



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) 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 have been redesigned, so that links published in previous 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 deadline to register to vote in the General Election is
tomorrow – Tuesday 18 June!**

[Click here to register.](#)

Immigration and Asylum

New Publication

Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda 'stunt' has stopped deportations, immigration officers complain

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/rwanda-stunt-has-stopped-deportations-immigration-officers-complain-7zn37n727>

'I kept asking why': Syrian refugee detained for 25 days for Rwanda flights speaks after release

<https://www.independentco.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-flight-refugee-detention-syria-refugee-b2561931.html>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

I have not controlled Britain's borders, Rishi Sunak admits

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/06/10/general-election-latest-news-rishi-sunak-keir-starmer/>

Boost for Tories as work and student visas fall by 30pc

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/06/13/boost-for-tories-as-work-and-student-visas-all-by-30pc/>

Labour ditches plans to let asylum seekers work after six months

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/06/11/labour-ditches-plans-asylum-seekers-work-after-six-months/>

Wars drive number of forcibly displaced people to record high, UN says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/un-war-gaza-ukraine-refugees-b2561917.html>

Conflicts drive number of forcibly displaced people to record high

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jun/13/conflicts-record-forcibly-displaced-people-refugees-unhcr>

Children trapped in war zones because of UK refusal to ease refugee visa rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jun/15/children-trapped-in-war-zones-because-of-uk-refusal-to-ease-refugee-visa-rules>

Trade body demands special measures for Scottish immigration

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/trade-body-demands-special-measures-for-scottish-immigration-rwp5903zf>

'We talk about boats ... not people': UK dehumanising refugees, Toby Jones says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/10/we-talk-about-boats-we-dont-talk-about-people-toby-jones-joins-shakespeare-marathon-to-help-refugees>

Refugee homes look like a prison, say locals

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crggn2ddrkro>

Life inside Essex's 'prison-like' asylum seeker site Wethersfield

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-essex-wethersfield-government-migrant-b2559687.html>

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Equality

New Publication

Ethnic and gender diversity in the next parliament

<https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Diversity-of-parliament-briefing.British-Future-June-2024.pdf>

News

Parliament set for biggest-ever increase in ethnic minority representation

<https://www.britishfuture.org/biggest-rise-minority-representation/>

New parliament will be the most ethnically diverse ever, study finds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/06/12/new-parliament-most-ethnically-diverse-ever-study-finds/>

Diversity drive to double number of non-white honours recipients

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/06/14/diversity-drive-double-non-white-honours-recipients/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/hate-crime-in-scotland-2023-24/html/>

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2023-24, data tables

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media/vktgz1zc/hate-crime-2023-24-tables-final.xlsx>

The racialised harm of police strip searches

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/6662dd2915eb87d8b28a3b95_Strip%20search%20consultation%20-%20published%20final.pdf

News

Hate crime charges in Scotland reach highest level for ten years

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24379823.hate-crime-charges-scotland-reach-highest-level-ten-years/>

Police Scotland has been accused of secrecy over hate crime training material

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/police-scotland-has-been-accused-of-secrecy-over-hate-crime-training-material-4665940>

'Perfectly lawful' to stir up racial and religious hatred, Met Police chief says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/mark-rowley-london-suella-braverman-baroness-sayeeda-warsi-conservatives-b2562076.html>

Teenager who planned to attack synagogue is jailed for eight years

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/teenager-brighton-hove-jews-winchester-crown-court-b2562726.html>

Teenage neo-Nazi who plotted terror attack vowed to 'make Jews scared again'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/06/14/neo-nazi-mason-reynolds-plotted-terror-attack-jailed/>

Clive Myrie reveals shocking extent of racial abuse faced as BBC newsreader

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/clive-myrie-racist-death-threats-b2563414.html>

Ian Wright hits out at media scapegoating Black England players and warns of 'gaslighting'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/ian-wright-england-black-players-racism-euro-2024-b2559401.html>

John Blain: Cricket racism claims wrecked my life

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/john-blain-cricket-racism-claims-wrecked-my-life-wrfhthsnz>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Religious Observance in Schools

Elena Whitham (SNP) [S6W-27831] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of recently published data by the National Records of Scotland regarding Scotland's Census 2022, which show that over 60% of the school-age population had no religion, whether it will follow the advice of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and allow young people the right to opt out of religious observance in schools.

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: As stated in the Scottish Government's Initial Response to the Concluding Observations issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, published on 25 March this year, the Scottish Government is considering its next steps on religious observance in schools to ensure compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Under current legislation in Scotland, religious observance is not compulsory, and parents are legally entitled to withdraw their children from religious observance in local authority and grant-aided schools. This is supported by detailed guidance which states that 'schools should include children and young people in any discussions about aspects of their school experience, ensuring their views are taken into account.'

This guidance is available at: [Curriculum for Excellence: religious observance](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27831)
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27831>

The census data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/2022-results/scotland-s-census-2022-ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion/>

The UN Committee advice referred to above can be read at

<https://undocs.org/en/CRC/C/GBR/CO/6-7>

The Scottish Government Initial Response referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/united-nations-convention-rights-child-scottish-government-initial-response-concluding-observations-issued-un-committee-rights-child/>

Press Release

First Minister's Eid Message

<https://x.com/theSNP/status/1802320294876455023>

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General Election

The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is tomorrow!

