

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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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the detention data tables Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, how many detainees granted temporary admission or release were subsequently (a) removed from the UK, (b) allowed to remain in the UK and (c) granted a different status. [82114]

Reply from Damian Green: With reference to the detention data tables immigration Statistics April June 2011.

Of the 7,345 individuals who were granted temporary admission or release on leaving detention in 2010, 1,544 individuals have subsequently been removed from the UK, and 2,316 individuals have subsequently been granted leave to remain in the UK. The remaining individuals are either in the process of being removed or awaiting a final decision on their cases. Some may have appealed against earlier decisions or submitted new applications.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Of those awaiting removal, some will have been returned to immigration detention. Where detention is not possible—or example if there are barriers to removal such as difficulties in obtaining travel documents—individuals must report regularly to the UK Border Agency.

Furthermore, some may have left the country voluntarily without informing the UK Border Agency.

All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#120111600012>

Immigration

Lord Taverne: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider their curbs on immigration in the light of their effect on competitiveness and economic growth.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My Lords, we will not. We are clear that the United Kingdom remains open for business. Our changes mean that we will continue to welcome the brightest and best who have the most to contribute to this country. At the same time, we are putting an end to the unlimited migration of recent years that has created unacceptable pressures on our public services.

Lord Taverne: My Lords, I acknowledge that there is a need for some control, but the Government seem to have indicated that they will reduce the number of non-EU migrants who wish to settle here after they have completed their studies. Will the Government take note of a powerful letter, written about a month ago to the *Financial Times*, by a number of very eminent academics who came here as non-EU immigrants and who would not have come if they had been told at the start that they would not be allowed to stay?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, we will obviously listen to those academics but I have to say that the university sector as a whole is not complaining about what is happening. What we did was introduce a cap of just over 20,000 people, following the advice of the Migration Advisory Committee, on the number of skilled workers who were coming in. So far, in the first six months of this year, some 6,000 of those places were taken up—there is obviously a lot of slack in the system. There is no danger that any skilled workers are being denied the opportunity to come in.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: My Lords, on the question raised by the noble Lord, Lord Taverne, can we come back to the issue of universities and overseas students? The Minister has always maintained that the Government's restrictions were aimed at bogus colleges. If we accept that, will he acknowledge that universities are now reporting that the policy is having an impact? First-class universities are being affected by the cap and first-class students are being turned away. Surely that part of the policy ought to be reviewed.

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, obviously, we will keep all these matters under review as is appropriate, but the noble Lord will also accept that it is quite right that we should attack the bogus colleges, which his party took no trouble to attack over the years. That is why there was a dramatic rise in the number of people coming here allegedly to learn English or some other thing, who went to colleges where no courses were going on and virtually no one enrolled other than to get round immigration rules.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111219-0002.htm#11121910000477>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time for indefinite leave to remain was on (a) 1 October 2011 and (b) in each of the last five years. [81482]

Reply from Damian Green: The average processing time for postal claims made for indefinite leave to remain is as follows:

	<i>Days</i>
2006	60
2007	91
2008	102
2009	139
2010	117
1 January 2011– 30 September 2011	74

All figures quoted are management information which have been subject to internal quality checks.

The UK Border Agency also operate a premium service through their Public Enquiry Offices but this is not reflected in these figures.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the (a) ports, (b) airports and (c) other immigration facilities visited by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship between May 2010 and the end of October 2011; and on what date each such visit took place. [81836]

Reply from Damian Green: Home Office Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her policy to prioritise consideration of valid in-time applications for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) over other applications for ILR. [87216]

Reply from Damian Green: There is no prioritisation of valid in time applications over any other valid applications for indefinite leave to remain. Cases are allocated and decided in order of application date unless an applicant provides suitably compelling or compassionate reasons for a case to be expedited.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding immigration cases there are currently in the UK Border Agency-controlled archive which are not being reviewed and on which a decision has not been reached. [87763]

Reply from Damian Green: As reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 15 December 2011 we have conducted a detailed analysis of all the cases that could potentially fall into the remit of the CAAU and this will result in a total of 93,000 cases in the controlled archive.

The controlled archive is actively managed by CAAU; all cases are regularly checked against a number of databases and where an applicant is traced the case is removed from the controlled archive and progressed to conclusion.

CAAU will reassess files every six months. This will include bulk checking cases against reporting data and other UK Border Agency databases to see whether applicants have re-established contact and bulk checking cases against e-borders data.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what

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assessment her Department has made of the effects of the changes in immigration rules in 2007 and 2011 on the number of

- (a) overseas senior care workers in the UK,
- (b) senior care workers who have left the UK and
- (c) senior care workers granted indefinite leave to remain. [88796]

Reply from Damian Green: An impact assessment on the effects of the changes made to tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system in connection with implementation of limits on migration was published by the UK Border Agency on 16 March 2011 and included an assessment of the impact of those changes on the employment of non-EEA workers in the social care sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#1201116000052>

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 776-77W, on immigrants: detainees, how many of the detainees have subsequently been released from immigration removal centres into the UK; and for what reasons; [87731]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 776-77W, on immigrants: detainees, how many detainees held in immigration removal centres have been convicted of criminal offences in the UK; and for what offences. [87732]

Reply from Damian Green: Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24-months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, as of 16 December 2011, six individuals have been removed from the UK and 36 have been released from detention. Management information systems are unable to provide the reasons for release from detention. To obtain this information would involve looking through individual files and would incur disproportionate cost.

Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24-months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, all 74 had been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK. The following table sets out the offences for which they were convicted.

<i>Offence type</i>	<i>Number of individuals convicted</i>
Drug offences	10
Motoring offences	4
Violent crime	6
Sex offences	7
Deception	25
Theft/Robbery/Burglary	17
Other	5

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#1201116000051>

Detention Centres: Females

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women detained for immigration purposes were subsequently (a) deported and (b) released in the last six months of 2011; and how many such women had been detained for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years. [88957]

Reply from Damian Green: The following table shows the latest published figures on the number of women leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres or short term holding facilities in Q3 2011, by reason and length of detention.

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<i>Females leaving detention by reason and length of detention, Q3 2011</i>						
	<i>Total female detainees</i>	<i>Removed from the UK</i>	<i>Granted leave to enter/remain</i>	<i>Granted temporary admission/release</i>	<i>Bailed</i>	<i>Other</i>
Total females	1,123	714	8	322	67	12
<i>Length of detention</i>						
Less than 3 months	1,055	673	8	307	56	11
3 months to less than 6 months	47	33	0	10	4	0
6 months to less than 12 months	18	6	0	5	6	1
12 months to less than 24 months	1	1	0	0	0	0
24 months or more	2	1	0	0	1	0

Notes: 1. Data are provisional. 2. All people held are detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers and exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. 3. Figures include dependants. 4. Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of women leaving detention, solely under Immigration Act powers. Q4 2011 detention figures will be published on 23 February 2012 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics webpages at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

Detention is a necessary part of the process to remove some individuals with no right to be in the UK. We always seek to remove those with no right to be here as quickly as possible but if detainees give false or incomplete information or submits spurious last minute appeals, then in such cases, it can delay their return and extend their detention.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when gender equality impact assessments for all immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities will be completed. [88956]

Reply from Damian Green: Gender equality impact assessments for immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities where women are held will be completed by summer 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120112/text/120112w0001.htm#12011297000049>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Browning on 7 June (WA 88), for what reasons they accept that the findings of

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the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *MSS v Belgium and Greece* prevent the return of asylum seekers to Greece by the United Kingdom; and how many asylum seeker cases or returns to Greece are currently suspended awaiting improved conditions in that country and court outcomes.[HL14384]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): In *MSS v Belgium and Greece*, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights considered the evidence relating to the asylum system in Greece and concluded that any asylum seeker transferred there faced a real risk of treatment contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

It would be a breach of both domestic legislation (Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998) and our international obligations under the ECHR to remove someone to a country where he or she would face a real risk of a breach of his or her rights under Article 3 of the convention. It therefore follows that, while the Greek asylum system remains as described in *MSS*, transfers to that country will be unlawful.

The UK stopped transferring asylum seekers to Greece on 20 September 2010 following the referral of the case of *NS and Others v Secretary of State for the Home Department* to the Court of Justice of the European Union. Between then and 30 November 2011, the UK Border Agency has received 361 asylum applications that would ordinarily have been the responsibility of that country.

We have not suspended consideration of these cases but have instead considered them in our own asylum system, granting protection to those who qualify for it and seeking to remove to their country of origin those who do not. This saves the taxpayer the cost of keeping these applicants on asylum support for an indefinite period until they can be lawfully transferred to Greece.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120110w0001.htm#12011062001772>

Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum seekers entering the UK travelled through a safe third country to reach the UK in each of the last five years. [86692]

Reply from Damian Green: In the last five years the following number of cases have been accepted for consideration for removal to a safe third country based on evidence received at the time they were encountered in the UK.

	<i>Accepted for consideration for removal to a safe third country</i>	<i>Total asylum claims</i>	<i>Proportion (percentage)</i>
2006	1,948	23,608	8
2007	1,792	23,431	8
2008	2,433	25,932	9
2009	2,693	24,487	11
2010	1,633	17,916	9

These figures are based on management information, and therefore are not subject to the stringent checks required for National Statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111219/text/111219w0001.htm#11121918000005>

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum case files have been open for

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- (a)
one year,
(b)
two years,
(c)
three years,
(d)
four years and
(e)
five years or more. [79715]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of open cases in the new asylum model, also known as the asylum work in progress caseload (WiP) was published on the HM Government website in August 2011 reflecting June data. The breakdown is shown in the following table:

Age of cases (months)	WiP as at end June 11
12-24	7,088
24-36	9,262
36-48	7,835
48-60	3,403

All cases that are over 60 months belong to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU). There are 17,000⁽¹⁾ of these in the live case cohort, as well as 93,000⁽¹⁾ cases in the controlled archive.

All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were concluded within (a) six, (b) 12, (c) 18 and (d) 24 months in each of the last five years. [81481]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of asylum claims concluded in (a) 6, (b) 12, (c) 18 and (d) 24 months in each of the last five years is listed in the following table:

<i>Number</i>					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ⁽¹⁾
Concluded in six months	8924	9711	9501	9146	5856
Concluded in 12-months	10589	11748	11884	10613	n/a ⁽²⁾
Concluded in 18-months	11519	12970	13289	11120	n/a ⁽²⁾
Concluded in 24-months	12156	14018	14324	11170	n/a ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ The 2011 figures are from January-September 2011. ⁽²⁾ We are unable to supply these figures as we have not yet reached the 12-month, 18-month, 24-month conclusion periods for asylum cases received in 2011. Notes: 1. Figures are cumulative; therefore cases concluded within 24-months include all cases concluded within six, 12, and 18-months. 2. All figures quoted are management information which have been subject to internal quality checks.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in compensation to asylum seekers in each of the last five years; and what the 20 largest sums of compensation paid out in individual cases were in each of the last five years. [86693]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency prepares its accounts in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury. The UK Border Agency has previously reported the total amount of compensation

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payments made in its annual resource accounts. However, it is not possible to disaggregate these totals without incurring disproportionate costs. It is also not possible to identify separately only those payments made to asylum-seekers without incurring disproportionate costs.

