



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 Scottish Parliament is in recess until 1 September 2024.

The State Opening of the UK Parliament will take place on 17 July.

Immigration and Asylum

Press Releases

Helping New Scots settle into communities

<https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-new-scots-settle-into-communities/>

Increase in net migration

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2024/increase-in-net-migration>

Experts welcome announcement to end UK-Rwanda asylum partnership

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/experts-welcome-announcement-end-uk-rwanda-asylum-partnership>

Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre: drugs, despair and decrepit conditions

<https://hmiprison.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/news/harmondsworth-immigration-removal-centre-drugs-despair-and-decrepit-conditions/>

People smuggler gets nearly a year extra time in jail for failing to payback over £65,000 of criminal profits in the Essex lorry deaths case

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/people-smuggler-gets-nearly-year-extra-time-jail-failing-payback-over-ps65000-criminal>

New Publications

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>

Updated: Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

Updated: Monthly monitoring of entry clearance visa applications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications/monthly-monitoring-of-entry-clearance-visa-applications>

Data tables, June 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/668d5a757541f54efe51bcae/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications-data_tables-june-2024.ods

Updated: Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

UK hopes to recoup cash from scrapped Rwanda scheme

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd1e2wqpd78o>

We don't have to repay UK for axed deal - Rwanda

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2lkqegz5k7o>

News: Channel Migrants

Cooper sets out plan to tackle small boat crossings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp08vyg436jo>

Four migrants die in English Channel crossing attempt

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0868512q8o>

Four people drown trying to cross Channel near Boulogne-sur-Mer

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/12/four-people-drown-channel-boulogne-sur-mer-france>

First small boats challenge for Keir Starmer as 400 migrants land

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/first-small-boats-challenge-keir-starmer-migrants-hknltsnjg>

Starmer admits small boats crisis could get worse before it gets better

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/10/starmer-small-boat-worse-better-migrants-channel-gangs/>

Starmer refuses to commit to 'stop the boats' mantra as he addresses Channel crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-stop-small-boats-crisis-b2577569.html>

Ex-counterterror chief ready to take charge of stopping small boats

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/ex-counterterror-chief-ready-to-take-charge-of-stopping-small-boats-cq206q9bn>

UK warned over treating child asylum seekers crossing Channel in small boats as adults

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/un-warning-asylum-children-age-small-boats-b2566467.html>

Labour win means 'open season' for Channel migrant crossings, claim Tories

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/10/labour-win-open-season-channel-migrant-crossings-tories/>

French police stand by as Channel migrants leave Normandy beach for Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/11/french-police-watch-migrants-leave-normandy-channel-britain/>

News: Ukraine

U-turn sees Ukrainian toddler reunited with refugee parents in UK as calls grow for government policy change

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-family-reunion-sponsor-b2577368.html>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

New Scots plan for 2024-2026 to be rolled out

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-plan-for-2024-2026-to-be-rolled-out/>

Migration in Scotland hits highest level in a decade

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24439991.migration-scotland-hits-highest-level-decade/>

Labour to allow 100,000 migrants to apply for asylum

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/08/labour-to-allow-100000-migrants-to-apply-for-asylum/>

Suspected people smugglers to be hit with travel bans in King's Speech

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/08/people-smugglers-hit-travel-bans-kings-speech/>

UK government urged to offer 'safe and legal' route for asylum seekers as poll shows support

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/14/uk-government-urged-to-offer-safe-and-legal-route-for-asylum-seekers-as-poll-shows-support>

Immigration centre shocking and dangerous - watchdog

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx82wq77229o>

Free bus travel for asylum seekers in Scotland 'from next year'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24443015.free-bus-travel-asylum-seekers-scotland-from-next-year/>

Pilot scheme will give free bus travel to asylum seekers

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/pilot-scheme-will-give-free-bus-travel-to-asylum-seekers-8qc2rztxn>

The SNP's bus passes for asylum seekers is a dangerous misstep

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/12/the-snp-giving-bus-passes-to-asylum-seekers-is-dangerous/>

