

## 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.**

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

**The Scottish Parliament is now in dissolution until after the elections which will take place on 5 May 2011. During dissolution there are no MSPs and therefore no parliamentary business takes place.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Gareth Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications her Department received from students wishing to enter higher education in the UK in each year since 2001; and how many such applications were (a) approved and (b) rejected. [49022]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency holds statistics for applications to study in the UK from 2004 only which are detailed in the following table:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applications	286,230	283,835	313,210	317,564	312,611	385,218	323,162
Issued	187,621	194,349	217,934	223,589	208,796	273,394	254,058
Refused	88,139	84,364	89,801	92,871	92,365	93,457	77,753

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The statistics provided are for all main applicants under the student and tier 4 of the points based system.

The UK Border Agency does not hold central data on the number of applicants who intend to study at higher education and these figures could be only obtained by examining individual applications at disproportionate cost.

**Gareth Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she expects universities to have in determining whether language requirements under the new overseas students visa regime are being met; and if she will make a statement. [49293]

**Reply from Damian Green:** We will be making changes to the immigration rules so that international students coming to study at degree level and above are required to be proficient in English level B2 on the Council of Europe Framework of Reference. Students attending institutions other than universities will be required to pass a secure English language test. For university students, we will allow the sponsoring university to certify that the student meets the English language requirement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110328/text/110328w0003.htm#1103296000036>

### Asylum Seekers

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 22 March (WA 136-8), how many asylum seekers and dependants have made asylum applications since 1997; how many of those have been granted leave to remain or otherwise permitted to stay in the United Kingdom; how many have had their applications turned down; and how many are still in the United Kingdom. [HL8059]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):** Information on the outcome of an annual cohort of asylum applications is available in main table 2.7 of *Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009*, published in August 2010. This publication is available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>. Table 2.7 shows the latest status of decisions on applications made in each year as at May 2010. Data for 2010 will be available in August 2011. A copy of the table is provided [at the weblink] below.

The numbers of decisions are different from those provided in the Written Answer on 22 March (WA 136-8) as the wording of the Question requires reference to the year of application as opposed to the year of initial decision.

Information on annual cohorts of asylum applications received before 2004 and information on dependants of these applications could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The United Kingdom does not have controls in place for people leaving the country, so information is not available on the number of asylum seekers/refugees and dependants currently residing in the United Kingdom.

**To read the lengthy tables see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110330w0001.htm#11033077000813>

## Press Releases

**Details of changes to student visas**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/march/65-student-visas>

## Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

### **Abolition of the Certificate of Approval scheme**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/43-abolition-of-coa>

### **Asylum-seeker numbers fall to almost half levels of a decade earlier, UN reports**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37908&Cr=refugee&Cr1=>

### **The number of asylum applicants registered in the EU27 stable around 260 000 in 2010**

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/3-29032011-AP/EN/3-29032011-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-29032011-AP/EN/3-29032011-AP-EN.PDF)

## New Publications

### **Student visas: statement of intent and transitional measures**

<http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-0586.pdf>

### **Migrant Communities and the 'Big Society'**

<http://www.mrcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Migrant-Communities-and-the-Big-Society-report-MRCF-2011.pdf>

## News

### **UN reports drop in numbers seeking asylum in West**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/UN-reports-drop-in-numbers.6742063.jp>

### **Asylum staff deal ends strike threat**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/asylum-staff-deal-ends-strike-threat-1.1093644>

### **Asylum fight to move centre stage**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Asylum-fight-to-move-centre.6744986.jp>

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## Race Relations

### Press Release

#### **Kwame Kwei-Armah on multicultural Britain**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=572574882>

### News

#### **Britons need to see themselves as a single nation, says Security Minister**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8420083/Britons-need-to-see-themselves-as-a-single-nation-says-Security-Minister.html>

