

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

First Minister's Questions

Anne McLaughlin: Is the First Minister aware that two of my constituents, Florence Mhango and her 10-year-old daughter Precious, from Cranhill in Glasgow are currently being detained at Yarl's Wood detention centre? In the past hour, I have received news that they will shortly be joined by a family of five Glasgow children who were taken to Dungavel yesterday after school—five Muslim children, innocent of any crime, but spending Eid in prison. What progress has the Scottish Government made with the alternatives to detention pilots? Will the Scottish Government continue to support the consensus throughout Scotland that the detention of such children is morally wrong?

Reply from the First Minister: I am aware of the circumstances in the first of the cases that Anne McLaughlin mentions. We have made continual representations to the United Kingdom Government on the detention of children. Michael Russell, the Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, wrote to Phil Woolas on Friday last week, specifically on the first case that Anne McLaughlin mentioned. As Anne McLaughlin indicated, the Scottish Government remains fundamentally opposed to dawn raids and to the detention of children in Dungavel. We have made it clear that asylum seekers and refugees must be treated fairly and humanely, and that while they are in Scotland they must be supported.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Scottish Government has been actively exploring alternatives to detention, which is why we are supporting a three-year pilot in Glasgow that is aimed at reducing the number of children who are held in Dungavel and encouraging and assisting families' voluntary return.

I am not aware of the second case that Anne McLaughlin mentioned, but we will investigate it today and I shall write to her.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor1126-02.htm#Col21625>

Human Trafficking

Robert Brown (S3W-28989): To ask the Scottish Executive what it plans to do to increase conviction rates for human trafficking, given that there are no current convictions for trafficking in Scotland.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: We have a comprehensive strategy in place to tackle this crime, set out in the *UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking*, published jointly by the Scottish Government and Home Office. The action plan was most recently updated on the 19 October and copies are available from the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (Bib. number 49729).

We continue to support law enforcement agencies to identify and pursue the criminal gangs involved in this abhorrent serious organised crime. We have brought forward provision in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill which amends and clarifies the trafficking offence provisions and which will ensure consistency of the law on this issue across the UK. We are also providing SCDEA with additional funding of £4 million over the next two years to boost capacity to tackle organised crime and, within that, provide Scotland's first dedicated expert resource to build the intelligence necessary to support and improve human trafficking investigation.

During Pentameter 2, a police-led operation aimed at disrupting trafficking for sexual exploitation which ran between October 2007 and March 2008, there were a total of 35 arrests made. A crown office analysis in 2008 revealed that of the 35 arrests made during that period there were 22 prosecutions, resulting in 18 convictions for offences including trading in prostitution, attempting to pervert the course of justice and offences under the Identity Cards Act 2006 and the Immigration Act 1971, and that sentences ranging from imprisonment to financial penalties have been imposed. There were no prosecutions for trafficking offences due to insufficient evidence.

The Scottish Government and COPFS are working with ACPOS and those supporting victims of human trafficking to encourage victims to report these offences to the police. COPFS will continue to work with relevant agencies to raise awareness of human trafficking issues and to assist them to identify potential victims of such crime.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-28989>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Resident Labour Market Test

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I am announcing today that, from 14 December 2009, employers wishing to recruit a migrant under Tier 2 of the points-based system will first need to advertise to jobseekers in the UK for four weeks. This strengthens the current requirement to advertise jobs for two weeks, or one week for jobs over £40,000.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

