



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 and UK Parliaments return from recess on 2 September 2024.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Refugees: Safe Routes

Ariane Burgess (Green) [S6W-28743] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on people in Scotland who are refugees, what representations it has made to the UK Government regarding applying the lessons learnt from the schemes to support people from Ukraine and explore ways to offer safe routes to others seeking sanctuary.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: Safe and legal routes are crucial to enabling people to seek safety when forced to flee war and persecution. We will continue to engage with the UK Government on issues which impact people living in Scotland, including refugees, people seeking asylum and displaced people. This engagement includes sharing lessons from the experience of over 27,000 Homes for Ukraine visa-holders

arriving in Scotland, over 21,000 of which were sponsored by the Scottish Government. We also hope other governments can learn from our work implementing the pioneering New Scots refugee integration strategy; which is a UK-leading integration approach built on a partnership led by the Scottish Government, COSLA and Scottish Refugee Council. We look forward to working closely with the UK Government to deliver a system that is effective and more humane.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28743>

The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2024/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Christine Grahame (SNP) [S6M-14177] Afghan Medical Students – That the Parliament welcomes the arrival of 19 female Afghan medical students in Scotland; understands that these students were banned from completing their studies by the authorities in Afghanistan and that they will now complete their studies in Scotland; further understands that this effort has been spearheaded by Scottish charity, the Linda Norgrove Foundation, which has been supporting the women and secured agreement with four Scottish universities, St Andrews, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen, for the students to continue their medical degrees, and that, in addition, the Scottish Government amended student funding legislation to ensure that the women are treated as home students and receive free tuition and cost of living support; believes that gender should never be a barrier to accessing education, and wishes all the women the warmest of welcomes to Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-14177>

Press Releases

Home Secretary announces new measures to boost Britain's border security

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-measures-to-boost-britains-border-security>

Afghan medical students arrive safely in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/afghan-medical-students-arrive-safely-in-scotland/>

Update on referrals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-referrals-under-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Gang members sentenced in sham marriage documents scam

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gang-members-sentenced-in-sham-marriage-documents-scam>

People smuggler who crammed 7 migrants into lorry convicted

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggler-who-crammed-7-migrants-into-lorry-convicted>

Man involved in smuggling people into the UK in the back of a van is convicted

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-involved-smuggling-people-uk-back-van-convicted>

People smuggling ring jailed for cramming migrants in boot of car

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggling-ring-jailed-for-cramming-migrants-in-boot-of-car>

New Publications

Home Office budgeting and asylum overspends

<https://ifs.org.uk/articles/home-office-budgeting-and-asylum-overspends>

Immigration system statistics, year ending June 2024

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

Safe and Legal (Humanitarian) routes to the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/safe-and-legal-humanitarian-routes-to-the-uk>

How many people do we grant protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/how-many-people-do-we-grant-protection-to>

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation-2023>

How many people are granted settlement or citizenship?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/how-many-people-are-granted-settlement-or-citizenship>

How many people have been granted settlement via the EU Settlement Scheme?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/how-many-people-have-been-granted-settlement-via-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Regional and local authority data on immigration groups, year ending June 2024

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf74a8dcb0757928e5bd4c/regional-and-local-authority-dataset-jun-24.ods>

Immigration Enforcement data: Q2 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c4aa0b2e8f04b086cdf494/IE_Q2_2024_Publication_file_v2.ods

RASI (Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration) data: Q2 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c4af71d10184fe9b13e4a1/UKVI_RASI_Q2_2024_Published.ods

Windrush Task Force data: Q2 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c4b3ae808b8c0aa08fa842/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q2_2024.ods

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: July 2024

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66cef59b68c68ce5dc8b2207/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-tables-jul-2024.ods>

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: Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

Updated: Afghan bridging hotel exit operational data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-bridging-hotel-exit-operational-data>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - August 2024

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-august-2024>

Updated: Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by age and sex of applicant

