

# Political Affairs Digest

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*  
**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**  
**SCoJeC**

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## Home Affairs

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Definition of anti-Semitism

**S5W-07668 Ross Thomson:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-05829 by Angela Constance on 11 January 2017, whether it has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

**Angela Constance:** We agree with the definition produced by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and consider the resolution they have adopted to be a helpful guide to the different manifestations of anti-Semitism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-7668>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05829>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israel: Foreign Relations

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Alistair Carmichael [66610]** To ask the Prime Minister, whether in her meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel she discussed (a) freedom of expression and assembly and (b) her Government's policy on the work and civil society organisations raising human rights concerns in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

#### Israel: Human Rights

**Alistair Carmichael [66611]** To ask the Prime Minister, whether in her meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel on 6 February 2017 she discussed the work of Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations that report and document human rights.

#### Israel: Non-governmental Organisations

**Alistair Carmichael [66612]** To ask the Prime Minister, whether she discussed UK

funding of Israeli and Palestinian non-governmental organisations with the Prime Minister of Israel during his visit to the UK on 6 February 2017.

**Theresa May:** I refer the right hon. Member to the statement issued on 6 February following my meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel and which is available on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-israeli-prime-minister-netanyahu-6-february-2017>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66610/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66611/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66612/>

### **Israeli Settlements**

**Tom Brake** [66721] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the Prime Minister raised the Land Regularisation Bill during his recent discussions with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

**Tobias Ellwood:** I issued a statement on 7 February condemning the land regularisation law. We are gravely concerned by the law, which will retroactively legalise 53 outposts and pave the way for significant growth in settlements deep in the West Bank, threatening the viability of the two-state solution. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) both expressed their grave concerns about settlements and the land regularisation law when they met Prime Minister Netanyahu in London on Monday 6 February.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66721/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-the-middle-east-tobias-ellwood-statement-on-israels-land-regularisation-bill>

### **Israel: British Nationals Abroad**

**Paula Sherriff** [66919] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for British citizens of new legislation in Israel preventing the granting of entry permits, visas and residency rights to foreign nationals supporting a boycott of Israel and the Israeli settlements.

**Tobias Ellwood:** We are seeking clarification from the Israeli Government on the potential impact on British nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66919/>

### **Palestinian Authority: Overseas Aid**

**Ian Austin** [67153] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, to clarify how UK aid supports the Palestinian Authority's centralised education service.

**Rory Stewart:** UK direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority is used for the sole purpose of contributing to the salaries of West Bank public servants responsible for providing essential services in the education and health sectors, including both frontline teachers and administrative staff in the Ministry of Education.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-08/67153/>

### **Palestinians: Terrorism**

**Theresa Villiers** [67242] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the Palestinian Authority on alleged payments to convicted terrorists.

**Tobias Ellwood:** The Government has consistently raised prisoner payments at the highest levels with the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organisation, and we continue to urge that these payments are more transparent, needs-based and affordable.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67242/>

### **Palestinians: Terrorism**

**Theresa Villiers** [67243] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for the Middle East Peace Process of the alleged practice by the Palestinian Authority of paying salaries to convicted terrorists.

**Tobias Ellwood:** Payments to Palestinian prisoners are made by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which has full administrative control for the monthly payments that are provided to prisoners' families and ex-detainees. We have not made any assessment on the implications of these payments for the Middle East Peace Process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67243/>

## **House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Israel: Bedouin**

**Lord Hylton** [HL5738] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to prevent the demolition of the village school in Al Khan al Ahmar in the Occupied Territories.

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government is gravely concerned about continued demolition of Palestinian property by the Israeli authorities, including plans to demolish the Bedouin village of Khan al Ahmar. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) raised this issue with the Israeli Ambassador to London on 1 March. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv last raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities on 28 February.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-01/HL5738/>

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## **Foreign Affairs**

### **House of Commons Written Answer**

#### **Iran**

**Jim Shannon** [66755] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with his counterpart in Iran on Iran's (a) nuclear programme and (b) diplomatic relations with Israel.

**Tobias Ellwood:** The UK and Iran, as parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme, regularly discuss Iran's nuclear programme,

both bilaterally and in the Joint Commission with France, Germany, the US, China, Russia and the EU. The upgrade to full diplomatic relations with Iran in 2016 enables us to discuss all manner of issues, including regional affairs and Iran's policy towards Israel.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66755/>

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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>

#### **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 8 days**

#### **Reforming GCSEs, AS and A levels in biblical Hebrew** (closing date 23 March 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-biblical-hebrew>

#### **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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