Since April this year, the resident labour market test (RLMT) has included a requirement to advertise skilled jobs in Jobcentre Plus, so that resident workers have a single source—their local job centre—to access all skilled vacancies. This change was proposed by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in their Tier 2 report which was published on 19 August, a copy of which can be found in the House Library. On 7 September the Home Secretary announced that the Government have accepted the recommendations put forward in the report in full. The Prime Minister announced, in his speech on immigration on 12 November, that the strengthening of the resident labour market test would be introduced quickly, to better support resident workers looking for skilled jobs. The flexibility of the points-based system allows us to support UK workers and at the same time meet the recruitment needs of businesses and to support the economy. In making this change, we are using that flexibility to support businesses in two ways: First, we will only apply this change to advertising campaigns that start on or after 14 December. Businesses that have already run advertisements will not need to do so again to meet the new requirement. Secondly, while we will require all jobs to be advertised for four weeks before a migrant worker can be appointed, we will not require the four weeks to be continuous. This will mean that businesses will not need to advertise all their vacancies for four weeks on the off-chance that no suitable resident workers apply and they need to recruit a migrant worker. For example, we will allow businesses to advertise skilled jobs for two weeks initially. If a suitable resident worker applies, the business can appoint them straight away. However, if no suitable resident workers apply, the resident labour market must be tested for a further two weeks before they can appoint a migrant worker. The other changes to Tier 2 recommended by the MAC will be implemented in spring 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091124/wmstext/91124m0009.htm#09112456000013>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Student Visitors

Mark Oaten [301661]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria students who are travelling to the UK to study for a period of less than 26 weeks must meet to be permitted to enter the UK under the student visitor route as an alternative to entering under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The criteria for those wishing to seek entry as a student visitor are set out in paragraph 56K of the Immigration Rules and paragraph 2.14 of the Immigration Directorate Instructions. This category allows those who wish to come to the United Kingdom as a visitor to undertake a short period of study which will be completed within the period of their leave. In order to qualify student visitors must be coming to an institution that is either the holder of a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points based system or accredited by a UKBA approved accreditation body. Those attending an overseas higher education institution that offer part of their programmes in the United Kingdom may also seek entry under this route providing the overseas institution hold their own national accreditation and offer programmes that are of an equivalent level to a United Kingdom degree. Student visitors are not permitted to undertake paid or unpaid work placements as part of the course, nor are they permitted to take part-time employment. Six months is the maximum time a student visitor may stay in the United Kingdom and applications for either leave to enter or remain beyond that period would fall to be refused.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091125/text/91125w0018.htm#09112551000075>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Students Visas

Mark Oaten [301085]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa applications have been (a) granted and (b) refused in Pakistan since the introduction of the Tier 4 immigration rules; and what the average time from submission of application to decision has been in each month since the rules were introduced.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 30 September, the number of student visa applications lodged in Pakistan under Tier 4 of the Points Based System that had been (a) successful and (b) refused were 5,906 and 3,517, respectively.

Information about the performance of our visa application centres against target visa application processing times in each quarter is available on our Visa Services website:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Processing times in Islamabad for Tier 4 applications has been as follows:

<i>Processing time- tier four application: Islamabad</i>		
<i>Percentage</i>		
	<i>15 days</i>	<i>30 days</i>
April to June 2009	58	95
July to September 2009	92	93

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091125/text/91125w0018.htm#09112551000076>

People Trafficking

Peter Bone [300125]: What recent assessment [the Secretary of State for Scotland] has made of the extent to which people are trafficked between Scotland and England.

Reply from Ann McKechnie: The Secretary of State has made no recent assessment of people trafficking between Scotland and England.

Peter Bone: That is rather disappointing. The Barnardo's report, published last week, highlights the number of young people who are trafficked within the United Kingdom for sexual exploitation. Will the Minister urge a further review, so that more can be done to protect those vulnerable people?

Reply from Ann McKechnie: The hon. Gentleman rightly raises a subject of great concern across the United Kingdom. I can assure him that there is close co-operation between all the police forces, including those in Scotland; of course, this is a devolved function of the Scottish Government. There is a national referral mechanism that is tracking child trafficking. Glasgow is one of the 13 pilot areas that have been taking part in that project, and we will have further information on its success later next year. The Government give the highest priority to tackling this invidious crime and to ensuring that we arrest the perpetrators as soon as we possibly can.

