

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament is in recess until 12 October

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Children: Human Trafficking

Peter Bone [291032]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of suspected trafficked children who have gone missing from local authority care in each of the last five years.

Reply from Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Peter Bone [291033]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements have been made for the full implementation within the National Referral Mechanism of the provision of Article 10.3 of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings giving children the benefit of the doubt where the age of the trafficked child is uncertain; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Referral Mechanism for child victims of trafficking, where there are reasons to believe that a child is a victim of trafficking but there is uncertainty about their age, local age dispute or assessment procedures should be followed if necessary. Pending verification of their age, they

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

will be presumed to be a child and will be referred to local authority Children's Social Care for support and a detailed assessment of their protection or welfare needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090914/text/90914w0003.htm#0909143000052>

Freedom of Information Release

Photographic evidence accepted as proof of identity in centres administering the 'Life in the UK' test on behalf of UKBA

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/5857_Life_in_the_uk/

Press Releases

Go live date announced for phase 3 of Tier 4 of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/september/go-live-date-announced-tier4?area=allNews>

UK Border Agency launches online booking for appointments

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/september/online-booking?area=allNews>

Closure of Calais migrant camp - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/september/calais-closure?area=allNews>

New publications

Asylum-seeking women: violence and health

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Women_health

The impact of the global economic crisis on illegal migration to the EU

http://www.frontex.europa.eu/gfx/frontex/files/justyna/frontex_report.pdf

Migrants Rights News (September issue)

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/newsletters/MRN_Newsletter_Sept09.pdf

News

Police translation costs soaring

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/09/19/newsstory13810230t0.asp>

Pupils pioneer a wordless method of learning English as additional language

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/pupils-pioneer-a-wordless-method-of-learning-english-as-additional-language-1.921059>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

'Britain-obsessed' asylum seekers should be let into UK at earliest convenience, says Europe's Justice Commissioner

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1214848/Britain-obsessed-asylum-seekers-let-UK-earliest-convenience-says-Europes-Justice-Commisioner.html>

London: The city of broken dreams

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/london-the-city-of--broken-dreams-1790039.html>

Britain refuses to take Calais migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/britain-refuses-to-take-calais-migrants-1790032.html>

Britain's visa shame

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/sep/20/britain-visa-pakistan-students>

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Written submission from the EHRC (p3 onwards)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/papers-09/eop09-12.pdf>

Evidence session with Ros Micklem, National Director, Scotland, Euan Page, Parliamentary and Government Affairs Manager, and Lynn Welsh, Head of Strategic Litigation, Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-09/eo09-1202.htm#Col1187>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Racially Aggravated Offences

Chris Huhne [291185]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each ethnic group were convicted of racially aggravated offences in 2007; and for what offences they were convicted.

Reply from Claire Ward: Data on the ethnicity of persons convicted, in England and Wales, is not available for racially aggravated offences due to incomplete returns.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is currently working with Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), and representatives from National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to improve the level of recording in both the police and the courts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090914/text/90914w0013.htm#0909143000120>

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

Hate crime victims receive more support

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/hate-crime-plan-launched>

News

Anti-Muslim extremists plan Scots protest

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/AntiMuslim-extremists-plan-Scots-protest.5658854.jp>

BNP to continue charity fundraising

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/937935/BNP-continue-charity-fundraising/227158B6AB3C73540F92924D5EB36C63/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Men fined for sectarian singing and offensive comments at nightclub

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1401907>

No place in our society for bigots

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1401302>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Committee

Public Petitions Committee

Faith-based Schools (PE1262)

Petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban all faith based schools from teaching only in relation to that particular faith and make all schools teach non-denominational subjects

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-09/pu09-1202.htm#Col1910>

Press Releases

Draft Scottish Budget 2010-2011

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17111432>

Draft Budget - what it means for the justice service

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17150852>

Draft Budget - what it means for education and skills

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17144827>

Draft Budget - what it means for health and housing

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17143713>

Draft Budget - what it means for rural affairs and environment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17145909>

Draft Budget - what it means for the arts

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/17153149>

Other Holyrood Press Releases (continued)