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c60403cbe60889bddd27e5/Ukraine_Sponsorship_scheme_visas_-_by_age_and_sex_to_30_June_2024.ods

Updated: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

Analysis of Ukrainian nationals in employment in the UK, March 2022 to June 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c5f46fcbe60889bddd27d7/Counts_of_Ukrainian_Nationals_in_Employment_-_March_2022_to_June_2024.ods

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

It's good news for us, say migrants after Rwanda threat lifts

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/channel-migrants-rwanda-threat-lifts-good-news-n5q6ch9wc>

News: Channel Migrants

More than 500 migrants cross Channel for second day in a row

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/29/more-than-500-migrants-cross-channel-second-day-row-uk/>

Surge in Channel migrants takes total for the year over 20,000

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/surge-in-channel-migrants-takes-total-for-the-year-over-20000-tz9mkc89p>

Boat carrying 60 migrants 'seconds from sinking' in Channel crossing

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/30/migrant-boat-nearly-sinks-channel-crossing-children/>

Smugglers cram three times as many people on Channel migrant boats

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/20/smugglers-cram-three-times-as-many-channel-small-boats/>

News: Afghanistan

Afghan women arrive in Edinburgh to finish medical degrees denied under Taliban

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/21/afghan-women-arrive-in-edinburgh-to-finish-medical-degrees-denied-under-taliban>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Home Office criticised for billions of asylum overspending

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2npgpz048o>

Home Office repeatedly overspent billions on asylum due to 'woeful budgeting', fiscal watchdog reveals

<https://www.independent.co.uk/politics/asylum-immigration-home-office-rachel-reeves-b2603124.html>

Visa numbers for migrants down more than a quarter

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/visa-numbers-for-migrants-down-more-than-a-quarter-29g6rzhx7>

14,000 illegal migrants will go by end of year, vows Yvette Cooper

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/14000-illegal-migrants-will-go-by-end-of-year-vows-yvette-cooper-5rn3ttknm>

Yvette Cooper: I'll lock up and deport more migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/21/yvette-cooper-labour-lock-up-more-migrants/>

Yvette Cooper facing backlash over immigration crackdown as plans to ramp up deportations revealed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/yvette-cooper-small-boats-migrants-b2599480.html>

Record number of migrants granted asylum

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/22/number-asylum-seekers-granted-refugee-status-highest-level/>

UK's asylum backlog creeping up after 32% dip

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-yvette-cooper-government-labour-rwanda-b2600144.html>

UK asylum backlog rose before election despite Sunak pledge to cut numbers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/22/uk-asylum-backlog-rose-before-election-despite-sunak-pledge>

Ex-Border Force chief fires immigration warning at Labour

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/ex-border-force-chief-fires-immigration-warning-at-labour-0v68xh6wb>

UK immigration strategy increases risk of exploitation, say charities

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/30/uk-immigration-strategy-increases-risk-of-exploitation-say-charities>

Almost 30,000 asylum seekers in hotels, but number has fallen

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/hotels-refugee-action-iran-people-tamworth-b2600346.html>

Thirteen asylum seekers have died by suicide since 2022

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/thirteen-asylum-seekers-have-committed-suicide-since-2022-0ql0zsb9z>

Urgent protections needed for asylum seekers in hotels, say refugee groups

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/26/urgent-protections-needed-for-asylum-seekers-in-hotels-say-refugee-groups>

Number of UK asylum seekers who died in Home Office care doubles in a year

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/19/number-of-uk-asylum-seekers-who-died-in-home-office-care-doubles-in-a-year>

Scotland has a plan for refugees — England should learn from it

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/scotland-plan-refugees-england-northern-ireland-learn-28t3xv7mq>

Scotland scraps free bus travel for asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjw3n63ypjwo>

Charities condemn move to axe free bus travel for asylum seekers

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/charities-condemn-move-to-axe-free-bus-travel-for-asylum-seekers-4748605>