Channel 4 series sees people experience 'perilous' migrant journey to UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-rwanda-britons-english-channel-africa-b2576336.html>

How Scotland's sex traffickers prey on illegal immigrants

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/revealed-how-scotlands-sex-traffickers-prey-on-illegal-immigrants-4694165>

Scotland to send asylum seekers to arts classes to tackle 'racist micro-aggressions'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/10/scotland-asylum-seekers-arts-classes-tackle-racism/>

Man living in UK since 1977 can stay - Home Office

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c98q08npq28o>

They fled from their home countries. Now, they'll compete in Paris for the Refugee Olympic Team

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-cuba-cuban-florida-spain-b2578154.html>

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Community Relations

New Publications

Free Resources for Scottish Interfaith Week

<https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/resources>

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Equality

New Publication

Scotland's Open Budget Survey 2023

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2738/scotlands-open-budget-survey-2023-report.pdf>

News

New report calls for greater budget transparency to realise human rights

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/new-report-calls-for-greater-budget-transparency-to-realise-human-rights/>

The power of open budgets: a tool to make human rights real in Scotland

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/blog/the-power-of-open-budgets-a-tool-to-make-human-rights-real-in-scotland/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

Jews in Europe still face high levels of antisemitism

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/jews-europe-still-face-high-levels-antisemitism>

New Publication

Jewish People's Experiences and Perceptions of Antisemitism

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2024-experiences-perceptions-antisemitism-survey_en.pdf

News

Europe facing 'wave of antisemitism', survey finds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c147w9572dvo>

Europeans are experiencing a 'wave of antisemitism', survey finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/article/2024/jul/11/europeans-are-experiencing-a-wave-of-antisemitism-survey-finds>

'I've lost friends' — is antisemitism rising in the arts?

<https://www.thetimes.com/culture/art/article/is-antisemitism-rising-in-the-arts-w008s2wlp>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: UK general election 2024 – Keir we go!

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2024/07/08/uk-general-election-2024-keir-we-go/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Our first steps for change

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/our-first-steps-for-change>

New Publication

Female Genital Mutilation, January - March 2024

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/january---march-2024>

News

House of Commons is most secular as 40 per cent of MPs affirm rather than swear oath to God

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/11/house-of-commons-oath-affirm-secular/>

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Other New Publication

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Updated Sector Overview Report

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/data-and-research/sector-overview/>

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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/

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2028** (closing date 3 October 2024)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/our-work/our-strategic-plan-consultation-2025-2028>

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

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://tinyurl.com/4jwfysf8>

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/>

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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Volunteering - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

17 July 2024 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course to explore what a human rights and equalities first approach is, how human rights and equalities are relevant to a volunteering programme, and how to apply human rights and equalities to volunteer recruitment practices and the culture of a volunteering programme. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3h5wkbrm>

**** this week!**

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>

Festival of Politics

19 to 23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh)

The Festival of Politics promises informed debate and inspiring topics on a range of social, political, and environmental issues facing the world today with leading experts from the worlds of politics, the arts, business, the media, academia and the third sector. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/>

Place and Displacement: reconnecting to the world through the arts

20 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 5.30–7.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss how the arts have been used to help reconnect forcibly displaced peoples cope with their new circumstances, process their sense of loss, and begin the journey to imagining a more hopeful future. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46pn52vz>

The Scottish Parliament at 25

23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 4.009–5.30)

Festival of Politics event about the Scottish Parliament – established with optimism, ambition, and an aim to do things differently, and based on principles of accountability and transparency, the Scottish Parliament has passed world-leading legislation and imbued a self-confidence in its electorate since 1999. So, what are its strengths and achievements and where can it do better? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2tr8c3aj>

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>

Progressing Human Rights

11 September 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland Conference to explore how can human rights be made more of a reality for more people in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fpzahjy>

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/>

National Interfaith Conference 2024

12 November 2024 (Dundee, 11.00–4.00)

To mark the 20th anniversary of Scottish Interfaith Week, Interfaith Scotland is hosting a National Interfaith Conference on the theme of “Discovery”. The conference will encourage people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/249ac37b>

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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 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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