Eid-UI-Fitr

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/16154726>

New publications

Scottish Budget: Draft Budget 2010-11

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/284860/0086518.pdf>

Keeping Children Safe: What we all need to know to protect our children

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/283433/0085860.pdf>

Keeping Children Safe: Preventing abuse among young children and young people

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/283437/0085861.pdf>

Keeping Children Safe: Information disclosure about child sexual offenders

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/283429/0085859.pdf>

News

Scottish budget: the main points

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/scottish-budget-the-main-points-1.920518>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Students: Radicalism

Adam Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W, on students: radicalism, which institutions will receive further targeted support in academic year 2009-10. [290879]

Reply Ian Lucas: In academic year 2009-10 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be giving targeted advice and support to institutions in priority Prevent-funded local authority areas.

A full list of these priority areas can be found on the Communities and Local Government website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/lafunding/>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090914/text/90914w0020.htm#0909143000181>

Press Releases

Home Secretary appoints first Identity Commissioner

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/first-identity-commissioner>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Murphy: On track for Calman response this Autumn
<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/12662.html>

Prime Minister sends Eid ul Fitr greetings
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20654>

Jack Straw Eid greetings
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement180909a.htm>

Best wishes for Eid ul Fitr
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=2086706> 1

Eid greeting from John Denham
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/eid2009>

Rosh Hashanah message from the Foreign Secretary
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=20863544>

Prime Minister sends Rosh Hashanah greetings
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20361>

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New Publication

Understanding the experiences of Asian fathers in Britain
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Asian-fathers-Britain-full.pdf>

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Other News

Human rights chief highlights Office's priorities
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HCHighlightsOfficesPriorities.aspx>

Church primaries 'above average'
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8259662.stm>

Redundant charities can be a wellspring for local good causes
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Redundant-charities-can-be-a.5654143.jp>

Thoroughly modern mosque throws open its doors to everyone
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Thoroughly-modern-mosque-throws-open.5658881.jp>

**Call for Papers: Research Conference on Voluntary Action: Volunteering Counts
1st and 2nd March 2010**
<http://www.vds.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Volunteering%20Counts%20Research%20Conference%20call%20for%20papers%202.pdf>

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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>

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

Scottish Refugee Council Strategic Plan (online survey, no closing date given)

https://eazymultimedia.net/EazySurvey/Questionnaire/EazyQuestionnaire3_home.aspx?proj=5EE31727-0F6C-4EDD-9E7E-E7A75DDCFF9A

Runnymede Trust: Online Survey on Financial Inclusion and Ethnicity

(online survey, no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?CEEA869BC7889C9C>

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>

Reform of the House of Commons (12 October 2009)

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/09/committee-to-look-at-reform-of-the-commons/>

Earning the right to stay: A new points test for citizenship (26 October)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/earning-the-right-to-stay/earning-the-right-to-stay/earned-citizenship-consultation?view=Binary>

Charging for immigration and visa applications (1 December 2009)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/charging09/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2009

The fund works with local faith groups as they build hope and struggle against poverty by providing grants and support in Scotland's most fragile urban and rural communities. Applications of up to £15,000 will be considered. This may be spread over a maximum of three years, with no more than £7,500 being awarded in the first year. For information see <http://www.fiscaf.org/index.htm>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Islam and Violence Against Women

21 September 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

19 October in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Amina seminar to outline where Islam as a faith stands on the issue of violence against women and highlight some of the misconceptions surrounding issues including domestic abuse, rape, forced marriage, FGM and honour killing. For information contact Tabassum Sarfraz 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk

**** this week!**

Violence Against Women , Culture and Practice

22 September 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

20 October 2009 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Amina seminar to explore the cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women. The training is intended give participants the capacity to identify the difference between culture and faith and the complex interaction between them. For information contact Tabassum Sarfraz 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Get your voice heard by the Justice system

23 September 2009 in Glasgow

BEMIS and Capability Scotland event to enable minority ethnic disabled people and/or people with a long term condition to tell the justice sector about issues in accessing justice. For information contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Black History Month in East Lothian**

23 September – 24 October

Events including cinema, music, lecture and theatre. For information contact East Lothian Diversity Network equalities@eastlothian.gov.uk / phone 01620 827134 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09x_e_lothian_black_history_month.pdf