The 20 largest sums of compensation per year since 2009 are shown in the following table. Data prior to this point are not held centrally.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#120111600011>

Immigration

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what medication is provided for immigrants being removed to their countries of origin (1) voluntarily, and (2) compulsorily, to protect them against (a) malaria, where the country of origin is one where malaria prophylaxis and bed nets are recommended, (b) yellow fever, where the country of origin is one where it is a legal requirement for entrants to hold a valid yellow fever certificate, and (c) measles and meningitis.[HL14319]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The UK Border Agency does not provide medical care and treatment directly but does liaise regularly with other expert agencies such as the Department of Health and Health Protection Agency in order to ensure that any necessary safeguards as to health are followed.

Individuals who are liable to enforced removal or who are proposing to leave voluntarily are generally expected to make their own health protection arrangements. All known medical issues and travel health are discussed with individuals leaving the UK under an assisted voluntary returns scheme and with families as part of the new family returns process. Parents are advised that it is their responsibility to take reasonable steps to cater for their and their family's health needs as they plan to leave the UK.

Individuals leaving the UK under an assisted voluntary returns scheme would discuss protection against malaria, yellow fever, measles and meningitis with Refugee Action and arrange inoculation in the UK where required. In addition, the UK Border Agency provides mosquito nets, free of charge, to at-risk groups of immigrants being removed to malaria risk countries. At-risk groups are defined as all individuals being removed to malaria risk countries who are pregnant, under the age of 18, or whose immune system is compromised.

Individuals in detention returning to malaria risk countries who are not in the at-risk groups may purchase a mosquito net from the immigration removal centre's shop. In addition, those in detention who may be particularly vulnerable to infection (e.g. pregnant women) will be prescribed malaria prophylaxis by healthcare staff in line with Health Protection Agency guidance. Immigration removal centres are not specialist centres for yellow fever vaccination. The possibility of requiring vaccination is reduced for families entering the pre-departure accommodation as it is specifically considered as part of the family returns process before they enter the accommodation. A child entering the pre-departure accommodation would receive immunisations for measles and meningitis if he/she was scheduled to receive one in the community from their GP.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120110w0002.htm#12011062001832>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what

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reasons she has decided to discontinue the production and publication of a human trafficking strategy jointly with the Scottish Government. [86931]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Government's Human Trafficking strategy was published on 19 July 2011 and sets out the UK's response to fighting human trafficking. The strategy reflects the UK's intention to work with international partners and to work smarter at the border to prevent traffickers from entering the UK. The strategy also sets out the new victim care arrangements introduced in England and Wales from 1 July 2011. Similar victim care arrangements are already in place in Scotland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#120111600044>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people charged with offences related to human trafficking in the last 12 months have subsequently been prosecuted. [88394]

Reply from Damian Green: 30 persons were proceeded against at magistrates courts in 2010 (latest available) for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004. These figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice. Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#120111600046>

Human Trafficking: Sexual Offences

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the level of trafficking in the UK for the purposes of (a) sexual exploitation, (b) forced labour and (c) domestic servitude. [88634]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Human Trafficking Centre is responsible for collating data on potential human trafficking victims. A breakdown of referrals by exploitation type can be found at: <http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics>

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged with (a) trafficking of women prostitute offences and (b) controlling sex workers in the London area since 1 January 2010. [88792]

Reply from Damian Green: Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice. Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#120111600047>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people (a) in each age group and (b) of each nationality and country of origin had been identified as victims of trafficking in the latest period for which figures are available. [88395]

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Reply from Damian Green: The UK Human Trafficking Centre is responsible for collating data on potential human trafficking victims. A breakdown of referrals by age and nationality can be found at: <http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#1201116000048>

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women held in immigration removal centres have been victims of trafficking; why trafficked women are subject to detention; and whether they are monitoring the impact on the mental health of those held.[HL14204]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Government are aware of 67 women who were held in immigration detention between 1 April 2009 and 26 October 2011 and who were later identified as victims of trafficking. In 66 of these cases the individuals were subsequently released for this reason and in one case the individual remained in detention prior to an assisted voluntary return. In one further case a victim was detained at the end of her period of recovery and reflection pending removal.

The Government's policy is not to detain victims of trafficking except in exceptional circumstances on public order or protection grounds. But individuals can find it very hard to disclose their trafficking experiences, making their identification as victims very difficult, even with the level of training given to all front line law enforcement officers. This can mean that people may be detained for a short period of time in connection with a suspected immigration or other criminal offence before their trafficking experience is identified. Following identification they will be released into appropriate care. The Government are continuing to enhance their ability to identify victims earlier by raising awareness of the national referral mechanism (NRM), the UK's framework for identifying and supporting trafficking victims, and enabling more organisations to refer victims to it.

