

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, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 23 October.
The UK Parliament returns from recess this week.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Migrant labour

S5W-11312 Graham Simpson (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding what proportion of the construction industry workforce in Scotland is formed of migrant labour.

Reply from Paul Wheelhouse: An estimated 7,000 migrants were employed in the Construction sector in Scotland in 2016, according to the Office for National Statistics' Annual Population Survey 2016, and the Scottish Government warmly welcomes them and values the contribution they make to a key sector of the Scottish Economy.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11312>

Human trafficking

S5O-01343 Maurice Corry (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle human trafficking.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government is fully committed to tackling human trafficking and exploitation and is working in partnership with criminal justice agencies and support organisations to implement the recently published Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the Act") was unanimously passed by the Scottish Parliament in October 2015. Two new offences are now in force, one of Human Trafficking and the other of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour. Both carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. There are new powers for the police and courts to seize, detain and forfeit property used in connection with trafficking. Further, the Lord Advocate has issued instructions relating to prosecutions under the Act meaning that those victims caught up in criminal activities at the behest of their traffickers will not be prosecuted.

Implementation of the rest of the Act is on-going and includes placing the existing support and assistance provisions for victims, and the existing Independent Child Trafficking Guardians service, on a statutory footing.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-01343>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [9123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for non-settlement visas paid for under her Department's Priority Service scheme were processed within 15 working days in the latest period for which figures are available.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [9242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for settlement visas paid for under her Department's Priority Service Scheme were processed within 60 working days in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9123/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9242/>

Visas

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [9196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) settlement, (b) non-settlement and (c) total visa applications are submitted under her Department's Priority Service scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

The latest published migration statistics, which includes data on visa application volumes, can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9196/>

Refugees: Children

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [8593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children are supported by each local authority; how many children each local authority has offered to support; and what support has been offered to local authorities to increase their capacity to provide appropriate psychological support for unaccompanied child refugees.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published data on unaccompanied asylum seeking children can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to#unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children>.

There are over 4,000 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) in local authority care in the UK.

The National Transfer Scheme was launched on 1 July 2016 and has been working to ensure a fairer allocation of UASC across the UK. A significant number of local authorities have participated in the scheme and enabled the transfer of children away from local authorities with a disproportionate number of UASC in their care.

The Government welcomes all offers from local authorities with capacity to look after UASC. We continue to engage with local authorities across the country to encourage further participation.

In support of the National Transfer Scheme central government increased funding to local authorities caring for UASC by up to 33% in July 2016. In August 2017 a review of funding for UASC was launched and all local authorities who currently look after unaccompanied children have been invited to submit evidence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8593/>

Children: Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [9040] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the refugee family reunion visas granted on the basis of exceptional compelling compassionate circumstances outside the immigration rules were under 18, for each of the last five years.

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [9041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee family reunion visas were granted to children, by country of origin, for each year for which records are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The data is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on visa applications in the Family category can be found online at the following address:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638590/entry-visas1-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9040/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9041/>

Press Releases

Home Office's capacity to deliver immigration services examined

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/home-office-capacity-to-deliver-immigration-services-17-19/>

Asylum and refugee protection represent 'humanity at its best,' says senior UN official

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57816#.WdpXrROCynY>

New Publications

Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom

<http://detentionforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Sept-2017-DF-Immigration-Detention-Briefing-.docx>

Current migration situation in the EU: Oversight of reception facilities

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-september-monthly-migration-report-focus-oversight_en.pdf

News

Sturgeon says government will pay EU 'settled status' fee

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-41538311>

Sturgeon vows Scotland will pay to let EU citizens stay after Brexit

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15583083.Sturgeon_vows_Scotland_will_pay_to_let_EU_citizens_stay_after_Brexit/?ref=mr&lp=2

EU nationals must be protected

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/sunday_herald_view/15583157.EU_nationals_must_be_protected/

SNP to set out plans to help EU citizens stay in Scotland post-Brexit

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/snp-to-set-out-plans-to-help-eu-citizens-stay-in-scotland-post-brexit-1-4581171>

Post-Brexit immigration white paper delayed until late autumn

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/02/post-brexit-immigration-white-paper-delayed-until-late-autumn>

Home Office visa delays 'inhumane'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-41096675>

Without visa reform, universities could lose vital technical staff after Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2017/oct/04/brexit-visa-reform-universities-could-lose-vital-technical-staff>

Brexit won't help the NHS, it will destroy it

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/02/brexit-nhs-public-health>

Scheme to avert Brexit staff crisis will come too late, says hospitality industry

