

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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House of Commons Written Answer

Antisemitism

Tom Brake [63230] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps (a) he and (b) the Government has taken to make public its policy against Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism since May 2015.

Marcus Jones: The Government has a clear policy of tackling anti-Semitism and condemns any organisation or individual that attempts to deny the Holocaust. In December 2016, the Prime Minister announced that the UK is the first European Union country formally to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism. We believe that the definition, although legally non-binding, is an important tool for criminal justice agencies, and other public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century. In addition we recently published a progress report on our efforts to tackle anti-Semitism which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-semitism-update>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-06/63230/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leads-the-way-in-tackling-anti-semitism>

Welsh Assembly Written Answer

Faith Schools

Darren Millar: What is the Welsh Government doing to encourage the development and growth of faith schools in Wales? (WAQ72026)

Kirsty Williams: Whilst the Welsh Government does not actively promote the establishment of schools with a religious character, it recognises the historic and continuing contribution that such schools make to education across Wales. The Education Act 1996 provides that local authorities shall have regard to the general principle that pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents, so far as that is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure. Therefore, local authorities need to aim for a balance of provision between the types of

schools that they can maintain bearing in mind the need for efficiency and effectiveness.

The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme includes provision for inclusion of Faith Schools. The Programme is delivered in partnership with Local Authorities and Further Education Institutions, and it is our partners that prioritise the projects that need to be delivered.

There is no individual link to the above written answer, but it is included at

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/plenaryitem.aspx?category=written%20question&itemid=3370&language=cy&assembly=>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

Assisted Dying Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/assisteddying.html>

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/culturalpropertyarmedconflicts.html>

Lobbying (Transparency) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/lobbyingtransparency.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Promotion of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (United Kingdom Participation)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/promotionofisraelipalestinianpeaceunitedkingdomparticipation.html>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes in 2 days**

Consolidation and revision of the school governance regulatory framework in Wales (closing date 17 February 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/consolidation-and-revision-school-governance-regulatory-framework-wales>

**** closes in 6 days**

Measurement framework for equality and human rights (closing date 21 February 2017)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-measurement-framework/measurement-framework-consultation>

Racism at work (closing date 27 February 2017)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RacismAtWork>

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (Scotland) (closing date 14 March 2017)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

The UK's policy towards the Middle East Peace Process (closing date 30 March 2017)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/middle-east-peace-process-inquiry-16-17/>

Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill (closing date 10 April 2017)
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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