

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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**The Scottish Parliament returns from recess today.
The UK Parliament is still in recess until 28 February.**

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Refugee Agencies: Funding

Lord Judd: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are cutting their grants to the Refugee Council and other refugee agencies; and what assessment they have made of the implications for the well-being of refugees and their integration into British society. [HL6637]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Voluntary sector grants for providing advice to supported asylum seekers will be reduced from April 2011. Since 2005, numbers of supported asylum seekers have fallen by over 50 per cent but levels of grant have not been reduced significantly in this period. Refugees enjoy access to the job market, housing and other benefits in line with UK nationals. Our expectation is that some of the grant for advice services still available beyond April can be used to advise new refugees on these mainstream services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110214w0001.htm#1102142000458>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: English Language

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors she took into account in her decision to review the approved lists of English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system. [39660]

Reply from Damian Green: The decision to review the approved lists of English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system (PBS) was taken by the UK Border Agency.

The introduction of English language testing has been a gradual process starting with its introduction under Tier 1 (General) on 20 February 2008 and ending with roll out of English language testing in Tier 4 on 3 March 2010. The UK Border Agency judged that this milestone was an appropriate juncture at which to review the lists of acceptable tests. The review will build on the lessons learned since the inception of English language testing under PBS and will consolidate the existing lists of acceptable tests into a single list.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110215/text/110215w0001.htm#11021572000044>

Universities: Student Immigration System

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the impact on universities of the proposed changes to the student immigration system.

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, a consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. It sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation, and an impact assessment, will be published in due course.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Earl. Last week, the noble Lord, Lord Green, who is Trade Minister, spoke warmly of the role of British educational institutions as export earners. Why is the noble Earl's department undermining that by proposing to cut the number of international students coming to the United Kingdom? Does he understand that this will have a devastating impact on the finances of many of our universities and will do enormous damage to UK interests?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, we are clear that we are not targeting genuine students at universities. The measures that we propose will ensure that the system is more selective for the brightest and the best. We will protect the areas that pose the least risk, including the universities sector, target the areas where risk of abuse is highest and ensure that genuine students will still be able to study at our world-renowned universities. The noble Lord is quite right to raise the issue. International students are vital for our trade position and for our soft power position.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110215-0001.htm#11021550000429>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-European Economic Area students were granted visa extensions to undertake postgraduate work in the United Kingdom last year; and whether such periods of postgraduate work count towards the time required to enable an application for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.[HL6856]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The available statistics are given in the following table. The table shows statistics for grants of extensions of leave to remain in the point-based system Tier 1 post

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

study and international graduates scheme categories for the 12 months to September 2010. Data for the full year 2010 will be published on 24 Feb 2011.

<i>Grants of an extension of leave to remain ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ in the United Kingdom in Tier 1 post study and international graduates scheme categories, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, Q4 2009 to Q3 2010</i>		
Number of decisions		
Quarter/Year	Tier 1 Post Study	International Graduates Scheme
2009 ^(P)		
Q4	8,770	5
2010 ^(P)		
Q1	13,790	5
Q2	4,345	-
Q3	7,060	-

(1) Excludes dependants of principal applicants.

(2) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2).

(P) Provisional figures.

Source: Home Office, Migration Statistics.

Derived from Table 4.2 of *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Summary, United Kingdom-July-September 2010*.

Statistics for grants of extensions of leave to remain are published in table 4.2 of *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom July-September 2010*. This Home Office statistical bulletin is available from the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

The routes of both the points-based system tier 1 post study and the international graduates scheme have never led directly to settlement in their own right.

However, migrants on these routes are allowed to apply for indefinite leave under Long Residence where such leave would count towards the requirement or they are able to switch into routes which do lead to indefinite leave such as tier 1 general of the points-based system.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether time spent in the United Kingdom by a foreign national on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for naturalisation as a British citizen. [HL6857]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: Time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa can count towards the residence requirements for naturalisation if a person meets the statutory requirements on the date of application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110216w0002.htm#11021670000745>

Visas

Lord Clement-Jones: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to make a decision on the criteria for granting tier 1 post-study work visas, following the recent consultation paper.