The UK Border Agency medically screens all individuals on reception at an immigration removal centre. This includes an assessment of their mental health. Those found to be suffering from a serious mental health condition that cannot be satisfactorily managed in an immigration removal centre would not normally be regarded as suitable for detention, and alternative supervision arrangements will be made. Individuals formally identified as potential victims of trafficking are referred to the government-funded support network, and an initial needs and risks assessment will be conducted on the basis of the information available, including any identified mental health issues, to determine the most appropriate support arrangements for that individual. A specialist support provider will then provide support tailored to the individual's specific needs, including access to psychological assistance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120110w0003.htm#12011062001859>

Press Release

London 2012 Games spectators: visa applications open from 1 January 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/70-olympics-visas>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New Publications**

Monthly asylum application tables - October 2011

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-oct-2011?view=Binary>

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers November 2011

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-nov2011?view=Binary>

Youth Unemployment and Immigration from the A8 Countries

<http://www.migrationwatchuk.org/briefingPaper/document/247>

Examining the Relationship between Immigration and Unemployment Using National Insurance Number Registration Data

http://www.niesr.ac.uk/pdf/090112_163827.pdf

Migration Review 2011/2012

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2011/12/migration-review-2011-12_Jan2012_8431.pdf

Safe and Secure: How do Refugees Experience Europe's Borders?

<http://www.jrseurope.org/publications/JRSEuropeRefugeesAtEUBorder08122011.pdf>

News

Youth unemployment link to immigration rise questioned

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16463861>

Immigration means 160,000 fewer UK jobs, claim experts

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/immigration-means-160-000-fewer-uk-jobs-claim-experts-1-2047528>

Immigration does keep Britons out of jobs, government committee admits

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9004733/Immigration-does-keep-Britons-out-of-jobs-government-committee-admits.html>

Immigration 'has had little impact on unemployment'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16484918>

Migration caps aren't about protecting British workers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/11/immigration-caps-british-workers>

Report on non-EU immigration and unemployment will dominate debate

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/10/report-non-eu-immigration-unemployment>

Non-EU immigration linked to unemployment, says report

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/10/non-eu-immigration-unemployment>

Migrants do not affect jobless levels, say researchers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/10/migrants-no-effect-jobless-report>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Immigration does not cause unemployment

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-does-not-cause-unemployment-6287404.html>

Migrants 'reduce jobs for Britons', say Government's immigration advisers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/migrants-reduce-jobs-for-britons-say-governmentsimmigrationadvisers-6287641.html>

Coalition 'off target' on immigration cut

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/politics/coalition-off-target-on-immigration-cut-1-2032398>

UK immigration target will not be met, IPPR warns

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16372717>

David Cameron 'to fall well short on immigration target'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8986052/David-Cameron-to-fall-well-short-on-immigration-target.html>

Immigration expected to fall due to UK economic downturn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/01/immigration-fall-uk-economic-downturn>

Taxpayer funding £100,000 a day for failed asylum seekers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8958813/Taxpayer-funding-100000-a-day-for-failed-asylum-seekers.html>

Homeless scandal: Asylum seeker backs Shelter Scotland's campaign

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/12/21/homeless-scandal-asylum-seeker-backs-shelter-scotland-s-campaign-86908-23650165/>

English language help for minority pupils could face time limit

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-16251714>

Child asylum seekers win compensation for 13-month detention

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/06/child-asylum-seekers-win-compensation>

Asylum family win payout after eight years

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8998545/Asylum-family-win-payout-after-eight-years.html>

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Race Relations

Press Release

Start of a 'Year of Service' celebrating faith inspired local volunteering

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2065459>

Race Relations (continued)

New Publications

2009-10 Citizenship Survey: Race, Religion and Equalities Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/2056245.pdf>

2009-10 Citizenship Survey: Community Spirit Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/2056236.pdf>

2009-10 Citizenship Survey: Community Action Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/2056233.pdf>

Promoting the Social Inclusion of Roma

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/reports/2011-second-semester/synthesis-report>

Working together for Roma inclusion

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/working_together_for_roma_inclusion_en.pdf

Joint nativity shows red card to sectarianism

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/articles/joint_nativity_shows_red_card_to_sectarianism

After the riots, Black Britons have pulled together – and away?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/dec/30/black-britons-missing-confidence>

News

Race in Britain 2012: Has life changed for ethnic minorities?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/race-in-britain-2012-has-life-changed-for-ethnic-minorities-6286786.html>

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Equality

New Publication

Equinet's Work for the Rights of Roma People

http://www.equineteurope.org/roma_factsheet_edited_2.pdf

News

Equality law costs 'will outweigh the benefits'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/equality-law-costs-will-outweigh-the-benefits-1-2022180>

Financial benefits of equality laws are imaginary, says think-tank

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8973348/Financial-benefits-of-equality-laws-are-imaginary-says-think-tank.html>

Equality

News (continued)

Young, gifted and hidden

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/columns/eleanormills/article848857.ece>