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/05/scheme-to-avert-brexit-staff-crisis-will-come-too-late-says-hospitality-industry>

Britain 'doesn't need any more low-skilled workers from Europe': Think tanks says businesses wanted free-for-all so they could continue using cheap labour

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4950326/Britain-doesn-t-need-low-skilled-workers-Europe.html>

Investigation begins after Jamaican detainee, 38, dies

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/04/investigation-launched-after-jamaican-immigration-detainee-38-dies>

Britain accused of unlawfully deporting Afghan asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/05/britain-accused-of-unlawfully-deporting-afghan-asylum-seekers-amnesty>

'Why our English-speaking children are learning Polish'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-suffolk-41525798/why-our-english-speaking-children-are-learning-polish>

From Lampedusa David Bradwell reflects on borders and refugees

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/From_Lampedusa_david_bradwell_reflects_on_borders_and_refugees

We should all be vigilant on human trafficking

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/columnists/15577717.Agenda_We_should_all_be_vigilant_on_human_trafficking/

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Community Relations

News

Cabinet Office finds integration of Pakistani women 'shockingly bad'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/cabinet-office-finds-integration-of-pakistani-women-shockingly-bad-fqnjdz3pd>

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Equality

New Publication

Colour of Power UK

<http://www.thecolourofpower.com/colour-of-power/>

News

Theresa May vows to act on race review findings

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41477821>

Race disparity audit: we must face inequalities head on

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/race-disparity-audit-we-must-face-inequalities-head>

'Uncomfortable findings' in report on BAME social mobility, PM says

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/518430/uncomfortable-findings-in-report-on-bame-social-mobility-pm-says/>

Ethnic minority graduates still facing jobs gap – study

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/521451/ethnic-minority-graduates-still-facing-jobs-gap-study/>

PM's 'race disparity audit' finds work and home ownership divide

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/03/pms-race-disparity-audit-finds-work-and-home-ownership-divide>

People from ethnic minorities still facing major jobs gap in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/07/ethnic-minorities-jobs-gap-bame-degrees>

We know there's a housing crisis – but why is it so much worse for black families?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/03/housing-crisis-why-worse-for-black-families-social-housing>

Memo to Theresa May: yet another report won't fix race inequality

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/03/theresa-may-race-equality-report-racism-inequality-britain>

White working class children victims of racial 'injustices', Theresa May-backed review finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/03/white-working-class-children-victims-racial-injustices-theresa/>

Ethnic minorities twice as likely to be jobless as whites

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-03/news/ethnic-minorities-twice-as-likely-to-be-jobless-as-whites-l6r7jtk5>

Black students less likely to get a first

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/black-students-less-likely-to-get-a-first-n9g77k7z6>

PM speech: Are fewer black people being stopped and searched?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41501683>

Ethnic minorities are better at social care, minister says

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-04/news/ethnic-minorities-are-better-at-social-care-minister-says-m9x57n3hv>

Ofcom worse for diversity of staff than broadcasters

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-04/news/ofcom-worse-for-diversity-of-staff-than-broadcasters-80n93tpk7>

10 years of the Commission: the future of equality and human rights

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/10-years-commission-future-equality-and-human-rights>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

Home Secretary announces new national online hate crime hub

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

News

Online hate crime to be tackled by new national police hub, Home Secretary says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/online-hate-crime-amber-rudd-home-office-national-police-hub-facebook-twitter-trolls-a7988411.html>

Police to tell social media firms to take down hate posts in major government crackdown

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/08/police-tell-social-media-firms-take-hate-posts-major-government/>

Labour does have an anti-Semitism problem but it is dealing with it, the chief of Corbyn's Momentum support group admits

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4938372/Lansman-Labour-DOES-anti-Semitism-problem.html>

Police launch probe into alleged sectarian singing at Orange Walk in Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15570613.Police_launch_probe_into_alleged_sectarian_singing_at_Orange_Walk_in_Glasgow/?ref=mr&lp=8

Boy, 14, has throat cut at Birmingham mosque by religious rival

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-02/news/schoolboy-in-coma-after-being-stabbed-at-birmingham-mosque-3vzt56gdv>

Jobless suspect, 29, is charged with attempted murder over stabbing of 15-year-old boy outside mosque in 'ISIS-inspired attack by rival Muslim sect'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4938138/Boy-stabbed-near-Birmingham-mosque-Syed-Hassan-Abbas.html>

Pig's head thrown through Muslim family's window in 'appalling hate crime' in Manchester

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/pigs-head-thrown-muslim-british-asian-family-oldham-manchester-hate-crime-police-islamophobia-a7980501.html>