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, a consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The consultation sought the views of respondents concerning the future of the tier 1 post-study work route and the effect of the proposals. The outcome of the consultation will be announced shortly.

Lord Clement-Jones: ... Only yesterday, the Minister said that the Government were

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determined to protect overseas students, so why are business, universities, research charities and student bodies all lined up against the current government proposals drastically to reduce those tier 1 post-study work visas? Not only will we let down our current overseas students, we will reduce the attractiveness of Britain as a study destination. Is that any way to foster good links with important countries such as China and India?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, the noble Lord asked about the situation with academic institutions. The answer is that they are not yet convinced of our good intentions. The UK's education system is world-renowned. We remain the second most popular destination of choice, second only to the United States; and we intend to maintain that position. Post-study work is an important component of that.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: My Lords, the noble Earl says that universities are not yet convinced. Surely the reason is that universities have done the analysis and looked at the consultation, and it is abundantly clear to them that under the Government's proposals, many of them will be severely harmed financially. Today, the noble Earl's department announced a climbdown on the immigration cap. When can we look forward to a climbdown on the student immigration consultation?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, we will not climb down on our intention to avoid the abuse of the student route. We want to maintain the UK as a world-class academic destination, but we are not prepared to tolerate abuses of the system, which, as the noble Lord knows very well, take place.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110216-0001.htm#11021657001757>

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 21 July 2010 (WA 220), how many educational institutions which did not qualify for automatic inclusion as a highly trusted visa sponsor and who were at 30 April 2010 A-rated sponsors, have now applied for a highly trusted tier 4 sponsor licence; how many such applications were granted; how many were declined; how many highly trusted sponsors there are; and who are they.[HL6589]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): We have received 590 applications for Highly Trusted Status (HTS) from tier four sponsors who were not automatically deemed highly trusted. Of these we have granted 421, refused 105, rejected 13 and 11 have been withdrawn. The remaining 40 applications are under consideration.

All applications for HTS must come from A-rated sponsors. Any B-rated sponsors who apply will be automatically refused. A list of Highly Trusted Sponsors can be found on the UK Border Agency's sponsor register, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110214w0001.htm#1102142000444>

Employment: Asylum

Clive Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what measures he is taking to increase the rate of employment of refugees; [41096]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the Work programme's prime contractors in each lot provide appropriate support to refugee customers; [41097]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that refugees on active benefits receive appropriate pre-employment support; [41098]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(4) whether he has assessed the effect on the employment prospects of refugee customers of excluding refugees from the categories of customer eligible for early access onto the Work programme at the discretion of Jobcentre Plus; [41164]

(5) for what reason refugees are not included in the categories of customer eligible for early access onto the Work programme at the discretion of Jobcentre Plus listed in the invitation to tender for the Work programme; [41165]

(6) what the employment outcomes were for refugee customers who gained early access onto Flexible New Deal and New Deal programmes in 2008 and 2009; [41166]

(7) how many refugee customers gained early access onto Flexible New Deal and New Deal programmes between 2008 and 2010; [41167]

(8) what consideration he gave to continuing the eligibility of refugee customers for early access when the Work programme starts. [41168]

Reply from Chris Grayling: The Government are radically reforming the welfare to work system to provide an integrated programme of personalised help for people who are out of work. The support package includes enhancement of the provision offered by Jobcentre Plus, an improved skills offer through the Get Britain Working measures and tailored support via the Work programme. This flexible system will offer the right support at the right time to all people on benefits, including refugees.

For the majority of refugees the flexible, personalised services that Jobcentre Plus will offer, alongside the Get Britain Working measures, will meet their needs.

For those with significant disadvantages, early entry to the Work programme may be appropriate. Advisers will have the discretion to refer more vulnerable customers to the Work programme where it is clear that they would benefit from the type of assistance provided.