Only a change of culture will help minorities to advance their careers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/jan/03/change-culture-ethnic-minorities-careers>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-01700 Stewart Maxwell: Holocaust Memorial Day 2012—That the Parliament notes that 27 January 2012 marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and an opportunity for schools, colleges, faith groups and communities across Scotland to remember the six million men, women and children murdered by the Nazi regime in occupied Europe; further notes that the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 is Speak Up, Speak Out; values the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which gives two post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; applauds Katie McKenna and Dominic Bradley, two former students of St Ninian's High School in East Dunbartonshire, who took part in the project and who will deliver the Parliament's Time for Reflection message on 18 January 2012; celebrates the Holocaust survivors who have enriched Scotland as a nation, and re-commits to ensuring that racism, sectarianism and bigotry are never allowed to go unchallenged in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-01700&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Louise Mensch (2566) Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 – That this House notes that on 27 January 2012 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day, the 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered; further notes that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 is Speak Up, Speak Out encouraging each of us to take responsibility for challenging hatred and prejudice today; pays tribute to the commitment of Holocaust survivors who share their experiences with young people across the country; acknowledges the importance of the Holocaust Educational Trust's work in schools across the UK and in particular the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which has so far given over 17,000 students and teachers the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; also pays tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising this year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; further notes that a Book of Commitment will be placed in the corridor between the Members' Cloakroom and Members' Staircase between the hours of 14.30 and 16.30 from 16 January until 26 January; and urges all right hon. and hon. Members to sign the Book and observe the day, so that the appalling events of the Holocaust are always understood by future generations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2566>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Early Day Motions (continued)

Caroline Lucas (2592) Speak Up, Speak Out Holocaust Commemoration – That this House joins in the commemoration of the Holocaust and genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2012, which is the 67th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; notes the theme Speak up, Speak out which provides an opportunity to pledge that the language of hatred will not be used or go unchallenged, that a voice will be given to the voiceless and that work will be done with friends, family, colleagues and community to create a society which is free from the dangers of persecution and hatred; and commends the PCS Union work for 2012, which encourages civil servants to speak out against racism and fascism in the workplace, especially in the public sector where such beliefs run counter to both the public service ethos and human rights and dignity more generally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2592>

Press Release

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly President welcomes justice after 18 years in 'Europe's most notorious racist hate crime investigation'

https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1890723&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=_self&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

New Publications

Are You Saying I'm Racist?

http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/PVR_Full%20Report.pdf

How to present a Discrimination Claim – Handbook on seeking remedies under the EU Non-discrimination Directives

http://www.migpolgroup.com/public/docs/199.How_to_present_a_discrimination_claim_handbook_ThematicReport_04.01.12_EN.pdf

News

How racist is Scotland?

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/how-racist-is-scotland.16445111>

David Cameron: Britain 'still has a problem with racism'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9002758/David-Cameron-Britain-still-has-a-problem-with-racism.html>

MPs to hold inquiry into racism in sport

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-16490310>

MPs to investigate racism in sport

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mps-to-investigate-racism-in-sport-6287662.html>

Stop and search 'racial profiling' by police on the increase, claims study

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2012/jan/14/stop-search-racial-profiling-police>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Transport police in Scotland to receive special training for dealing with sectarianism

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/12/19/transport-police-to-receive-special-training-for-dealing-with-sectarianism-86908-23647262/>

Bigotry row misdirected

http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/cartoon/hugh_mclachlan_bigotry_row_misdirected_1_2035133

Call for fresh inquiry into 'racist' killing

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/call-for-fresh-inquiry-into-racist-killing.16418890>

Chinese Britons have put up with racism for too long

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/11/british-chinese-racism>

EDL to spread its far-right creed to new target towns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/edl-to-spread-its-farright-creed-to-new-target-towns-6289162.html>

MP Diane Abbott 'sorry' over Twitter race comments

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-16423278>

Diane Abbott apologises over Twitter racism row

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/jan/05/diane-abbott-accused-racism-twitter>

Diane Abbott's tweet and the red herring of anti-white racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/diane-abbott-tweet-anti-white-racism>

Diane Abbott and the Twitter race row: we are getting over-excited

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/blog/2012/jan/06/diane-abbott-twitter-row-over-excited>

Diane Abbott forced to apologise in racism row after claiming 'White people love playing divide and rule'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/labour/8996425/Diane-Abbott-forced-to-apologise-in-racism-row-after-claiming-White-people-love-playing-divide-and-rule.html>

College chief sacked for being 'white and Christian'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/college-chief-sacked-for-being-white-and-christian.16314707>

College 'sacked head and wife for being white Christians'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8959805/College-sacked-head-and-wife-for-being-white-Christians.html>

Stephen Lawrence murder: convictions

Stephen Lawrence: Gary Dobson and David Norris get life

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16403655>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Stephen Lawrence's killers jailed

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/stephen-lawrences-killers-jailed.1325679453>

One swift crime that had far-reaching consequences

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/one-swift-crime-that-had-far-reaching-consequences.16350375>

Some, but not full, justice for the Lawrence family

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/some-but-not-full-justice-for-the-lawrence-family.16349863>

Stephen Lawrence murder: 'How can I celebrate when I cannot see or speak to my son?'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/stephen-lawrence-murder-how-can-i-celebrate-when-i-cannot-see-or-speak-to-my-son-1-2035204>

Stephen Lawrence murder: Parents make statements after guilty verdict

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/stephen-lawrence-murder-parents-make-statements-after-guilty-verdict-1-2035377>

Stephen Lawrence murder: 'No closure until all the suspects are found guilty'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/stephen-lawrence-murder-no-closure-until-all-the-suspects-are-found-guilty-1-2035385>

Justice at all costs – no matter how long it takes

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/cartoon/leader-justice-at-all-costs-no-matter-how-long-it-takes-1-2035131>

Stephen Lawrence: a death that changed everything

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8990549/Stephen-Lawrence-a-death-that-changed-everything.html>

Stephen Lawrence verdict does not end the debate on police racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/stephen-lawrence-verdict-police-racism>

So where are all the black police officers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/04/where-are-black-police-officers>