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## Equality

### Westminster Parliamentary Question

#### Equality Act 2010

**Lord Ouseley:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the proposed removal of the requirement for public bodies to provide evidence of their consideration of the fair treatment of groups protected under the Equality Act 2010 in the discharge of their function does not undermine the advancement of equality and fair treatment of those groups.[HL7970]

**Reply from Baroness Verma:** The proposed changes to the regulations supporting the public sector equality duty will give public bodies more flexibility in how they demonstrate their compliance with it. But they will still need to publish evidence on an annual basis to demonstrate how they have had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different groups. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is working closely with the Government Equalities Office to ensure that public bodies are aware of their responsibilities under the equality duty, including preparing a statutory code of practice and non-statutory guidance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110328w0001.htm#11032811000472>

### News

#### Equality laws under attack by private sector interests

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2011/04/equality-laws-under-attack-by-private-sector-interests/>

#### The devastating blow of positive action

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-devastating-blow-of-positive-action-2260821.html>

#### Why aren't there more black football managers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/mar/28/black-football-managers-institutional-racism>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### Racial Discrimination

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will bring forward proposals to use the powers in section 9 (5) (a) of the Equality Act 2010 to make caste an aspect of race for the purposes of the Act. [49073]

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** In March 2010 the Government commissioned an independent report on caste prejudice and discrimination in Great Britain from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. The report was published in December 2010.

One of the purposes of the report was to help consideration of whether the power relating to caste contained within the Equality Act 2010 should be exercised. The Government are still considering the report carefully, together with the various

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

representations that they have subsequently received from a range of lobby groups, and will announce their conclusions on whether or not to exercise the power in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110328/text/110328w0001.htm#1103284200009>

### Schools: Race and Religious Hatred

**Baroness Deech:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to investigate whether imported race and religious hatred material is being used in faith schools, including out of school religious classes.[HL8000]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford):** The Government want to ensure that all schools promote the UK's democratic values including mutual tolerance and respect and a new unit has been set up within the Department for Education focusing specifically on preventing extremism.

The Government want to ensure that inspection and other accountability arrangements provide a sufficiently high level of assurance against the propagation of extremist ideologies in schools. The Department for Education is working with partners including Ofsted to look at how to raise inspector awareness and understanding to enable more effective investigation and to strengthen arrangements for investigating where concerns come to light.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110331w0001.htm#11033159000245>

### Anti-Semitism

**Lord Alton of Liverpool:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of casual anti-Semitism; and what recent discussions they have had with the Jewish community about this issue.[HL7897]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham):** The Government have not made an assessment about the growth of a casual anti-Semitism, which makes an automatic link between the United Kingdom's Jewish community and the state of Israel but remains concerned and has tasked the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism which also has representatives from the three leading Jewish communal organisations to look into the matter and report back later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110328w0001.htm#11032811000457>

## New Publications

**Crime and Justice Series: Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2009-10**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/347733/0115821.pdf>

**Singled Out**

[http://www.mrci.ie/media/130129931649\\_Singled\\_Out%20EMBARGO%2028%20MARCH.pdf](http://www.mrci.ie/media/130129931649_Singled_Out%20EMBARGO%2028%20MARCH.pdf)

## Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) News

**Sheriff right to dismiss case against man singing IRA songs, says expert**  
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Sheriff-right-to-dismiss-case.6742770.jp>

**Benjamin Zephaniah 'airbrushed from Yes to AV leaflets'**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12950712>

**Yes to AV says No to black poet**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8423640/Yes-to-AV-says-No-to-black-poet.html>

**St Andrews University students accused of racially offending Jewish student**  
<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/tayside/240304-st-andrews-university-students-accused-of-racially-offending-jewish-student/>

**Police hold 12 as protesters clash**  
<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/uk/Police-hold-12-as-protesters.6744984.jp>

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## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Forced Marriage

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 15 March (WA 39), whether they will publish the informal arrangements between the United Kingdom and Pakistan, India and Bangladesh for the mutual recognition of Forced Marriage Protection Orders. [HL7834]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** The Forced Marriage Unit and our high commissions work closely with the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian authorities on a case by case basis to ensure the safety and repatriation of victims, using the provisions of a forced marriage protection order.