The term refugee covers a broad spectrum of individuals with a wide range of differing needs. I therefore do not believe it would be appropriate to refer all refugees to the Work programme more quickly than other people receiving benefit. We have asked bidders for the Work programme contracts, without being prescriptive, to develop innovative models of support. These must be designed to be flexible and specifically tailored to meet the needs of individual customers and the local area. As part of the evaluation of process, the Department will consider bidders' ability to meet the diverse needs of different customers and customer groups.

I am unable to provide the statistical information requested in relation to the position of refugees under previous programmes such as New Deal and Flexible New Deal. This information was not systematically collected at the time and cannot be obtained retrospectively.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110216/text/110216w002.htm#11021659000074>

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contract compliance is undertaken in relation to Serco Group plc's contract at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre; and if she will make a statement. [40214]

Reply from Damian Green: All Immigration Removal Centres operated by the private sector, including Yarl's Wood, have their contracts managed by a central commercial team. The UK Border Agency has a team of staff based in each centre to monitor day to day contract delivery and compliance. Meetings take place with the centre manager at an operational level on a weekly basis and on a commercial level on a quarterly basis.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

has received any reports of suspension of staff employed by Serco at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre for alleged misconduct; and if she will make a statement. [40419]

Reply from Damian Green: UK Border Agency officials have been informed by Serco that two staff employed at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre were suspended pending the outcomes of investigations into unconnected allegations of misconduct. One investigation is ongoing; the other has concluded and the officer involved has returned to work.

The UK Border Agency expects the highest standards of behaviour from its staff and contractors. Where an officer is found to have acted inappropriately, he or she will face sanctions. In the most serious of cases, this can ultimately lead to their certification to work as detention custody officers being revoked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110214/text/110214w0001.htm#11021424000079>

Detention Centres: Children

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children have been detained in immigration removal centres other than Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood since 16 December 2010; [39729]

(2) how many children have been detained in Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since 16 December 2010. [39730]

Reply from Damian Green: No children have been detained at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since 16 December 2010. No children have been detained in immigration removal centres other than Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood since 16 December 2010.

On 16 December 2010 the Deputy Prime Minister announced a new package to deliver the Coalition Government's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers.

These can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110215/text/110215w0001.htm#11021572000030>

Asylum: Detainees

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants were released from each detention centre and not removed in each of the last three years. [40791]

Reply from Damian Green: The information is not available for the requested years. Published information on reasons for leaving detention recommenced last quarter after being discontinued for technical reasons in September 2006. The following table, a subset of the latest published figures (Persons leaving detention Q3 2010), shows the number of people leaving detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, who had claimed asylum at some stage, by last place of detention for reasons other than removal from the UK in Q3 2010.

The Home Office recommenced publishing information on the number of persons leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers from Q3 2010. Q4 2010 figures will be available on 24 February 2011 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110214/text/110214w0001.htm#11021424000052>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers: Medical Treatment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements ensure that deported asylum seekers needing medical care and medication are able to be treated in the country to which they are deported.

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, before removing failed asylum seekers, the UK Border Agency assesses whether their removal would be contrary to the UK's obligations under Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Such case-by-case consideration may include the medical treatment and other support available in the country of return. However, the Government would not normally expect to make arrangements for foreign nationals to access medical treatment in their own country.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: I thank the Minister for that reply. Does he agree that someone who receives treatment here but is deported to a country where no such medication is available is going to a death sentence? Will the Minister not urgently consult, for example, the World Health Organisation and voluntary organisations to seek a way to ensure that no one, wherever they are-in the UK or elsewhere-is denied necessary basic medical attention?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, I fully understand the point put so well by the noble Lord. However, the UK complies with all the requirements of the ECHR. Furthermore, DfID has an extensive health programme in developing countries. Health is the largest part of the basic services that are heavily prioritised by UK aid-the others being nutrition, education, water and sanitation. DfID's priority areas for improving health outcomes in developing countries include malaria; reproductive, maternal and new-born health; child nutrition; and HIV/AIDS.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110214-0001.htm#1102145000984>

Immigration and Asylum: Appeals

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average waiting time was for appeals to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber from receipt of the application to promulgation in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the equivalent figure was in each of the last two years; [39772]

(2) what plans his Department has to reduce the average period elapsing between an application for and a hearing in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. [39773]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: The following table provides the average waiting time between receipt of appeal at the tribunal and promulgation of the decision. These data are provided for each of the four main categories of appeal dealt with by the First Tier of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (IAC).