Denis MacShane: Is my hon. Friend aware of the TARA-trafficking awareness-raising alliance-project in Glasgow, which so far this year has taken 44 women trafficked for prostitution into care and is looking after them with the support of the Government and the Scottish Administration? Will she ask the police forces of Scotland to act on the Bill passed just two weeks ago, which makes it a crime to demand, ask for or seek to pay for sex with any woman who has been trafficked or coerced? In other words, it is now the male punters who are responsible, and they must be brought before the courts and named and shamed to slow down this disgraceful traffic.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend rightly refers to the very good work carried out by the TARA project over several years. The law on prostitution is different in Scotland, but that does not mean that colleagues in Scotland are not deeply concerned about the issues surrounding prostitution, particularly trafficking. I can assure him that local authorities and the police in Scotland are working very hard on that matter.

Jo Swinson: TARA in Scotland has seen a dramatic rise in the number of sex-trafficked women seeking its help. Sadly, the experience of large sporting events shows that the 2014 Commonwealth games could bring many more. Will the Minister ensure that her Government work closely with the Holyrood Government to share the experiences of and lessons from tackling this problem at the Olympics, to ensure that we minimise this horrible crime during the Commonwealth games?

Reply from Ann McKechin: The hon. Lady raises a genuine issue of concern, a concern which I share. There is already close co-operation between those organising the Commonwealth games to be held in Glasgow and the Olympic games to be held in London, and I am sure that the lessons learned about how we tackle this problem will be followed by colleagues in Scotland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091125/debtext/91125-0001.htm#09112522000020>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen [300141]: If [the Health Minister] will issue guidance to health care practitioners on the likely health care problems experienced by trafficked persons which might not present immediately.

Reply from Gillian Merron: Multi-agency guidance for all front-line practitioners on meeting the needs of trafficked people was issued last month. It includes a specific section on how front-line health practitioners should respond to the needs of trafficking victims, including those who might not present themselves immediately.

Anthony Steen: As many trafficked people have suffered from the most appalling mental and physical abuse requiring ongoing medical support and counselling, could I mention to the Minister the in-depth counselling service of the Helen Bamber Foundation in London, which gives wonderful ongoing counselling support to trafficked victims as well as to those who are found to have suffered torture? Will she consider extending that kind of in-depth counselling service to other parts of the country where more and more trafficked people are coming forward?

Reply from Gillian Merron: May I pay tribute to the hon. Gentleman, who is a passionate advocate for people who rarely have a voice themselves? I, too, congratulate the Helen Bamber Foundation, whose work does indeed help to rebuild the lives of those who have suffered the worst of violations. Provision of services is of course a matter for local health services. However, I will gladly draw the hon. Gentleman's comments to the attention of the taskforce that the Government have set up, whose work includes looking at the role and the response of health services in respect of trafficked people.

Fiona Mactaggart: Talking therapies are very important for people who have been through the trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder that are too commonly the fate of those who have been trafficked. In our constituencies, many of us find that there is insufficient access to talking therapies for anyone. Will my hon. Friend talk to PCTs and mental health trusts around the country about ensuring that there is better access to counselling and talking therapies for people with such conditions?

Reply from Gillian Merron: I certainly share the views of my hon. Friend, who makes an absolutely valid point. That is exactly why we have set up the taskforce.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

It is chaired by Sir George Alberti, who will look specifically at where there are gaps and what role the NHS and health service workers can play in supporting those who have been traumatised in the way that has been described. I hope that will do a lot to plug any gaps such as those that my hon. Friend mentions.

Jim Sheridan: Most of the people who are trafficked into this country are young men and women who are exposed to terrible abuses. Will my hon. Friend have discussions with her counterpart in the Home Office to ensure that any criminal money that is recovered from the people responsible for this trafficking is confiscated and, better still, redirected to the NHS to pay for the health care of these young people?