Tuesday 18 June.

[Click here to register](#)

The deadline to apply for a postal vote is

Wednesday 19 June.

[Click here to apply](#)

The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is

Wednesday 26 June.

[Click here to apply](#)

[Click here](#)

**to find out which candidates
will be contesting the election in your area.**

Manifestos

Conservative

<https://manifesto.conservatives.com/>

Labour

<https://labour.org.uk/change/>

Liberal Democrat

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>

Green

<https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/>

Reform UK

<https://www.reformparty.uk/our-contract-contents>

News

How do I vote if I'm on holiday on election day?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cydd7zj9m0do>

How Scotland's new election map reshapes the race

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-69053055>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

Review of Charity Regulation (closing date 22 July 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/third-sector/review-of-charity-regulation/>

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/

**** Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum**
(closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/

ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

Cyber Security Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/680a646c-5811-47f4-8958-588f1c794eca>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Faithful Welcome

Application deadline not stated

Faith in Community Scotland, and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees funding of up to £500 to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5kr6n>

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Closing date: 21 August 2024

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

**** Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland**

Closing date 4 September 2024

The Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland is for organisations taking action to realise and defend rights, and tackling immediate rights issues affecting people's daily lives. It will provide grants of up to £150,000 to third sector organisations whose work is explicitly focussed on human rights. for information and to apply see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/independent-human-rights-fund-for-scotland/>

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**** this week!**

Refugee Festival at V&A

until 22 June 2024 (Dundee, 10.00–5.00)

Immerse yourself in a celebration of diversity at V&A Dundee during the Scottish Refugee Festival, where you will be able to experience an enriching blend of cultures, traditions and diverse ways of life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msyn9cxf>

**** this week!**

Refugee Festival Scotland

Until 23 June 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland is an arts and community festival which takes place every year in the lead up to World Refugee Day, on 20 June. Each event helps to shine a light on the cultural richness and diversity of our communities. It is a celebration of the food and drink, music and poetry, art, dance, language and ideas that people bring with them when they settle in Scotland. For the full programme of events see

<https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/>

**** this week!**

New Scots Portraits

until 29 June 2024 (Glasgow, 9.00–5.00)

With New Scots putting down roots in communities across the country, this uplifting collection of portraits by Angela Catlin shows the resilience, pride and hope of people building new lives, from the Isle of Lewis to the Scottish Borders. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/243y2x3j>

**** this week!**

Speak Up for Sanctuary: Turning Compassion to Action

17 June 2024 (online, 5.00–6.00)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees workshop on how faith groups can find their voices and begin speaking up for refugees and people seeking asylum. For information see

<https://www.sfar.org.uk/speak-up-for-sanctuary-webinar/>

**** this week!**

Building Peace Together

17–23 June 2024 (Dalgety, 9.30–3.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland photography exhibition from Ukraine, taken by the church's Ukrainian Group, walk the Peace Labyrinth, and light a candle. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/4uzske5f>

**** this week!**

Garnethill Refugee Trail: Guided Walk

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre guided walk for Refugee Festival Scotland to explore some of the places around the Garnethill area which are connected with Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe – from the flats in which refugee artists lived, to the hostels where children from the Kindertransport stayed. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4nnpfnc>

**** this week!**

Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 5.30–9.00)

A Refugee Festival Scotland evening of short films about children who migrated to Britain

from El Salvador, linked with readings by people with lived experience of child migration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8n44jtb>

**** this week!**

Surviving Translation

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland documentary screening and panel discussion with contributors and director. This documentary is looking at mistranslation of female immigrants and irreversible consequences that it can have. It focuses on women who have lived through traumatic experiences in their home countries or during their difficult journeys to the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yck2n5mw>

**** this week!**

Through my eyes: the person behind my ‘status’

19 June 2024 (Glasgow, 11.00–3.00)

Meet the people behind the mask of ‘other’ that has been placed upon us. Refugee Festival Scotland collection of artwork – photography, textiles and spray painting – that translates our experiences, perspectives and dreams, along with our stories in order to introduce ourselves and give you a glimpse into our lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/45m4yhuf>

Introduction to refugees: asylum and resettlement

18 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand relevant legal definitions and processes including the UK asylum process, learn about the rights and entitlements of asylum seekers and refugees, and identify sources of support that empower people to live fully integrated lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/sbmevc64>

Introduction to working with interpreters

31 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable you to understand the roles and responsibilities of interpreters and service providers, understand the rights of the client – confidentiality, professional boundaries, advocacy and advice, know what to consider when planning for an interpreted session, and feel confident to manage the interpreting dynamic as a service provider. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxbdyc5>

Introduction to supporting refugee integration

10 September 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand the key principles of a rights-based refugee-led approach to integration, the underpinning principles of the Scottish integration framework and effective integration planning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9p9jdx>

Scottish Interfaith Week

11 to 18 November 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Celebrating 20 years of Scottish Interfaith Week, and encouraging people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Scots <https://newscots.scot/>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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) <https://www.scojec.org/>

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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/>



gov.scot

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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