	<i>Average calendar weeks from receipt at IAC to promulgation</i>		
	<i>April 2008 to March 2009</i>	<i>April 2009 to March 2010</i>	<i>April 2010 to September 2010</i>
Asylum	7.7	8.1	8.4
Entry Clearance Officer	26.9	31.8	29.7
Managed Migration	8.9	11.2	16.5
Visit Visa	23.9	24.8	23.8

Note: Data excludes Deport Appeals and HR/DC/RD cases.

Source: SMR-09: 2008-09 (extracted 8 February 2011), 2009-10 (30 December 2010), 2010-11 (3 February 2011).

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The tribunal received an unexpectedly high volume of managed migration appeals during 2009-10 and this has had a significant impact on waiting times in most appeal categories over the last 18 months. This surge of work has now been cleared and waiting times are beginning to improve. We expect this to be evident when we publish our Quarter 3 statistics at the end of March. I will ensure that a copy of those statistics is sent to the hon. Member.

We are working closely with the United Kingdom Border Agency to improve workflow communications between Departments to speed up the overall process, including exploring increased use of technology to modernise the system. We are looking specifically at how we might further speed up the system, including avoiding unnecessary postponements and adjournments, and to minimise abuse of the system. Finally, we are working together to improve the forecasting of appeal volumes to ensure that the end to end system is better able to manage peaks of work and their impact on waiting times.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110214/text/110214w0003.htm#11021429000016>

Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much overseas aid was committed to the prevention of human trafficking in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41160]

Reply from Stephen O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking Project, run by the Salvation Army. In 2009-10 the budget for this project was £85,953 and in 2010-11 it is £125,537.

DFID has also supported developing country governments' and UN agencies' anti-trafficking efforts through other projects. For example, our Bangladesh Police Reform Project supported the establishment of a specialised police unit for combating human trafficking. DFID also works to tackle the root causes of human trafficking in poor countries such as poverty, lack of economic opportunities, and social exclusion.

DFID is currently reviewing all its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to ensure UK aid represents value for money and brings real benefit to the world's poor. Support to reduce human trafficking is included in these reviews, which will conclude by the end of February.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110215/text/110215w0002.htm#11021589000035>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on human trafficking: prosecutions, how many people have (a) been charged with human trafficking offences and (b) subsequently been prosecuted in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40402]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: A total of 47 persons were proceeded against at all courts in 2009 (latest 12 months available) for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

Charging data are not collected.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110215/text/110215w0004.htm#11021589000147>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Finance

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has provided for the accommodation of adult victims of human trafficking in 2010-11 to date. [40565]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: Over the course of the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Justice has provided a total of £950,000 to voluntary-sector organisations to accommodate and support adult victims of human trafficking. Grant funding of £900,000 was paid to Eaves Housing for Women to provide accommodation and outreach support to adult women trafficked for sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. In addition to accommodation for victims, this grant has been used to fund the coordination of service provision, the salaries of support workers and other ancillary services.