Reply from Gillian Merron: Again, my hon. Friend makes a very important point. Indeed, the taskforce that I referred to was set up by the Home Secretary and the Health Secretary, and we want particularly to consider how we can support victims of trafficking, work better together across Government and help to bring to justice those who perpetrate this crime. We want to make the advances that my hon. Friend refers to.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091124/debtext/91124-0001.htm#09112436000015>

Press Releases

Changes give British workers more opportunities to apply for jobs

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/changes-british-workers-opsps?area=allNews>

Introducing fingerprint checks at the border

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/introducing-fingerprint-checks>

Better education for migrant children

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusId=420&lang=en>

Call for Papers: Conference on Migrant Civic Engagement

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/109/30/Call-for-Papers-Conference-on-Migrant-Civic-Engagement.html>

New publications

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee: The Detention of Children in the Immigration System

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/73/73.pdf>

News

Scots girl aged 10 saved from deportation – for now

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scots-girl-aged-10-saved.5850392.jp>

'Your case has been dismissed so you are being detained. I began to scream'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Your-case-has-been-dismissed.5850365.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Scots girl's trauma at being herded on to deportation jet

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scots-girl39s-trauma-at-being.5854115.jp>

Salmond joins fight to save Scots girl, 10, from being deported

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-joins-fight--to.5863424.jp>

Poles paying UK national insurance in hope of a big pension

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/uk/Poles-paying-UK-national-insurance.5866396.jp>

Migrant children held 'too long' in detention, MPs say

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8384860.stm>

Migrant workers face gruelling minimum-wage shifts at potato plant

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/11/29/migrant-workers-face-gruelling-minimum-wage-shifts-at-potato-plant-86908-21859108/>

Former asylum seekers on benefits live in £1.8 million home

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/property/propertynews/6683648/Former-asylum-seekers-on-benefits-live-in-1.8-million-home.html>

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Race Relations

News

Faith schools 'strong on community cohesion'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8381090.stm>

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Equality

Press Releases

ENAR joins forces with businesses to boost labour market inclusion of ethnic minorities

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-11-25%20Ad-hoc%20expert%20group%20on%20employment%20and%20equality.pdf>

New publications

An uncertain mix: equality and Scottish devolution

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/an_uncertain_mix_equality_and_scottish_devolution.pdf

Equal opportunities and the Scottish Parliament: a progress review

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/equal_opportunities_and_the_scottish_parliament_-_a_progress_review.pdf

Equality

New publications (continued)

The place of equal opportunities in the devolution settlement: a legal analysis

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/the_place_of_equal_opportunities_in_the_devolution_settlement_-_a_legal_analysis.pdf

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases

Young Brits at Art 2010 competition launched

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/young-brits-at-art-2010-competition-launched/>

ODIHR trains the trainers to help battle hate crimes

<http://www.osce.org/item/41431.html>

News

Employers must act to curb sectarian banter in the workplace

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/employers-must-act-to-curb-sectarian-banter-in-the-workplace-1.933812>

Firms could be legally required to monitor sectarian incidents at work

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/11/23/firms-could-be-legally-required-to-monitor-sectarian-incident-at-work-86908-21843902/>

Bigotry at work doesn't count as banter

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2535578.0.bigotry_at_work_doesnt_count_as_banter.php

Call for firms to record all incidents of sectarianism

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Call-for-firms-to-record.5850366.jp>

Duo help launch anti-racism fight

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2535482.0.duo_help_launch_antiracism_fight.php

Marchers call for end to 'vile' racist groups

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8383107.stm

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Timetable for Calman changes

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/11/25154238>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

UK Government agrees new powers to strengthen Devolution

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/13041.html>

Speaker's Conference publishes interim report

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/11/speakers-conference-publishes-interim-report/>

More forced marriage protection orders than expected issued in first year

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease251109a.htm>

Prime Minister's message for Hajj

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21445>

Message for Eid ul Adha

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21442>

Good wishes for Eid al-Adha

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21293318>

Eid Ul-Adha greeting from John Denham

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/eiduladha2009>

New publications

Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/Scotland%27s%20Future%20in%20the%20United%20Kingdom.pdf>

Speaker's Conference (on Parliamentary Representation) - Second Interim Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/spconf/63/6302.htm>

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New Publications

Strong schools for strong communities: Reviewing the impact of Church of England schools in promoting community cohesion

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/education/cocoresearch.pdf>

Young, Muslim, Citizen- Identity, Empowerment and Change

<http://youngmuslimcitizens.org.uk/>

Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans - July 2009

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjul2009>

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Other News

Independent research shows 'faith schools' promote community cohesion and equality

