

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Policy Studies Institute

Making the most of daylight hours: the implications for Scotland

http://www.psi.org.uk/pdf/2010/SCOTLAND_DAYLIGHT_FINAL_v4.pdf

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Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Israel

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to Jordan and Israel on the continuing decline in the level of water in the Dead Sea.[HL2854]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Government believe it is important that there is a fair and equitable allocation of water resources in the Levant. There are huge pressures on the waters of the River Jordan and its tributaries, which feed the Dead Sea, from both Israel and Jordan, as well as the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria and Lebanon.

Embassy officials regularly discuss with Jordanian Ministers and other stakeholders Jordan's plans to address its future water and energy needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101028w0001.htm#10102831000674>

Lebanon

Lord Turnberg: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to the Government of Lebanon about the alleged build up of missiles by Hezbollah on its border with Israel.[HL2797]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are concerned by reports of weapons transfers to Hizballah. My honourable friend Alistair Burt raised the issue with Prime Minister Hariri during his visit to Lebanon earlier this year. Our Ambassadors in Beirut and Damascus regularly raise the issue of weapons transfers to Hizballah at senior level, including most recently with the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, where we

underlined the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which calls for the disarmament of all armed groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101028w0001.htm#10102831000675>

United Nations

Ban urges parties to Middle East peace talks to overcome hurdles

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today reiterated his call on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to work with determination to overcome obstacles to the peace talks ... "The parties must engage with determination to overcome obstacles and find a way for the negotiations to bring about a comprehensive peace," Mr. Ban [said](#) in a message to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean ([PAM](#)), which opened today ...

The Secretary-General said the UN remains committed to providing assistance to the Palestinian people, and voiced support for steps taken by the Palestinian Authority towards creating institutions of "a future independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36601&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Daylight Saving Bill

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

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

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

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/amend/ml019-i.htm>

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/098/amend/psc0982810a.925-931.html>

Scottish Parliament

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes today**

Consultation on the change to policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund

(closes 29 October 2010)

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7313.aspx>

Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency (closing date 10 November 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order (Scotland) (closes 26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

Charity Commission: Proposed withdrawal of paper forms for Annual Returns, Registration applications, and forthcoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations (closes 2 December 2010)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About us/About the Commission/ols consultation_intro.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About%20us/About%20the%20Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx)

Equality Act 2010 - Performance of the Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales

(closes 17 December 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/equality/equalityact2010/?lang=en>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education (closes 31 December 2010)

http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen

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