The Ministry of Justice also awarded a grant of £50,000 to Migrant Helpline to support adult female victims of human trafficking who have suffered sexual exploitation. This grant funding was limited to direct support provision only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110214/text/110214w0003.htm#11021429000015>

Press Releases

Government outlines visa reforms for workers

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/visa-reforms>

Calls for proposals - European Refugee Fund and European Integration Fund

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/39-erf-eif>

EU strategy on Roma inclusion: MEPs set out priorities

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110214IPR13638/html/EU-strategy-on-Roma-inclusion-MEPs-set-out-priorities>

New publications

The Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of Return Migrants and Long-Term In-Migrants in Scotland: Evidence from the Scottish Longitudinal Study

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/341539/0113589.pdf>

Characteristics and Intentions of Immigrants to and Emigrants from Scotland - Review of Existing Evidence

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/340928/0113194.pdf>

Migration: where next? Developing a new progressive immigration policy

<http://www.smith-institute.org.uk/file/Migration%20-%20Where%20Next.pdf>

News

High earners exempted from immigration cap

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/feb/15/high-earners-exempted-migrant-cap>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Multiculturalism

Lord King of West Bromwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government on what evidence the Prime Minister said to the Munich Security Conference that multiculturalism has failed. [HL6767]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Prime Minister told the Munich security conference that, "Under the doctrine of state multiculturalism, we have encouraged different cultures to live separate lives ... We've failed to provide a vision of society to which they feel they want to belong". Views on the challenges of multiculturalism and the need for a common vision have been expressed by a range of commentators over a long period. As far back as 2004, commentators were questioning whether multiculturalism was useful and, under the last Government, the Commission on Integration and Cohesion reported in 2007 frequent concerns about multiculturalism placing the focus on difference instead of on common ground.

Lord King of West Bromwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to enable ethnic minority communities to integrate within the host community. [HL6768]

Reply from Baroness Hanham: The Government published an equality strategy in December 2010, which sets out our vision for a strong, modern and fair Britain where no one is held back because of who they are, or where they come from. The Department for Communities and Local Government is consulting with the Home Office and the Cabinet Office to develop a cross-government approach on integration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110216w0001.htm#11021670000722>

News

Mixed-race adoption policy gets new guidelines

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12513403>

White couples must be allowed to adopt ethnic children, new guidance says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8335182/White-couples-must-be-allowed-to-adopt-ethnic-children-new-guidance-says.html>

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Equality

News

Teachers 'will face faith discrimination'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/teachers-will-face-faith-discrimination-2218373.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the chief constable of Greater Manchester police on allegations of anti-Semitic comments made at the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts protest on 29 January 2011; whether any arrests have been made in connection with such allegations; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39610]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The coalition Government are committed to confronting anti-Semitism wherever it is found. I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 913-14W.

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Community Security Trust on levels of anti-Semitism; what matters were discussed; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39611]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: We regularly meet with representatives of the Community Security Trust to discuss the levels of anti-Semitism. In early February, I was briefed on the Community Security Trust's recent report on the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2010 and I have asked the Cross Government Working Group on anti-Semitism to ensure that we continue to work together to tackle this issue.

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings she has had with the Board of Deputies of British Jews on levels of anti-Semitism; what matters were discussed; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39613]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: We regularly meet with representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to discuss the levels of anti-Semitism. Representatives from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Community Security Trust and the Jewish Leadership Council sit on the Cross Government Working Group which is tasked with tackling anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110211/text/110211w002.htm#11021133000108>

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on anti-Semitism, what steps he has taken to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks since June 2010; what recent meetings he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [38034]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle anti-Semitism which is chaired by the Department of Communities and Local Government and regularly receives representations from the Jewish community on issues of concern. In addition the Government published a three years on progress report to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry in December which highlighted the steps we have taken to combat anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110211/text/110211w001.htm#11021133000069>

Universities: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent meetings he has had with the Board of Deputies of British Jews about (a) levels of and (b) the Government's response to anti-Semitism on university campuses; what

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

matters were discussed; and if he will make a statement; [39612]

(2) if he will take steps to require universities to report on the steps they have taken to (a) prevent anti-Semitism, (b) protect Jewish students attending the university from anti-Semitism and (c) prevent speakers with a known history of (i) anti-Semitism and (ii) Islamic extremism from speaking at the university; and if he will make a statement; [39734]

(3) for what reasons his Department has made no representations to higher education authorities about invitations to speakers with a history of promoting anti-Semitism on campus; and if he will make a statement. [39737]

Reply from David Willetts: I have not met the Board of Deputies for British Jews. However, I accepted an invitation from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw to meet him and a range of Jewish community organisations, in October last year, to discuss the treatment of Jewish students in higher education. The organisations concerned were the Community Security Trust and the Union of Jewish Students and the meeting also involved Universities UK and the Equality Challenge Unit.

