



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.

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications

Scottish Refugee Council Guide for New Refugees

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/information-for-new-refugees/>

Review of the Seasonal Worker visa

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seasonal-worker-visa-review/review-of-the-seasonal-worker-visa-accessible>

Updated Guidance: Afghan citizens resettlement scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

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: 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: Channel Migrants

Border Force seizes yacht after Channel crossings
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd1x474637do>

Border Force returns small boat Channel migrants to France for first time
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/border-force-channel-migrants-small-boats-b2582449.html>

Border Force takes Channel migrants to France for first time as Starmer seeks Europe returns deal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/18/border-force-takes-migrants-back-france-channel-rescue/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

New Scots Leadership Programme Announced!
<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-leadership-programme-announced/>

UK pledges £84m to stop illegal migration 'at source'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czvxp9d5lrko>

EPC summit: Keir Starmer seeks new migrant deal in 'reset' with EU
<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/keir-starmer-european-union-migration-deal-87hd7nzm>

Keir Starmer says he is open to processing asylum seekers offshore
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/18/keir-starmer-says-he-is-open-to-processing-asylum-seekers-offshore>

New Border Security Bill announced in bid to tackle migrant Channel crossings
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-government-rwanda-yvette-cooper-home-office-b2581264.html>

'Sheer torment': Home Office apologises after asylum approvals retracted
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/15/sheer-torment-home-office-apologises-after-asylum-approvals-retracted>

Paused asylum claims will be dealt with 'as a priority', High Court told
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/home-office-yvette-cooper-labour-justice-government-b2582727.html>

Labour to fast-track plans to process asylum claims of migrants earmarked for Rwanda
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/17/labour-fast-track-asylum-claims-90000-migrants-rwanda-uk/>

The salesmen making millions from asylum hotels
<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/the-salesmen-making-millions-from-asylum-hotels-k776jfd66>

Nail bars and car washes to see immigration raid blitz, Yvette Cooper says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/yvette-cooper-immigration-boats-channel-b2583272.html>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Black and multi-ethnic communities: funding, experts, and organisations

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-28370] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to directly (a) fund and (b) engage with (i) experts and (ii) organisations in black and multi-ethnic communities.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: The Scottish Government approved £21 million of funding for the 2021-2024 period to support equality and human rights in Scotland through the Equality and Human Rights Fund [Equality and Human Rights Fund: projects funded](#). Of that total, nearly £5.5 million is specifically allocated to fourteen organisations delivering a range of activities to engage with and support black and minority ethnic organisations and communities in Scotland. Overall, the funded organisations have provided support to 4,168 people, and 747 organisations.

The Scottish Government also established a short term Anti-Racism Interim Governance Group to Develop National Anti-Racism Infrastructure (AIGG), which was comprised of academic experts, young people and community leaders with specific expertise in anti-racism in Scotland. An important part of the group's work was commissioning participatory community research [Community-Report- - Executive-Summary-September-2023.pdf](#) to engage with racialised communities across Scotland to ensure they are informed and engaged with the work being done to progress anti-racism in Scotland.

The Scottish Government has long-standing and continued engagement with a variety of organisations in the minority ethnic sector, including our strategic partners BEMIS, CRER and CEMVO, to collectively drive change for our diverse communities across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28370>

New Publication

Guidance on discriminatory adverts

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/guidance-discriminatory-adverts>

News

Discriminatory advert guidance updated

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/discriminatory-advert-guidance-updated>

Sadiq Khan to spend more than £2.5m on TfL diversity training

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/20/sadiq-khan-spend-25m-tfl-diversity-training-scheme/>

A window of opportunity

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/a-window-of-opportunity>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases

UK endorses new guidelines for countering antisemitism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-endorses-new-guidelines-for-countering-antisemitism>

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance: Glasgow plenary

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-holocaust-remembrance-alliance-glasgow-plenary>

New Publications

Police Race Action Plan: Independent Scrutiny & Oversight Board Annual Feedback Report

https://www.policeisob.co.uk/files/ugd/9e3577_53116603510b4d3784de5d4ca921fe01.pdf

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism: A Guide to Implementation for Sporting Institutions