Isn't it time we called out newspapers who trade on Muslim-baiting?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/04/newspapers-trade-muslim-baiting-christian-girl-muslim-foster-care>

Matt Lucas has confirmed it: little Britain isn't so small-minded now

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/05/matt-lucas-little-britain-black-up-society-empathetic>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-08148 Linda Fabiani (SNP): Bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet Founder of the Bahá'í Faith – That the Parliament notes that 2017 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í faith; notes that the faith, which was established in modern day Iran in the 1860s, took root in Scotland in 1905 and is understood to be recognised worldwide as the second-most geographically widespread religion after Christianity; recognises that Bahá'í communities from around the world will be celebrating this important anniversary, and offers congratulations to the Bahá'í Council for Scotland and the elected local spiritual assemblies of Scotland, which are based in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Lerwick, Newton Mearns, Orkney Mainland East and Stirling.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08148>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Travellers: Caravan Sites

The following four questions all received the same answer

Kate Green (Labour) [9131] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment of need for Traveller sites has been made for each minimum geography area for each of the next five years.

Kate Green (Labour) [9187] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his Department's August 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), how many local planning authorities have set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers using the revised definition as set out in Annex 1 of the PPTS 2015.

Kate Green (Labour) [9188] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many Travellers who conform to the revised definition of Gypsy Travellers as set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 have been successful in obtaining a pitch in the last year for which data is available.

Kate Green (Labour) [9189] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many and which local authorities have met the requirement (a) in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 to identify and maintain a supply of specific deliverable sites, sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites, against their locally set target and (b) to include the same outcome for each of the next five, six and 10 years as set down in the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites document.

Reply from Alok Sharma: The Government has made no such estimates. It is the responsibility of local authorities to assess all local housing needs through their local plan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9131/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9187/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9188/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9189/>

The policy referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Financial_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf

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New Publication

CAF Scotland Giving 2017: An overview of charitable giving in Scotland

<https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/2254-caf-scotland-giving-2017.pdf>

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Other News

Scots more likely to give to charity or volunteer than rUK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scots-more-likely-to-give-to-charity-or-volunteer-than-ruk-1-4578886>

Why is cancer a taboo in black and Asian communities?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-birmingham-41512831/why-is-cancer-a-taboo-in-black-and-asian-communities>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11130&i=101506#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Draft Budget Scrutiny 2018-19 (closing date 20 October 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106064.aspx>

Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020
(closing date 25 October 2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en

Regulations under Section 10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 (closing date 30 October 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524841.pdf>

EEA-workers in the UK labour market (closing date 27 October 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-and-briefing-note-eea-workers-in-the-uk-labour-market>

Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation (Bracadale Review)

(closing date 23 November 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/independent-review-of-hate-crime-legislation>

There are three versions of the consultation paper:

- a full version, aimed mainly at a technical, legal audience
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524055.pdf>
- a non-technical version, aimed at the general reader with no specialist legal knowledge
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524070.pdf>
- an easy read version using simple language and pictures
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524076.pdf>

Fundraising guidance consultation (closing date 1 December 2017)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/fundraising-guidance-consultation>

**** Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers [Welsh Government consultation]**

(closing date 21 December 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/enabling-gypsies-roma-and-travellers>

**** International students: economic and social impacts** (closing date 26 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Cyber Resilience and Cyber Essentials Grants

Closing date for applications 20 October 2017

Being “cyber resilient” is both the prevention of cyber breaches and also making sure that if a breach occurs that you are able to respond without losing business continuity. A cyber breach isn’t necessarily a ‘hack’, but it is any incident in which data is lost or stolen, including; accidental loss or theft of hardware, social engineering or phishing. The types

of data could include financial data, security data or personal data – such as your customer's contact details.

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available to enable third sector leaders to assess and improve their cyber resilience, and to test the ability of third sector organisations to achieve [Cyber Essentials accreditation](#). For information and to apply see <https://digital.scvo.org.uk/evolution/cyber-resilience/>

Community Capacity and Resilience Fund

Closing date for applications 26 October 2017

This fund gives local community based organisations the opportunity to test out new, creative approaches, develop their workforce and add capacity all with the aim of having a preventative impact on communities, help combat social inequalities, promote social inclusion and support partnership working. The fund is looking to award grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to eligible third sector organisations to deliver projects/activities for up to a 9 month period that support individuals and communities to mitigate the impact of welfare reform and poverty. In addition, some grants of up to £10,000 will be available for pilot projects that need a longer time demonstrate their effectiveness. For more information and to apply see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/running-your-organisation/funding/capacity-resilience-fund/>

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/2018

No set closing date – applications will be accepted until the fund has been fully allocated

BEMIS Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Government is once again offering a small grants programme which invites multicultural communities across Scotland to join in with Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/18 and host events for St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night.

