering the period from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in the attached table.

**Number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected sections of the Public Order Act 1986, and the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006** <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	Year			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Public Order Act 1986 <sup>(3)</sup>				
Section 18 <sup>(4)</sup>	2	1	3	7
Section 19 <sup>(5)</sup>	-	6	2	-
Section 21 <sup>(6)</sup>	-	1	-	-
Section 22 <sup>(7)</sup>	1	1	2	-
Section 23 <sup>(8)</sup>	-	-	-	2
Total	3	9	7	9
Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006	:	:	:	-

: Not applicable.

(1) The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(2) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

(3). There were no persons found guilty for Sections 17 or 20.

Offence description:

(4). Use of words or behaviour or display of written material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.

(5). Publishing or distributing written material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.

(6). Distributing, showing or playing a recording intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.

(7). Broadcasting or including a programme in programme service intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.

(8). Possession of a racially inflammatory piece of material.

Source: Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

IOS Ref: 376-09

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90721w0011.htm#09072149001349>

## **Racism and Religious Hatred** (continued) **Press Release**

**Race issues persist ten years after report says Committee**

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/07/race-issues-persist-ten-years-after-report-says-committee/>

### **New publications**

**The Macpherson Report—Ten Years On**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmhaff/427/427.pdf>

**Antisemitic Incidents January-June 2009**

[http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents\\_Report\\_Jan\\_June\\_09.pdf](http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents_Report_Jan_June_09.pdf)

**Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2008**

<http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Antisemitic%20Discourse%20Report%202008.pdf>

### **News**

**Racism 'still exists' in police**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8162280.stm>

**Inquiry into 'racist' police head**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8162998.stm>

**'Record rise' in UK anti-Semitism**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8166173.stm>

**Sectarian girl gang turn the air blue over kerbstones paint job**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Sectarian-girl-gang-turn-the.5490263.jp>

**Racist crimes in north-east rocket by 50% over a year**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1323197>

**Anti-racism policy needs to be tougher**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1323638>

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### Ministerial Statement

#### Forced Marriage Case Handling Guide

**Alan Campbell (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department):**

Today the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit) launches its Forced Marriage Case Handling Guide for MPs and Constituency Offices. The guide aims to help Members of Parliament and their staff when they are faced with issues related to forced marriage. It offers background on the issue and gives suggestions of best practice for supporting victims and dealing with their families. It gives details of the Forced Marriage Unit and of non-Government organisations who can offer help and advice and also gives contact details of UK embassies/ High Commissions overseas. The new guide is available from the House Library. The guide can also be accessed on the Forced Marriage Unit's website at: [www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage), and further hard copies can be obtained directly from the unit at the following address: Forced Marriage Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room G58, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2PA.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090720/wmstext/90720m0003.htm#09072018000030>

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Polygamy

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL5145]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many polygamous households unlawful under United Kingdom law they estimate exist under Islamic law in the United Kingdom; and what steps they are taking to reduce the number of such households and prevent others in future.

**Reply from Lord Bach:** The Government are unable to estimate the number of unlawful polygamous households that exist under Islamic law in the UK. Polygamous marriage is not supported or condoned by the Government, and it is not possible to contract a polygamous marriage that will be legally recognised in England and Wales, nor is it possible for anyone domiciled in England and Wales to enter into a legally recognised polygamous marriage overseas. It is a criminal offence for anyone knowingly to enter into a second or subsequent legally recognised marriage while still legally married. Any such marriage would be bigamous and void under our laws.

If people enter into purely religious marriages in ceremonies that do not comply with UK marriage law, these marriages will be recognised by that religion, but not by the state. A separate civil ceremony will be required if the marriage is to be accepted as valid under the law of England and Wales. Polygamous marriages are not valid and a separate civil ceremony would not alter this position.

The Government believe that the most practical and effective way of ensuring that people who enter Islamic marriages are protected is to encourage the registration of mosques and imams for the purpose of carrying out marriages that comply with, and will be recognised under, the Marriage Act. We are currently working to achieve this and to raise awareness, particularly amongst Muslim women of the formalities required for a legally recognised marriage in England and Wales.

**Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many maintenance orders, applications under the Children Act 1989, domestic violence injunctions and women's refuges relate to Islamic polygamous households. [HL5146]

**Reply from Lord Bach:** Her Majesty's Court Service does not currently record data on the ethnicity or religion of parties to family court proceedings.

Information with regard to the provision of women's refuges is not collected centrally.

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch** [HL5147]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to introduce to prevent polygamous households where there is a divorce of convenience under United Kingdom law but an Islamic marriage under Sharia law.

**Reply from Lord Bach:** The Government's policy of preventing the formation of polygamous households in the UK is very largely achieved by Section 2 of the Immigration Act 1988 and paragraphs 278 and 279 of the Immigration Rules. It is government policy to prevent the formation of polygamous households in this country.

However, entry clearance may not be withheld from a second wife where the husband has divorced his previous wife. The Government are not aware of divorce being used as a means of creating polygamous households. The UK Border Agency has stated that they are going to look at their guidance and whether any changes are required.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch** [HL5148]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will revise chapter 13.20 of the UK Border Agency's Entry Clearance Guidance which reads: "Even where it is suspected that a divorce of convenience has taken place and that a man is continuing to live with a previous wife, entry clearance cannot be withheld from a second wife, even if a polygamous household will be created as a result".

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The layout of the UK Border Agency Entry Clearance Guidance relating to polygamous spouses was altered with effect from 25 June 2009, and the relevant section is now SET14.8. This replicates in substance the guidance at Immigration Directorates Instruction chapter 8 annexe C subsection 8. My officials are not aware of any divorces of convenience but will consider whether changes to the guidance are required.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90721w0011.htm#09072149001346>

### Topical question: Sharia Tribunals

**Gary Streeter** [288127]: Given the increase in tribunals practising sharia law in this country, can the Secretary of State or one of his excellent Ministers explain how that dovetails with the law of the land? How is it compatible with our commitment to human rights and, for example, the equality of women under the laws of this country?

**Reply from Jack Straw:** Any domestic tribunal, as the so-called sharia courts are, has to comply with the law of the land, and the statutory basis with which they have to comply is an Act passed under the last Conservative Administration —the Arbitration Act 1996. This Government have no less an interest than any other party in seeing the strictest observance of British law by everybody who is resident in or subject to this jurisdiction, regardless of their confessional faith.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/debtext/90721-0003.htm#09072161000036>



## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Citizenship: Education

**Ben Wallace** [286116]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what contribution his Department has made to the development of citizenship education in mosque schools through the Islam Citizenship Education Project;

[286117] (2) what financial contribution (a) the Schools Development Support Agency and (b) community-based organisations have made to the development of citizenship education in mosque schools.

**Reply from Diana Johnson:** The Islam and Citizenship Education (ICE) Project is jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Communities and Local Government. We awarded a contract, worth £318,652, to the School Development Support Agency (SDSA) running from February 2008 to July 2009 to develop and pilot citizenship lessons for use in mosque schools. The SDSA, working in conjunction with Muslim communities, has successfully delivered this contract. We are currently in the process of tendering for the next stage of the ICE Project to roll out the lessons to mosque schools nationally. Apart from fulfilling their contractual obligations, the SDSA and community-based organisations have made no financial contribution towards the ICE Project.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/text/90721w0064.htm#0907235000090>

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## New Publications

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Stakeholder surveys for 2009 published**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=d0b4b7bc-09c4-4a92-8703-30488b3bb145>

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Public and Charity Perspectives 2009 Summary**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=58f516a3-8234-4e40-9e82-12c2e9cd6346>

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## Other News

**Strategy plea over travellers**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2520945.0.strategy\\_plea\\_over\\_travellers.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2520945.0.strategy_plea_over_travellers.php)