<https://wjc-org-website.s3.amazonaws.com/horizon/assets/Vi7vJO-8/ihra-antisemitism-stadiums-a5-slamstudio-3d-nocrops.pdf>

Hostile Office: The Home Office is Racist by Design

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Hostile-Office-report.pdf>

News

Labour's Islamophobia policy threatens free speech

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/14/labours-islamophobia-policy-threatens-free-speech/>

New government must take responsibility for the police race action plan – Independent Scrutiny & Oversight Board

<https://www.policeisob.co.uk/news>

Plan to combat police racism needs full support of home secretary, report says
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/15/plan-to-combat-police-racism-needs-full-support-of-home-secretary-report-says>

Report hits out at ‘glacial’ progress in plan to stamp out police racism
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-race-action-plan-report-b2578918.html>

Met Police under fire for ‘racist’ emoji on social media photo
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/emoji-emojigate-met-police-racism-b2580422.html>

‘Anti-social behaviour makes me scared all the time’
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckvgkl5w7l4o>

‘I was given a pink prosthetic breast that did not match my skin tone’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/cancer-patients-wrong-prosthetics-wigs-b2582196.html>

Botanists vote to remove racist reference from plants’ scientific names
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/article/2024/jul/20/botanists-remove-racist-references-plants-scientific-names>

Waterstones apologises after ‘terrifying’ antisemitic book found in shop
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/irish-waterstones-antisemitism-hodges-figgis-b2580421.html>

France’s Olympics hijab ban labelled ‘racist gender discrimination’
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/16/france-olympic-hijab-ban-racist-gender-discrimination/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Deputy First Minister comments on King’s Speech
<https://www.gov.scot/news/deputy-first-minister-comments-on-kings-speech/>

New Publication

The King’s Speech 2024: What it means for Scotland
<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2024/07/17/the-kings-speech-2024-what-it-means-for-scotland/>

News

Trust in Scottish government at lowest level
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c80x159nztj0>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Julie Minns (Labour) [13] Britain's first black police officer, John Kent – That this House pays tribute to Britain's first black police officer, John Kent who died on 20 July 1886; notes that John Kent was the son of a freed slave, Thomas Kent; further notes that John Kent began his policing career in Maryport, Cumbria in 1835 before transferring to the Carlisle City Police in 1837; commends John Kent for his service, in particular his policing of the Carlisle election riots during which he and other officers were injured; and asks that the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art consider commissioning a portrait of Britain's first black police officer to mark the 220th anniversary of John Kent's birth which falls in 2025.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/62329>

Press Releases

King's Speech to unlock growth and "take the brakes off Britain"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kings-speech-to-unlock-growth-and-take-the-brakes-off-britain>

Ten things to know from the King's Speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ten-things-to-know-from-the-kings-speech>

Scottish Secretary responds to the King's Speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-responds-to-the-kings-speech>

New Publications

The King's Speech 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-kings-speech-2024>

King's Speech 2024: background briefing notes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6697ac9cab418ab05559271d/King_s_Speech_2024_background_briefing_GOV.uk.pdf

UK Covid-19 Inquiry: Module 1 Report – The resilience and preparedness of the United Kingdom

<https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/18095012/UK-Covid-19-Inquiry-Module-1-Full-Report.pdf>

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Other News

Scotland not properly prepared for pandemic – Covid inquiry

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cne4d03vm7jo>

UK 'failed citizens' with flawed pandemic plans
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6p2dng6z04o>

What is the UK Covid inquiry and what powers does it have?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-57085964>

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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

**** closes 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/

**** Pre-budget 2025-26 scrutiny - Third sector funding principles** (closing date 16 August 2024)
<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/third-sector-funding-principles/>

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>

**** Intimate Image Abuse Research** (closing date not stated)
<https://t.co/X1cGnXygg3>

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://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/>

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

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>

**** New Scots Leadership Programme 2024-25**

Deadline for applications: 28 August 2024

September 2024 to March 2025

Scottish Refugee Council programme for 16 refugees/asylum seekers to take part in the fourth cohort of the New Scots leadership programme. Learners will be given the opportunity to develop strategic leadership skills, and access tools to create impact and build a strong community with other refugees living in Scotland. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=2159>

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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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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