Community groups, unincorporated associations, charities, and not for profit organisations working in, with, or for Scotland's diverse communities, can apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000 to put on events that engage, inspire, and mobilise communities across Scotland in the celebration of Scotland's national days.

For more information see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-guidelines.pdf>

For an application form see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Black History Month

October 2017

Black History Month provides an opportunity to learn, understand, and honour the role that black and minority ethnic men, women, and children have played in shaping Scotland's history. The full programme of events is available at

<http://tinyurl.com/y8ua5xk6>

**** this week!**

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

10 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

15 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Refugee Awareness event

10 October 2017 in Dundee (7.15pm)

A chance to find out what is happening in Dundee and overseas to aid refugees displaced by war in Middle East and North Africa and how to help both at home and abroad. For information see

https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17x_refugee_awareness.pdf

**** this week!**

GRAMNet 2017/18 launch

11 October 2017 in Glasgow (5.30-7.30)

Screening of the film *Constance on the Edge* followed by an informal discussion. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/event/gramnet-film-series-oct-2017/>.

The GRAMNet/BEMIS film series provides a safe space for people to present their views and perspectives and integrates local and global narratives through films produced both internationally and locally. For a full programme see <http://tinyurl.com/y96p5eso>

Scotland's Muslims: Society, Politics and Identity

17 October 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00pm)

Launch of a new collection of essays about Scotland's Muslim which includes chapters on issues as diverse as health, education, gender, sexuality, politics, integration, family, the media, political participation, multicultural nationalism, citizenship, and integration strategies. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y948eudy>

Festival of Politics

19-21 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/>

Festival of Politics: Black History Month 2017

19 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00-7.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss Scotland's role and the legacy of slavery and colonialism in the acknowledgement of an uncomfortable history. For information see

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/black-history-month-2017/>

Scotland's Census 2021 – 'Caribbean of Black' Ethnicity

19 October 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-1.00)

26 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

National Registers of Scotland focus groups about the terminology used in the ethnic group question in Scotland's Census. These focus groups are particularly for people who might identify as 'Caribbean or Black' in the ethnic group census question. For information and to book for the Edinburgh event see <http://tinyurl.com/y8xkwg7s> and for the Glasgow event see <http://tinyurl.com/yc6vjnq>

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

20 October 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

17 November 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

15 December 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

12 January 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

Creative writing workshops organised by the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration

Through Language and Art at Glasgow University. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y77alnbx> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

Share My Table - I Hear the Image Moving.

20-21 October 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Live performance and visual art created by a diverse group of people from the refugee community in Glasgow. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8phopcx> or contact info@tramway.org / 0845 330 3501.

Cup of Tea with a Refugee week

Week beginning 23 October 2017

The Scottish Refugee Council is encouraging groups across Scotland to host their own Cup of Tea events, which are a great way to bring people together to get to know one another in a friendly, relaxed way. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yc38yqaj> or contact info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

24 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

31 October 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore ways to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

**** Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

24 October 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

31 October 2017 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland, and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Workshop

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide practical help and advice on how to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity. Includes information about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides, as well as challenges, such as hate crime, facing the UK today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ydegrweb> or contact Rhys Prosser enquiries@hmd.org.uk

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

2 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age Assessment Awareness

8 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Rights to Housing

9 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Interfaith Week

12-19 November 2017

This year's theme is Creativity and the Arts; through art, poetry, music, and dance we can break down barriers and celebrate the creative and cultural diversity within our local communities. For information contact info@scottishinterfaithweek.org or see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/about-sifw>. For resources to help you plan your event see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/resources>, and to have your event listed in the Interfaith Week programme see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/submit-an-event>.

**** Immigration Act 2016 – “The Hostile Environment” basics**

14 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH briefing for people providing services to or working with immigrants to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

23 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/it93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

29 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and

their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

30 November 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

The New Scots – Immigrant Communities since c1950

30 November 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.00)

St Andrew's Day lecture presented by Professor Tom Devine as part of the BEMIS 'Scotland's Diverse History' Series. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yaadfnc2>

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

24 January 2018 at Glasgow Caledonian University

Details will be available in due course. For information contact the Scottish Interfaith Council admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778.

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(closing date abstracts for posters, presentations and workshops: 6 October 2017)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

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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. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



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.gov.scot/>

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