Racism: still real, but no longer speaking its mind?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/04/racism-still-real-stephen-lawrence>

The Lawrence case has at last made us confront the complex nature of racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/08/matthew-ryder-stephen-lawrence-racism>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Stephen Lawrence verdict is about society as much as his murderers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/03/stephen-lawrence-verdict-society-murderers>

Doreen Lawrence: Britain still blighted by racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/03/doreen-lawrence-britain-blighted-racism>

Beware the assumptions the Lawrence verdict gives rise to

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/owen-jones-beware-the-assumptions-the-lawrence-verdict-gives-rise-to-6284979.html?origin=internalSearch>

The killing of Stephen Lawrence ended Britain's denial about racism

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/brian-cathcart-the-killing-of-stephen-lawrence-ended-britains-denial-about-racism-6284484.html>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Scotland's Future

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6658&mode=html#job_60644

Press Releases

Holyrood chamber set to meet three times a week, as committee recommends reform

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/45526.aspx>

First Minister's New Year Message 2012

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/29151530>

New Year Message from the Presiding Officer

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/45480.aspx>

First Minister's Christmas Message

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/22111441>

Presiding Officer's Christmas Message

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/45481.aspx>

New Publications

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance Analysis Of Consultation Findings

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/366547/0124801.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/366609/0124821.pdf>

Other Holyrood (continued)

New Publications

Standards, Procedures, and Public Appointments Committee Report: Reform of Parliamentary Business Inquiry. Phase 1 report: remodelling the parliamentary week

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/45516.aspx>

Responding to Forced Marriage: Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/366110/0124639.pdf>

News

Labour leader Lamont names new top team

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/labour-leader-lamont-names-new-top-team-1.1140474>

Independence referendum plans

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/01/10210754>

My Scotland 1: by Alex Salmond, First Minister and leader of the SNP

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/opinion/my-scotland-1-by-alex-salmond-first-minister-and-leader-of-the-snp.16473709>

My Scotland 2: by Johann Lamont, Scottish Labour leader

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/opinion/my-scotland-2-by-johann-lamont-scottish-labour-leader.16473762>

My Scotland 3: by Ruth Davidson, leader of the Scottish Conservatives

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/opinion/my-scotland-3-by-ruth-davidson-leader-of-the-scottish-conservatives.16473765>

My Scotland 4: by Willie Rennie, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/opinion/my-scotland-4-by-willie-rennie-leader-of-the-scottish-liberal-democrats.16473771>

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Other Westminster

Ministerial Statement

Scotland's Constitutional Future

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement on Scotland's constitutional future in the United Kingdom. In May 2011, the Scottish National party won a significant electoral victory—a victory that this Government have openly acknowledged. The SNP has consistently campaigned for Scottish independence, and its 2011 manifesto included a pledge to hold an independence referendum. As a Scot, I think that it is vital that the Scottish people make a clear decision about our future within the United Kingdom: a decision made in Scotland, by the people of Scotland. At present, however, there is a lack of clarity about the referendum, its outcome, and what the implications of that outcome would be, all of which creates economic uncertainty. That is bad for jobs and investment.

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

Since last year's election, we have been asking the Scottish Government to set out their plans for a referendum, but so far they have not done so. In particular, they have not said anything more about their legal power to deliver a referendum. This is not an issue that can be ducked. To legislate for a referendum on independence, the Scottish Parliament must have the legal power. It is this Government's clear view that the Scottish Parliament does not have that legal power.

Scotland's future within the UK will be the most important decision we, as Scots, take in our lifetime. It is essential that the referendum is legal, fair and decisive. As a Government, we have been clear since May 2011 that we will not stand in the way of a referendum on independence, but neither will we stand on the sidelines and let uncertainty continue. Any referendum must let all of us in Scotland determine our future clearly and decide whether to stay part of the longest, most successful partnership of nations in history. That is why we are publishing a consultation to seek views on how to deliver a legal, fair and decisive referendum. For a referendum to take place, legislation is required. That will ensure that any referendum, on any issue, is subject to detailed consideration and debate, and to clear and consistent regulation.

To continue reading the lengthy statement and question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/debtext/120110-0002.htm#12011056000001>

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriage

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many forced marriage cases have occurred in the UK in each of the last five years. [87812]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not collate data on the number of forced marriages that have occurred in the UK in each of the last five years. However, the number of instances where the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage is as follows:

2010: 1,735 reports of forced marriage.

2009: 1,682 reports of forced marriage.

2008: 1,618 reports of forced marriage.

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided, which comprised the following:

2007: 262 cases of forced marriage.

2006: 197 cases of forced marriage.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many forced marriages the Forced Marriage Unit has prevented in each of the last five years. [87813]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) does not hold data on the number of forced marriages it has prevented in each of the last five years. However, the number of instances where the FMU has provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage is as follows:

	<i>Reports of forced marriage</i>
2010	1,735
2009	1,682
2008	1,618

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided:

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	<i>Cases of forced marriage</i>
2007	262
2006	197

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w004.htm#12011076000052>

Forced Marriage

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most common countries of origin are of victims of forced marriages. [87811]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In 2010, the highest proportion of cases reported to the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) involved victims with a family connection to Pakistan (52%), Bangladesh (10.3%) or India (8.6%).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w006.htm#1201116000040>