Refugee family separated for 10 years finally reunited in Glasgow

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/refugee-family-separated-for-10-years-finally-reunited-in-glasgow>

Mother reunited with family in Glasgow 10 years after fleeing Sudan

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24543501.mother-reunited-family-glasgow-10-years-fleeing-sudan/>

Kirk opposes scrapping free travel plan for asylum seekers

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/kirk-opposes-scrapping-free-travel-plans-for-asylum-seekers>

Healing in the face of hate

<https://www.sfar.org.uk/healing-in-the-face-of-hate/>

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Equality

New Publication

Broken Britain: Voices from the frontline of the fight for everyday rights

https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2024-08/ESCR_BriefingV17%20%281%29.pdf?VersionId=JnTAQrdV9A8ljy2fk4C0WVif010KD7Zm

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

Rights experts urge United Kingdom to curb hate speech

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153496>

New Publications

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Concluding observations on the combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<https://tinyurl.com/mt93dfft>

Do bar and nightclub bouncers in Glasgow treat BME groups differently from their white counterparts?

<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/nightclub-bouncers-glasgow>

News

Crack down on racist hate speech, UN tells UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgl21053rdzo>

UN report blames politicians, public figures and media for fuelling hate speech in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/un-riots-politicians-hate-speech-b2600774.html>

UK must curb rise in racist hate speech by politicians and public figures, UN says

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/23/un-urges-uk-to-tackle-rise-in-racist-hate-speech-by-politicians-and-public-figures>

Hate crime measures back on agenda despite fears for free speech

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/hate-crime-measures-labour-free-speech-latest-0k3dcpjpg>

Welsh librarians told to avoid 'racist' venues

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/society/article/welsh-librarians-told-to-avoid-racist-venues-bn8dkj85q>

This rush to define Islamophobia will harm free speech

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/this-rush-to-define-islamophobia-will-harm-free-speech-hjsqvknr>

Fighting racism: a trade union and community response

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/fighting-racism-trade-union-and-community-response>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Recorded Crime in Scotland, year ending June 2024

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-year-ending-june-2024/>

New Publication

Report: Recorded Crime in Scotland, year ending June 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/bdh7ryes>

Data Tables

<https://tinyurl.com/yuk7zpvz>

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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

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

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Connections Fund

Closing date 4 September 2024

Scottish Government funding of between £2,000 and £5,000 to help strengthen Scotland's international diaspora. The Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from any individual or organisation with a Scottish connection, whether that link is through heritage, education, business, culture, or a broader affinity. For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply/>

**** closes this week!**

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!**

PANEL Workshop: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach in Practice

4 September 2024 (online, 10.00–1.00)

3 October 2024 (online, 1.00–4.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach using the PANEL principles for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information about the September event see <https://tinyurl.com/2kpfze3e> For information about the October event see <https://tinyurl.com/sy9weepe>

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>

**** Human Rights and Equalities Workshop**

17 September 2024 (paisley, 10.00–2.00)

THRE workshop in collaboration with Engage Renfrewshire to explore how to apply a Human Rights and Equalities First approach to the work of Third Sector organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2mjyu2se>

**** The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach**

25 September 2024 (online, 10.00–3.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more or are just curious about what a human rights and equalities first approach might be. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2z5b97e8>

**** Scotland's Programme for Government: What does it mean for Human Rights?**

26 September 2024 (online, 12.00–1.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland discussion about the Scottish Government's latest Programme for Government and its impact on human rights in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/w2javsx6>

Faith and the Future of Scotland

27 September 2024 (St Andrews, 8.30–5.00)

Scotland's Future, and St Andrews University School of Divinity discussion on how faith can positively shape the future of Scotland by dialoguing across religious and political divides. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5c4hudzk>

**** The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach**

15 and 16 October 2024 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Two-day THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more or are just curious about what a human rights and equalities first approach might be. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yv2p3b7f>

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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