

# Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

## Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Israel](#)

[Consultations](#)

## Home Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Schools: Admissions

**Lord Alton of Liverpool:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will "facilitate inclusive admissions policies in as many [faith] schools as possible", as set out in *The Coalition: Our Programme for Government*; what effect that will have on the ability of such schools to determine their admissions policies; whether they intend to set quotas for such schools; and what assessment they have made of the impact on the ethos of such schools.[HL128]

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford):** The department has strong and productive working relationships with all faith groups, founded on respect for the high quality education they have provided for many years, and I am looking forward to continuing working with them on these issues.

As set out in *The Coalition: Our Programme for Government*, we will work with providers of faith based education to ensure that the schools they run serve their communities. All school admission arrangements have to comply with the statutory requirements of the school admissions code and related legislation. This ensures that all school places are awarded in a fair and open way. Schools that are their own admission authority will continue to be able to set their own admission arrangements and must ensure that they are compliant with the code. Many faith schools already admit children that are of another, or of no faith, helping ensure that their intake reflects the diversity of these communities. To support our new expansion of the academies programme we have made it clear that existing faith schools that convert to become academies will retain the ability to set their own admissions criteria and may continue to use faith based criteria in line with the admissions code.

We fully understand how important it is for schools to have and express their own distinct ethos. This is why the admissions code allows all schools to include in their admission arrangements a factual statement about their ethos. However, this is just one way for a school to communicate its ethos; schools are also free to develop and underline their ethos through their curriculum, assemblies and daily acts of collective worship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100616w0003.htm#10061668000287>

## Justice Department

### Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice Department 2008/9

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/stats-race-and-the-criminal-justice-system-2008-09c1.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Israel

### European Parliament

#### **Europe unites over Gaza**

An international and impartial inquiry into Israel's attack on a humanitarian flotilla, the opening of all crossing points to and from Gaza and an immediate end to the blockade are among Parliament's demands in a resolution passed on Thursday. MEPs also advocate reshaping the EU's Middle East policy, to make it more decisive.

Israel should immediately end the Gaza blockade, which has resulted in a humanitarian disaster, paralyzed the Gaza Strip's reconstruction and economy and aggravated political radicalisation, say MEPs. At the same time, they call on EU High Representative Catherine Ashton to submit an EU plan to the Quartet to help end the blockade.

To address Israel's security concerns, MEPs proposes international monitoring of the crossings, including the re-activation of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EU-BAM). Parliament calls on Hamas to stop all attacks against Israel immediately, and also to free Gilad Shalit, the Israeli sergeant kidnapped by Hamas in 2006 and held incommunicado ever since.

The EU-Israel Association Council and the EU-Palestinian Authority Joint Committee should be convened to discuss the current the Middle East crisis, adds the resolution.

Although recent events have damaged relations between Turkey and Israel, Parliament encourages the Turkish government to focus its diplomatic and political effort on easing the plight of the Palestinian people and contributing to the Middle East peace process.

The resolution was approved in a roll-call vote, with 470 votes in favour, 56 against and 56 abstentions.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus\\_page/008-75601-158-06-24-901-20100607FCS75591-07-06-2010-2010/default\\_p001c017\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-75601-158-06-24-901-20100607FCS75591-07-06-2010-2010/default_p001c017_en.htm)

*The transcript of the debate is not yet available online*

[TOP](#)

## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Academies Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/academieshl.html>

Amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/001/amend/am001-f.htm>

#### **Identity Documents Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

# Scottish Parliament

## End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

### **\*\* closes today**

**Continuing need for a controlled activity category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme (England and Wales only)** (closes 17 June 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1710&external=no&menu=1>

**Reform of the coroner system** (closes 1 July 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-coroner-system.htm>

**Identity Documents Bill** (Committee consideration to be completed by 8 July)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/06/identity-documents-bill-committee-issues-call-for-evidence/>

**Equality Act: obtaining information in potential discrimination and equality of term cases** (closes 13 July 2010)

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new\\_streamlined\\_procedure\\_for.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx)

**Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001** (closes 15 July 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2010-pathogens-toxins/consultation-paper2835.pdf?view=Binary>

**Welsh Assembly Review of Standing Orders** (closes 16 July 2010)

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3\\_inq\\_so.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3_inq_so.htm)

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SCO29438