**North-east gypsies' support project loses 80% of staff**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1320507>

**Enforced marriage law forces couple apart**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/8165684.stm>

**Minority religions could gain right to their own police officers**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/5895336/Minority-religions-could-gain-right-to-their-own-police-officers.html>

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

### Holyrood

#### Arbitration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

#### Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

### Bills in Progress Westminster

#### \*\* Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/065/amend/ml065-i.1-6.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90720-0002.htm#0907208000718>

Royal Assent received

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090721/debtext/90721-0012.htm#09072161000012>

#### Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/crownemploymentnationality.html>

#### Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/equality.html>

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* new or updated this week

#### \*\* *closes this week!*

**UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive** (28 July 2009)

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu\\_directive.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx)

#### \*\* *closes next week!*

**Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation** (6 August 2009)

[http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight\\_of\\_the\\_immigration\\_adv/oversight\\_immigration\\_advice/immigration\\_advice\\_consultation?view=Binary](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary)

**Cycling Action Plan for Scotland** (20 August 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273788/0081826.pdf>

## Consultations (continued)

**\*\* Preventing Violent Extremism** (closes 17 September 2009)

[http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/clg/clqpn090721pve.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/clg/clqpn090721pve.cfm)

**Equality Bill: Policy Proposals for Specific Duties** (30 September)

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/Specific%20Duties%20Consultation%20DocumentWEB.pdf>

**Freedom of Information: Improving Openness** (30 September)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/278119/0083564.pdf>

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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**

**\*\*closes next week!**

### **BA in Community Development**

Closing date for applications: 3 August 2009

The University of Glasgow and BEMIS have reached an agreement that will see BEMIS facilitating support for trainees through a 36 month degree course focusing on Community Learning & Development complemented by extra direct training days/workshops styles. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09vii\\_bemis.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09vii_bemis.pdf) or contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / [Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk](mailto:Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk)

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

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

8 October 2009 in Glasgow

8 December 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

### **\*\* EveryOne IN: Working towards Equality for Minority Ethnic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Scotland**

28 August 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.30)

BEMIS and Equality Network report launch and opportunity discuss issues including how faith and religion can impact on the lives of Minority Ethnic LGBT individuals, problems faced by Minority Ethnic LGBT asylum seekers, refugees & migrants, Minority Ethnic LGBT people's experiences of discrimination and harassment, and the importance of celebrating Minority Ethnic LGBT diversity and cultural heritage. For information contact [timc@equality-network.org](mailto:timc@equality-network.org) / 07020 933 952 or see <http://www.bemis.org.uk/Everyone%20IN%20report%20launch%20INVITE.doc>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials**

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

### **Postive Action in Housing AGM**

4 September 2009 in Glasgow (11.00)

For information contact [home@paih.org](mailto:home@paih.org)

### **Working with Interpreters**

22 September in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Scottish Third Sector Research Conference**

26 October 2009 in Edinburgh (9.45 – 5.00)

Conference organised by SCVO in conjunction with the Centre for Public Services Research, Edinburgh University Business School to connect researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to ensure Scotland's Voluntary Sector has the latest knowledge and research at its fingertips. For information contact Ian Lees [ian.lees@scvo.org.uk](mailto:ian.lees@scvo.org.uk)

To find out how to submit a paper for the conference see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?al=t&page=&all=&from=DSR&Info=1946&TCID=30&PageName=Impact>

### **An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women**

12 November 2009 in Glasgow

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 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Scottish Charity Accounts and Reporting to OSCR**

30 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar to look at what OSCR expects from charities in terms of compliance. For information contact Jane Baillie 0131 474 8019 / [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.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](http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw)

## Useful Links (continued)

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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

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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 national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body supporting the development of the Ethnic Minorities Third Sector and the communities that this sector represents in Scotland. **BEMIS** aims: to empower and build the capacity of minority formal and informal community organisations, to be proactive in influencing policy development in relation to race equality agenda in Scotland (strategic partnership role to the Government), and to help 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/>