The approach taken will differ from case to case and it is therefore not possible to publish a general or informal arrangement. Ultimately the recognition of forced marriage protection orders in Pakistan, Bangladesh or India is a matter of discretion for the relevant judiciary in those countries.

The Forced Marriage Unit has commissioned the development of a legal handbook which will outline the legal remedies available in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and the UK in relation to forced marriage.

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 15 March (WA 39), whether the informal arrangements with Pakistan, India and Bangladesh for the mutual recognition of Forced Marriage Protection Orders are recognised as part of the domestic laws of each of those countries.[HL7835]

**Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford:** There are no formal agreements in place between the UK and Pakistan, India, or Bangladesh for the mutual recognition of forced marriage protection orders. The Forced Marriage Unit and the British high commissions work closely with the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian authorities on a case by case basis to ensure the safety and repatriation of victims, using the provisions of a forced marriage protection order.

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The approach taken will differ from case to case and it is therefore not possible to publish a general or informal arrangement. Ultimately the recognition of forced marriage protection orders in Pakistan, Bangladesh or India is a matter of discretion for the relevant judiciary in those countries.

The Forced Marriage Unit has commissioned the development of a legal handbook which will outline the legal remedies available in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and the UK in relation to forced marriage.

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what remedies are available in the courts of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh on behalf of individuals protected by United Kingdom Forced Marriage Protection Orders. [HL7836]

**Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford:** I refer my noble friend to the Answer my noble friend Lord McNally gave him on 15 March 2011 (Official Report, col. WA 39).

The Forced Marriage Unit has commissioned the development of a legal handbook which will outline the legal remedies available in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and the UK in relation to forced marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110330w0001.htm#11033077000826>

## New Publication

**Human Rights and Democracy: The 2010 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report**

<http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/htcdn/Human-Rights-and-Democracy-The-2010-Foreign-Commonwealth-Report.pdf>

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## New Publication

**Guidance on the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation for charities and their advisers**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=fb27ace4-1e2f-41b7-b0fb-84cf0e1ce6df>

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## Other News

**OSCR gets ready for streamlined reporting**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f52787df-cf73-4443-b01b-30e41a554558>

**Cutting diversity in the arts will cost Britain dearly**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/mar/30/diversity-arts-cuts-minority-theatre>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Bills in Progress Westminster

#### **\*\* Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/ml040-iii.htm>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110329-0001.htm#11032949000466>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110329-0001.htm#11032949000468>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110329-0003.htm#11032996000105>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2011/0060/2011060.pdf>

#### **Scotland Bill**

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

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

**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/>

**Strathclyde Police Equality and Diversity Strategy** (30 April 2011)

<http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?locID=1596&docID=-1>

**Changes to Immigration-Related Home Office Statistical Outputs** (4 May 2011)

[http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns\\_type=pdf&ns\\_url=\[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf](http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf)

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan** (24 May 2011)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=e66c5cf8-36b4-421c-93e1-f4aceffa7ec>

**Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission** (15 June 2011)

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/ehrc\\_reform.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/ehrc_reform.aspx)

**Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance Consultation** (1 July 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/347416/0115668.pdf>

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## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* BEMIS AGM**

Please note that the BEMIS AGM has had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances and that a new date will be announced shortly. BEMIS apologise for the short notice and hope this has not caused any inconvenience.

### **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](mailto:communications@oscr.org.uk)

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

28 April 2011 in Dundee (meeting focusing on faith issues) (9.30 – 5.00)

16 May 2011 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](http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD_Standards_Council/The_Standards_Council_Conversations) or contact Kirsty Horne [k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk](mailto:k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk).

### **OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns**

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](mailto:communications@oscr.org.uk)

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

**Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)**

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw](http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw)

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

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

## Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**BEMIS** is the 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/>