There is no place for racism of any form, such as anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Universities also hold the responsibility to communicate with their students and staff about what steps they take to tackle intolerance and anti-Semitism.

Decisions about external speakers must rest with universities themselves. In this area universities are bound by the law both in protecting freedom of speech on campus, even if that free expression is controversial, and protecting students and staff against harassment or violence. Universities have access to guidance from both Government and the sector itself on promoting good campus relations, which draw out the considerations institutions need to give to free expression on campus and to addressing illegal behaviour. Institutions also take advice about external speakers from their local police forces when needed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110214/text/110214w0003.htm#11021426000066>

Press Releases

Minister helps launch Unite Against Hate Campaign

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-ofmdfm-160211-minister-helps-launch-unite-against>

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights call for submissions from NGOs

ODIHR is now preparing its 2010 annual report on hate crimes, "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses". The annual report provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes as well as of responses to combat hate crimes. ...

As in previous years, ODIHR encourages submissions from NGOs. NGOs can provide information on hate crimes to ODIHR from their areas of activities through:

- Existing reports and/ or information containing data on hate crimes for 2010;
- Anecdotal accounts from victims of hate crimes;
- Research and surveys on hate crimes in a particular region or against a particular group;

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

- Information on practical initiatives to combat hate crime, which include:
 - strengthening data collection and reporting of hate crimes;
 - victim support;
 - trainings for professionals in the criminal justice system;
 - awareness-raising campaigns on impact and consequences of hate crime.

... Information should be sent to tndinfo@odihr.pl no later than 1 April 2011. ...

to read the full press release see

<http://tandis.odihr.pl/?p=ki-hc.ngo>

U.S. Special Representatives on Anti-Semitism, Muslim communities address OSCE Permanent Council, call for combatting intolerance

<http://www.osce.org/pc/75639>

New publication

Website: Unite Against Hate

<http://www.uniteagainsthate.org.uk/>

News

One-year-old child suffers racist abuse

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Oneyearold-child-suffers-racist-abuse.6719093.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Petition

Gypsy Travellers (Council Tax) (PE1333)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-11/pu11-0302.htm#Col3402>

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Other Westminster

Press Release

British Bill of Rights planned

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill>

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New Publications

A review of poverty and ethnicity in Scotland

Summary only – full report not available online until April

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-ethnicity-Scotland-summary.pdf>

Community consultation on poverty and ethnicity in Scotland

Summary only – full report not available online until April

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/income-ethnicity-Scotland-summary.pdf>

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Other News

Police probe into child beatings at mosques

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/police-probe-into-child-beatings-at-mosques-1.1085169>

Losing our religion to make Humanist vows

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Losing-our-religion-to-make.6721199.jp>

British gay Muslims seek Islamic weddings

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12486003>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/index.htm>

Local Electoral Administration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/index.htm>

Public Records Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

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

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/culture-media-and-sport-committee/>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110214-0001.htm#1102145000991>

Ping Pong: Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110215/debtext/110215-0002.htm#11021556000010>

Proceedings on consideration of House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/147/pro1471502p.399-402.html>

House of Commons reasons and amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/048/amend/ml048-i.1-4.html>

Ping Pong: Lords consideration of Commons reasons and amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110216-0001.htm#11021657001761>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110216-0003.htm#11021678000023>

Ping Pong: House of Commons consideration of Lords message

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110216/debtext/110216-0004.htm#11021666000002>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110216/debtext/110216-0004.htm#11021711000004>

Scotland Bill

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

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Department for International Development Match Funding Scheme (24 February 2011)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Consultations/Match-Funding-Scheme/>

Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland (25 March 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/projects-and-campaigns-in-scotland/inquiry-into-human-trafficking-in-scotland/call-for-evidence/>

International Commission for Aid Impact (scrutiny of UK overseas aid) (7 April 2011)

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/>

Consultations (continued)

Equality Act: Draft Code of Practice for Schools in Scotland (22 April 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Tell the World

21 February 2011 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.30)

Runnymede consultation event providing an opportunity to give your views to the UN on key issues facing black and minority ethnic communities in the UK, which also includes a training session about the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a United Nations body that monitors compliance by UN countries to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/278/273/Tell-the-World-Advising-UN-race-committee-Glasgow.html> or contact Katy Schmitz klara@runnymedetrust.org.

**** this week!**

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

22 February 2010 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

10 May 2010 in Aberdeen (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist charities to complete annual and supplementary monitoring returns. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=41d2239c-6e59-4edb-96ea-cfd052854b50> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

**** this week!**

Healthy Communities: Immigrants helping immigrant access healthcare

23 February 2011 webinar (4.00 – 5.00)

Staying healthy means knowing when and where to go for medical help and having access to experts who can speak your language, culturally and linguistically. Find out how programs in San Francisco and Hannover improve health literacy within immigrant communities. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

**** this week!**

Violence Against Women Faith, Culture and Practice Training

23 February 2011 in Stirling(10.00 – 4.00)

Amina training to explore the faith and cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women in the Muslim and other Communities. For information contact pdu@stirling.gov.uk / 01786 442 562.

**** this week!**

The Gathering

23-24 February 2011 in Edinburgh

SCVO voluntary sector fair. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/news/events-2/the-gathering/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with separated children

24 February 2011 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about children under 18 years of age, in the UK without a parent or other guardian who may be going through the asylum process, have been granted leave to remain, or be victims of trafficking. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/879_an_introduction_to_working_with_separated_children

**** this week!**

Advancing Scotland as a Learning Society: a Community Learning and Development perspective

25 February in Glasgow (9.30 – 5.00)

25 March in Inverness (9.30 – 5.00)

28 April in Dundee (meeting focusing on faith issues) (9.30 – 5.00)

16 May in Edinburgh (9.30 – 5.00)

Series of seminars to explore views on advancing of Scotland as a Learning Society. We hope that you will all be part of this national conversation. For information see

http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD_Standards_Council/The_Standards_Council_Conversations or contact Kirsty Horne k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk.

Race Equality in Scotland

8 March 2011 at the Scottish Parliament (6.00 – 7.30)

Runnymede political panel discussion to discuss each party's approach to race equality, as well as on whether race relations have changed in Scotland over the past ten years.

For information contact Vicki Butler vicki@runnymedetrust.org

**** Better Community Engagement**

9 March 2011 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Government conference to launch a resource to enable better engagement between faith communities and public agencies. For information contact Gina Thomson 01324 489666 / gthomson@lwt.org.uk or see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/engage/better/BCENationalConference>

Youth Interfaith Conference

10 March 2011 in Jackton (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference and discussion forums to bring young people together to explore faith in our communities. For information see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/>

Muslimah of Scotland Conference

12 March 2011 in Dundee

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre conference to celebrate the contribution of Muslim women to Scotland as well as challenge negative stereotypes and barriers that exist to having a fair for all Scotland. For information contact 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk

Supporting Resilient Communities

17 March in Edinburgh

SURF conference to discuss how best to support community resilience and creativity necessary to survive the present crisis and thrive independently in future. For information see <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1254> or contact Derek Rankine Derek@scotregen.co.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity

19 April 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist organisations in deciding whether to register as a charity, and, if so, to do so. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=6bb95a2f-165b-4bbc-8f78-25fd07c79e34> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The second pilot programme will begin in April 2011

BEMIS in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scottish Poverty Information Unit) and Faith in Community Scotland are offering a 12 week Certificate Level training programme to empower local community and faith groups with much needed necessary skills in relation to research and tackling poverty. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.pdf and registration form http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.doc or contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

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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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>