

# 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 Answers

#### Islamophobia

**S5W-08278 Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00690 by Angela Constance on 23 February 2017 (Official Report, c. 2), what steps it is taking to ensure that Islamophobia is not a barrier to young Muslims participating in politics and society.

**Angela Constance:** We are committed to tackling Islamophobia in all its forms, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that young Muslims are able to participate fully in society at all levels. We will continue to tackle hate crime, encourage people to report it, and challenge prejudice and intolerance wherever it exists. Our vibrant and multi-faceted minority communities make a significant contribution to our national life – we will ensure that continues to be recognised and celebrated.

We are supporting a programme of work through a coalition of equality organisations to increase representation of women, disabled people, and those from Black Minority Ethnic communities and faith groups – as well as Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex communities - in politics.

Young Scot is working with the Scottish Government's Race Equality Team, through a co-design model for race equality in Scotland of young people from minority ethnic backgrounds and communities in realising the vision and ambition of the Race Equality Framework. To advance race equality, tackling racism and addressing the barriers that prevent people from minority ethnic communities from realising their potential.

We have provided over £300,000 of funding to Show Racism the Red Card, Amina and Interfaith Scotland from the Equality Budget during 2016-17 to help promote equality and address discrimination. Of this funding Amina has been delivering workshops in secondary Schools since 2012 to tackle Islamophobia and raise awareness of Islam.

On World Interfaith Harmony Day - 7 February 2017, Interfaith Scotland and St. Ninians School collaborated on an Interfaith event to encourage harmony between all regardless of faith. This was attended by over 200 young people attended from 6 schools.

Show Racism the Red Card has a project Tackling Contemporary Racism delivers a transformative educational programme to young people across Scotland to educate against formation of racist attitudes including Islamophobia.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8278>

*The answer referred to in the above question can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10798&i=98967#ScotParlOR>

### **Islamophobia**

**S5W-08279 Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00690 by Angela Constance on 23 February 2017 (Official Report, c. 2), in light of the barriers arising from Islamophobia and gender stereotyping, what steps is it taking to enable young Muslim women to participate in politics and society.

**Angela Constance:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-08278 on 13 April 2017 which addresses this question in part and is available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

In addition, we are committed to tackling gender stereotyping in all its forms, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that young Muslim women are able to participate fully in society at all levels. We are taking a range of steps to advance gender equality and tackle violence against women, and a draft delivery plan for our Equally Safe strategy was published on 23 March setting out ambitious steps in this area.

The Scottish Government is funding Amina £111,534 and Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations Scotland (CEMVO) with funding of £62,000 for 2016/17. CEMVO is establishing a minority ethnic Women's network and aiming to hold a number of related events in 2017 to link in to the Race Equality Framework (REF) actions. The first event was held on 22 February, with over 90 women attending. As well as looking at the vision, purpose and structure of a possible network for Minority Ethnic women, discussion took place on employability issues, with potential solutions identified. Additionally over the course of 2017 we will organise a series of Themed Roundtables linked to REF themes involving policy officials with key experts from a range of statutory and third sector organisations and academia. One of these Roundtable events will focus on employability and, amongst other sources, will consider the feedback gathered at the minority ethnic women's network event.

Amina works to promote equality for Muslim Women by tackling prejudice, hate crime and inspiring community cohesion. Amina's Building Bridges project focuses on Muslim, Minority Ethnic women in Dundee to provide information and support on a range of areas from mental wellbeing to registering to vote. Building confidence and participation that strengthens Muslim, Minority Ethnic women of all backgrounds to fulfil their potential and participate fully.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8279>

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## House of Commons Oral Answers

### Hannah Bladon

#### **The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Boris Johnson):**

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to begin by paying tribute to the Britons who were killed in tragic circumstances in Stockholm and Jerusalem. Chris Bevington was among four people who died in Sweden when a truck was driven into helpless pedestrians on 7 April. Hannah Bladon was stabbed to death in Jerusalem on Good Friday in a senseless attack. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-04-18/debates/44BA2CB7-F44F-4AA5-9E80-861781949F82/SyriaAndNorthKorea#contribution-B0314D00-5F05-4FDD-B099-A8BF5CB155FB>

### Hannah Bladon

**Gisela Stuart:** Hannah Bladon was a student at Birmingham University, and our thoughts and prayers are with her, her family and her friends. As a result of her having been stabbed to death in Jerusalem, has the Foreign Office changed any of its travel advice?

**Boris Johnson:** I repeat my condolences to the family of Miss Bladon. All I can say is that although we are offering consular assistance to her family, at the moment we are not changing our general advice about travel to Israel.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-04-18/debates/44BA2CB7-F44F-4AA5-9E80-861781949F82/SyriaAndNorthKorea#contribution-6DA7EE63-A387-413F-A37B-56A26171919F>

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Israel: Entry Clearances

**Drew Hendry** [69464] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Israeli Government on the effect of recent law changes on the ability of UK citizens to support the rights of the Palestinian people.

**Tobias Ellwood:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 30 March 2017 (PQ 68841).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69464/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

*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.*

### Hugh Lanning

**Andy Slaughter** [70119] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his oral contribution of 28 March 2017, Official Report, column 107, what the nature of the consular assistance was that was offered to Mr Hugh Lanning both during and after his deportation from Israel on 12 March 2017; and how that offer of

assistance was communicated to Mr Lanning.

**Tobias Ellwood:** I refer the Hon. Member to the Foreign Secretary's answer to his question in this house on 28 March, where it was confirmed that we did not provide assistance to Mr Lanning, as he did not request assistance from us. We were ready to provide consular assistance in the event that it was requested. All British nationals outside the UK are eligible to ask for consular assistance. The nature of the support will vary depending on individual circumstances.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-30/70119/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-28/debates/03A572B3-C1EE-44DB-8DF7-5B8BE5BA768E/IsraeliSettlementGoods#contribution-65D2A89F-A9FD-4232-BC48-327C434F22FD>

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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

#### **Independent review of hate crime legislation** [in Scotland] (closing date 12 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/2f6c8d5f/>

#### **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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