

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

Muslim Brotherhood Review

Daniel Kawczynski [69138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for the Government's policies of the findings of the 2014 Sir John Jenkins review; and if she will take steps to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the findings of that report.

Sarah Newton: The Government stands by the 2015 Muslim Brotherhood Review's findings and the commitments made by the former Prime Minister in his statement to Parliament concluding the review in December 2015. The Government will keep under review the views promoted and activities undertaken by the Muslim Brotherhood's associates in the UK and will consider action if and where legal thresholds are met.

The former Prime Minister confirmed to Parliament that the full Muslim Brotherhood Review report will not be published because the material provided for it, often by foreign governments, was provided in confidence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-27/69138/>

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Holocaust

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Peter Bottomley (1139) National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre – That this House believes that the Prime Minister's Office, and all those concerned with the location and operation of the proposed prominent National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, should, together with the Department for Communities and Local Government and other key stakeholders, compare the merits, demerits and costs of sites at Millbank by Tate Britain, the Imperial War Museum, Potters Field and Victoria Tower Gardens.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1139>

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House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Immigration

Caroline Lucas [68841] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on recent proposed changes to its immigration policy and procedures; and if he will make a statement.

Tobias Ellwood: Our Deputy Ambassador to Tel Aviv met with Israel's Europe Director on 13 March to discuss the new immigration law, and we continue to push for clarification from Israel on the impact on British nationals.

The British Government is strongly opposed to the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel. But we believe the best way to combat this movement is through argument rather than legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/68841/>

Occupied Territories: Human Rights

Gavin Shuker [68958] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential effect of US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council on human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement.

Tobias Ellwood: The UK is a strong supporter of the Human Rights Council. We were proud to be re-elected as members last year. It is in all our interests to strengthen the rules-based international system. But the Council's current approach of a hugely disproportionate focus on Israel does not support human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, nor further the goal of a two-state solution. US engagement in the Human Rights Council is a matter for the US Government and we would not issue a statement regarding it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/68958/>

Israel: Entry Clearances

Jim Cunningham [69175] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has received on the recent law passed by the Knesset in Israel barring supporters of boycotts from entering Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and if he will make a statement.

Tobias Ellwood: Our Deputy Ambassador to Tel Aviv met with the Israeli authorities on 13 March to discuss the new immigration law, and we continue to push for clarification from Israel on the impact on British nationals. We have updated our travel advice for Israel.

The UK is strongly opposed to the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel. But we believe the best way to combat this movement is through argument rather than legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-27/69175/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Yesh Din: Grants

Lord Polak [HL6139] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the value for money to the UK taxpayer of the 690,189 shekels (£154,000) grant given to Yesh Din in 2016.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Each project funded by the UK is in line with British Government policy. The money allocated to Yesh Din supported our objective of preserving the viability of a two-state solution.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-16/HL6139/>

Israel: Gaza

Lord Polak [HL6140] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of renewed construction of tunnels into Israel by Hamas; and of the impact of those tunnels on progress towards a two-state solution.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We remain deeply concerned by Hamas attempts to rearm and rebuild militant infrastructure, including the tunnel network in Gaza. Hamas rearmament undermines efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and harms the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-16/HL6140/>

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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>

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

Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill (closing date 10 April 2017)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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