Forced Marriage: Young People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many victims of forced marriages were (a) women, (b) men and (c) under the age of 16 years in each of the last five years. [87814]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: In 2010, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provided advice or support in 1,735 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,388 cases (86%) involved female victims and 243 cases (14%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 469 cases. Of these 240 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 229 were the reluctant sponsor in an entry clearance application. Of the 240 assistance cases, 11 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

In 2009, the FMU provided advice or support in 1,682 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,447 cases (86%) involved female victims and 235 cases (14%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 377 cases. Of these 240 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 137 were the reluctant sponsor in entry clearance applications. Of the 240 assistance cases, 15 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

In 2008, the FMU provided advice or support in 1,618 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,375 cases (85%) involved female victims and 243 (15%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 430 cases. Of these, 222 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 208 the reluctant sponsor in entry clearance applications. Of the 222 assistance cases, 12 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided:

	<i>Cases of forced marriage</i>
2007	262
2006	197

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0004.htm#12011076000053>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Sikhs

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to ensure practising Sikhs are able to wear articles of faith such as the Kirpan when visiting UK tourist attractions. [87197]

Reply from John Penrose: VisitEngland, the national tourist board, is not aware of any instances where articles of faith such as the Kirpan have not been permitted to be worn at a UK tourist attraction. If the hon. Gentleman has evidence of occasions when this has occurred I would encourage him to send details either to me or to VisitEngland, together with information on what steps (if any) were taken to raise the issue with the attraction owners at the time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0002.htm#12011052000082>

Sikhs

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will have discussions with the Sikh Council UK and Sikh Federation (UK) on policy matters relating to the Sikh community; [87195]

(2) what plans he has to meet the Sikh Federation (UK) to discuss Italian airport security checks on British Sikhs; [87198]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Italian Government on airport security checks on British Sikhs. [87199]

Reply from David Lidington: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) leads on engagement with faith communities. I do not currently have plans to meet the Sikh Federation (UK). DCLG have been facilitating discussions between the Department for Transport and a range of bodies representing British Sikhs on security checks at European airports. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also been in contact with the Sikh Federation (UK).

I understand that the Italian authorities confirmed in June that Sikhs would no longer be required to remove their turbans at airports. Furthermore, officials in the Department for Transport have been in contact with officials in the Italian embassy in London and have met with Sikh representative organisations over the course of 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0004.htm#12011076000062>

Roma People

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the governments concerned in former Yugoslavia countries, especially in Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, about the provision of passports to stateless Roma people.[HL14539]

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): While there have been no representations made to Governments of countries from the former Yugoslavia concerning provision of passports to stateless Roma peoples, the UK continues to support minority rights across the region. We welcome the European Union General Affairs Council's statement on 5 December 2011 on minority rights in the western Balkans, reiterating the importance of protection of all minorities and calling on the Governments of the region to take the necessary actions to address outstanding concerns. The same conclusions also called for work to continue on improving the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups including the Roma.

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

made to prevent European Union funds for support of Roma people being used by member states for other purposes.[HL14540]

Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford: In May 2011 the European Union (EU) adopted Council Conclusions on an EU framework for national roma integration strategies up to 2020, encouraging member states to pursue efforts in the fields of education, employment, healthcare and housing, with a view to closing the gaps between marginalized Roma communities and the general population.

The EU Commission, in co-operation with the Court of Auditors, is responsible for monitoring the spending of EU funds by member states. The UK is not aware of any cases where funds allocated to Roma projects have been diverted to other projects. The UK supports efforts to ensure that EU funds are used correctly. Through our network of embassies, the Government also directly fund a number of projects aimed at improving the position of Roma people.

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Governments of Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia on the conditions of their Roma citizens. [HL14541]

Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford: The Government remain concerned about the violence and discrimination Roma continue to face in many parts of Europe. While countries hold the primary responsibility for promoting the inclusion of all their communities, there is scope for international co-operation too. In Bulgaria, our embassy regularly raises Roma integration issues with the Bulgarian government, and has joined other European Union missions in discussing the issues with the Deputy Prime Minister. In Romania, our embassy regularly raises the situation of the Roma and the national integration strategy with the responsible State Secretary (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State equivalent). In addition our embassy raises Roma issues with a wide range of political, ecumenical and non-governmental organisation contacts, and has facilitated links between UK and Romanian partners, and funded UK experts, to share best practice on Roma inclusion in schools. We have also supported Roma health mediators to improve access for the Roma to the healthcare system. Our embassy in the Czech Republic regularly discusses issues affecting the Roma community with representatives of the Czech Government, including the Czech human rights commissioner. Our ambassador has been active in meeting Roma communities too. Earlier this year two student interns focussed on Roma issues joined the embassy to help enhance our understanding. In Slovakia our Embassy raises this issue at an official level. In addition, the chargé d'affaires called on the special representative for Roma issues shortly after he was appointed. Our embassy also funds several Roma projects, including on educational attainment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120110w0003.htm#12011062001869>

Press Releases

New site funding offers fairer deal for travellers and the settled community

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2061063>

2012 New Year Message from David Cameron

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/2012-new-year-message-from-david-cameron/>

Communities Minister wishes all Jews a happy Hanukkah

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/corporate/2055378>

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New Publications

The Commission on Assisted Dying: Final Report

[http://www.demos.co.uk/files/CoAD - web.pdf?1325710486](http://www.demos.co.uk/files/CoAD_-_web.pdf?1325710486)

Human Rights Measurement Framework: Prototype panels, indicator set and evidence base