Developing Management and Leadership Skills: a positive action course for people from black and minority ethnic communities (November 2009 – June 2010)

Closing date for applications 28 September 2009

Personal development course developed by PATH (Scotland) with funding from the Race Equality and Religion Integration Fund as a positive action measure towards addressing the under-representation of people from black and minority ethnic communities in management roles. It aims to support BME workers currently in employment to fulfil their potential and access management opportunities within and outwith their own organisations. For information contact Najimee Parveen najimee@pathscotland.org.uk / 0141 332 9477 / or see

http://www.pathscotland.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=57

Human Rights and Racial Discrimination: A way forward in Scotland

28 September 2009 in Edinburgh (12.30 – 4.30)

5 October 2009 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.30)

13 October 2009 in Inverness (12.30 – 4.30)

Glasgow Anti-Racist Alliance seminars to discuss and reflect on recent human rights developments and to seize opportunities to influence the human rights agenda at the UN on race discrimination. For information contact Lyndsay Theobald 0141 418 6530 / lyndsay@gara.org.uk

**** Introduction to Professional Practice in Race Equality**

Courses starting 30 September 2009 and 3 February 2010 in Paisley (Wed evenings 6.15 – 9.00pm)

Course jointly organised by the University of the West of Scotland, and West of Scotland Race Equality Council to develop a critical understanding of the concepts 'race', racism and ethnicity, develop a working knowledge of the content and impact of the 1976 Race Relations Act and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, identify key elements of best practice towards race equality in employment and service delivery, and analyse and evaluate current progress and challenges in managing change towards race equality in his/her own workplace. For information see

<http://www.wsrec.co.uk/newsite/images/PaisleyUni/new%20ippire%20leaflet%20print%202009-10.pdf> or contact Duncan Sim duncan.sim@uws.ac.uk, or WSREC 0141 337 6626

Prof James Hathaway: The Law of Refugee Status

5 October 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

A one day seminar on the law of refugee status from the world expert on the subject, Professor Hathaway of the University of Melbourne. For information contact Sheila Coutts at sheila.coutts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/noticeboard/Professor_Hathaway

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

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 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

FARE Action Week against Racism and Discrimination in European Football

15-27 October 2009

For the 10th successive season the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network is coordinating action in and around football stadiums across Europe, and large sections of the European football family in 40 countries will stand united against racism and discrimination. For information see

<http://www.farenet.org/default.asp?intPageID=7&intArticleID=1970>

**** Asylum in Scotland: The Year Ahead**

23 October 2009 in Glasgow (9.00 – 4.40)

Scottish Refugee Council conference to consider developments in the asylum and immigration system and the implications of the General Election. For information see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Conference09> or contact Graeme Corbett graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7930

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

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>

Equalities: from vertical to horizontal

29 October 2009 in Glasgow (9.45 – 3.30)

Voluntary Action Fund workshop for organisations striving to work across equality strands. For information contact Rhona Morris rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk / 01383 620780.

**** Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!**

4 November 2009 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

11 March 2010 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to discover more about the process of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements may lead to prejudice and discrimination. For information contact Jane Baillie

jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Participation and Influence with New Communities

18 November 2009 in Glasgow

Voluntary Action Fund workshop for organisations working with refugees, asylum seekers and/or migrant communities, and those who have an interest in community participation and partnerships. The workshop will explore what we know of the barriers to involvement in community planning and civic participation by people in Scotland's new communities. For information contact Rhona Morris 01383 620780 / rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

**** The Next 20 Years: The Challenge for Social Welfare, Debt, Housing and Asylum Law**

18 November 2009 in Glasgow (11.30 – 5.30)

Legal Services Agency conference including presentations on mental health, landlord and tenant, mortgage arrears, asylum and trafficking, debt, health and safety at work, poverty, climate change, human rights and management issues. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/thenext20yearsthechallenge.aspx>

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting the development of the Ethnic Minority Third Sector and communities. **BEMIS** aims: To empower and build the capacity of minority formal and informal community organisations; As a strategic partner with Government, to be proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland; 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/>