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr11109.html>

Human Rights Day 2009

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

Public Services Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

amendment papers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/amend/pbc0052311a.1-2.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/amend/pbc0052411a.3-8.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/amend/pbc0052511a.11-17.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/amend/pbc0052611a.31-33.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Charging for immigration and visa applications (1 December 2009)

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

Integrated Reporting (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, 29 December 2009)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae8a56f1-3abd-4d53-b0c1-0ee5708f4c39>

Consultations (continued)

A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy

(Welsh Assembly Government, 5 January 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Specific Duties (15 January 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/286361/0087195.pdf>

1st year Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (15 January 2010)

http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/c/2_call_for_evidence_final.pdf

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Stakeholder-questionnaire.pdf>

Consultation on Revising the OISC's Guidance on Competence (29 January 2010)

<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/servefile.aspx?docid=82>

UNHCR, Canada, Denmark and the UK: A Joint Institutional Strategy Working Together for the World's Displaced Persons (31 January 2010)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/consultations/jt-org-stgy-unhcr-2007-2009.pdf>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment (2 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Simplifying Immigration Law - A New Framework for Immigration Rules

(3 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framework/>

Reforming asylum support (4 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framework1/>

**** Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005: Consultation on Options for the Implementation of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)**

(26 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292195/0090094.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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**** this week!**

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator consultation on Integrated Reporting

1 December 2009 in Dumfries (1.30)

OSCR is looking for comments on our consultation 'Integrated Reporting - The future of reporting and the register' which aims to streamline reporting procedures and to enhance the information about charities made available to the public. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Events.aspx>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Glasgow, a city of sanctuary?

30 November 2009 in Glasgow (3.00 – 4.30)

The City of Sanctuary movement is active in 15 towns and cities throughout the UK. It aims to build city-wide support for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. It does this by working with local groups and organisations so that people seeking sanctuary can participate fully in the life of their communities. For information contact craig@cityofsanctuary.org

**** "Scotland's Shame" Revisited**

7 December 2009 in Glasgow at 7.30

Irish Diaspora in Scotland Association lecture by James Macmillan and Patricia Walls which will reflect on sectarian discrimination in Scotland during the last ten years. For information see

<http://www.irishinScotland.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/november09.doc>

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

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>

**** Scottish Government Race Equality Conference**

15 December 2009 in Glasgow

The Scottish Government recognises that there are still many challenges to overcome before we achieve our shared goal of a Scotland free of discrimination. This conference is an opportunity for minority ethnic communities to explore and debate on how those challenges can be best addressed in the future. For information contact Linda Bruce 0131 474 9228 / Linda@cosla.gov.uk or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xii_sg_race_equality.pdf

**** Has devolution helped to achieve a fairer Scotland?**

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00pm)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission debate on devolution and equality. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5935

by 2 December or see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id=8n3utc84t&save=screen&session=

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Supporting Identity, Diversity and Language in the Early Years

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh

The first six years are crucial for young children in developing their first language and cultural identity. This Children in Scotland seminar explores theory and research in second language acquisition, particularly the relationship between children's identity and self-esteem and positive outcomes for learning. For information see <http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/training/show.php?ref=1354>

BEMIS AGM

16 December 2009 (6.00 – 8.00)

GO Business & Training Centre, Thornwood Suite, Second Floor, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047

Scottish Refugee Council AGM and Public Meeting

15 January 2010 (2.00 -)

The theme of the AGM will be that asylum is a human right. Keynote speeches will come from Roland Schilling, UK representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. For more information contact Graeme Corbett on (0141) 223 7930 or graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

A public appointment – no way? Think again

20 January 2010 in Edinburgh (9.15 – 4.45)

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Queen Margaret University are working together to increase the diversity of people like who apply for board positions with our public bodies. To attend a seminar contact Karen Elder karen.elder@publicappointments.org / 0131 718 6268 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_ocpas.pdf

Introduction to Professional Practice in Race Equality

Course starting 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

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



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



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