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/humanrights/HRMF/hrmf.pdf

World Giving Index 2011

https://www.cafonline.org/pdf/World_Giving_Index_2011_191211.pdf

Protecting Independence: the Voluntary Sector in 2012

<http://www.independencepanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Protecting-Independence-final.pdf>

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Other News

The Kids' Corner: New European Union website for children including information about Human Rights

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/120104_en.htm

Assisted suicide: 'Strong case for legalisation'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16410118>

MSP urges minorities to join organ donor register

http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/health/msp_urges_minorities_to_join_organ_donor_register_1_2031646

Pakistani Scots face increased risk from chest pain

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/pakistani-scots-face-increased-risk-from-chest-pain.16241951>

Ethnic minority mothers not getting vitamin advice

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3264814.ece>

It's time to criminalise forced marriage

<http://blogs.independent.co.uk/2011/12/21/its-time-to-criminalise-forced-marriage/>

Hidden tide of 'honour' violence in Britain's communities

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8961352/Hidden-tide-of-honour-violence-in-Britains-communities.html>

Nearly 800 travellers' pitches approved by government

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8999905/Nearly-800-travellers-pitches-approved-by-government.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress Westminster

Human Trafficking (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

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

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Notice of Amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/amend/am079-l.htm>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** National Roma Integration Strategies** (closing date 18 January 2012)

<http://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=08c3f9d9-d7a4-4a55-bac9-a64f1326aa31>

Right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the EU

(closing date 1 March 2012)

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm

**** DirectScot - Scotland's public services and information portal**

(closing date 1 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/01/DirectScot>

Proposals for A Freedom Of Information (Amendment) Bill

(closing date 8 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/365157/0124123.pdf>

Forced marriage (closing date 30 March 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

European Commission Fundamental Rights and Citizenship "Action grants"

Projects require a minimum partnership of 2 organisations from 2 different Member States and cannot have an initial duration exceeding 24 months. ...

Funding Opportunities (continued)

[funding priorities include:]

4.3 Combating racism, xenophobia and antisemitism (RXAS)

In order to implement the European Union policy against racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance such as antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-Roma racism, the Commission seeks to fund actions which aim to foster mutual understanding, counter traditional and new stereotypes which are at the roots of intolerant attitudes and behaviour and prevent the divulgation of such stereotypes. Specifically, the support will be provided to activities which raise awareness on racism, xenophobia or related forms of intolerance, and establish preventive methods and practices. Moreover, the Commission seeks for the projects which aim to analyse the reasons and sources of racist or xenophobic hate speech and hate crime, including societal trends leading to such phenomena, to inform victims of racism or xenophobia on redress mechanisms, or to assist law enforcement and judicial authorities to improve redress and reporting mechanisms, methods and practices. Among these projects the ones which aim to develop cross-community approaches would be favoured. ...

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/111201_en.htm

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (9.30-12.30pm) January 2012 in Edinburgh

13th (9.30-4.30pm) & 14th(9.30-12.30pm) February 2012in Edinburgh

19th(9.30-4.30pm) & 20th(9.30-12.30pm) March 2012in Edinburgh

Shakti training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

**** this week!**

Research, Ethics and Active Citizenship: Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

18 January 2012 in Glasgow (11.30 – 3.30)

BEMIS and GRAMNet seminar to discuss how changes in social science and humanities research methods have led to a deeper commitment to active citizenship and human rights education. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

**** Advocacy, the media and monitoring**

9 February 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Runnymede Trust seminar to provide information and advice on the implementation and promotion of policies on equality and non-discrimination with a particular focus on advocacy, the media and monitoring. For information see

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/333/273/Glasgow-capacity-building-training-for-NGOs.html>

Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

Week of 13 February – date still to be confirmed – in Edinburgh

BEMIS and GRAMNet consultation on the subject of guidelines for ethical research practice in social sciences and humanities. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Promoting Youth Employability and Rights**

21 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30)

Conference jointly organised by BEMIS, the Scottish Refugee Council, STUC, CEMVO, and the Scottish Inter Faith Council to address gaps in support for youth employment, present new opportunities to help break barriers and discrimination in the job market, and seek to develop a charter on supporting youth employment. For information contact Tanveer Parnez conference@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Sandra Walker swalker@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8100.

**** Goals training**

Last week of February 2012-01-15(dates to be confirmed from 23/24, 27/28, or 28/29)

BEMIS training for Ethnic Minority Third Sector organisations and Volunteers to empower, motivate and build capacity of new community groups and organisations to be more active in decision-making processes and provide them with leadership skills. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk.

Equality in employment

29 February 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training that includes recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and also examines issues around equality in volunteering. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

**** The Gathering**

29 February – 1 March 2012 in Glasgow

SCVO seminars, exhibition, and marketplace with over 100 exhibitors. For the full programme see <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/programme-of-events/attend-an-event/>

**** Open Your Mind - Speak Out Against Racism**

17–25 March 2012

European-wide Action Week Against Racism. For information and materials see http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/infoARW_12.htm

Collecting and using Equalities information

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to equalities monitoring including best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

New Muslim Cool

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (all day)

Faith Matters event about the work of Hamza Perez a Muslim Hispanic American whose multi-faith work has seen Christians and Jews support him during difficult times post 9/11. For information contact pa@faith-matters.co.uk / 0207 554 8847 or see <http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/Faith%20Matters%20New%20Muslim%20Cool%20UK%20Tour%20March%202010.pdf>

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Useful Links

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

Useful Links (continued)

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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/>

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