

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Police Service of Northern Ireland

Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2017

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/2016-17/q4/quarterly-hate-motivations-bulletin-period-ending-mar17.pdf>

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Israel

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

First Minister's Questions

Anas Sarwar): Today, the Israeli ambassador, Mark Regev, is in the Scottish Parliament. Will the First Minister or any representative of her Government be meeting him? If so, can she deliver a very loud and clear message: that, after 50 years of Palestinian oppression, the illegal occupation of the West Bank, the illegal expansion of settlements and the illegal siege of Gaza must end; that the free access of food, medicines and supplies into the Gaza strip must be allowed; and that the ambassador must understand that without justice, equality and freedom, there can never be peace?

The First Minister: Fiona Hyslop will meet the Israeli ambassador later today, but during that meeting she will deliver on behalf of the Scottish Government a very strong message on justice for Palestine and for Palestinians covering the very issues that Anas Sarwar raises.

This Government has been very clear on our support for people in Gaza and on the range of injustices and hardships that they suffer and have suffered many times. I have led a debate in this chamber about Gaza. Ultimately, of course, we remain committed to the two-state solution in Palestine. That message will be delivered strongly by Fiona Hyslop on behalf of the Scottish Government when she meets the ambassador later today.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10952&i=100160&c=2000521#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-05645 Ivan McKee: Human Rights Violations in Palestine – That the Parliament understands that 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the 50th anniversary of the military occupation of Palestine and the 10th anniversary of the siege of Gaza; notes the current commemorations of the Nakba (The Catastrophe), which remember the forced displacement in 1948 of over 750,000 Palestinians and the seizure and destruction of their homes; believes that, 69 years later, Israeli land confiscations and house demolitions are increasing, in violation of international law, while almost 1,800 Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli jails are on a mass hunger strike in an effort to gain the most basic human rights, which it considers are currently denied to them; acknowledges the data collected by the Israeli human rights organisation, B'tselem, which reportedly details the almost 10,000 Palestinians, including 2,000 Palestinian children, killed by Israeli security forces in the occupied territories in recent years; considers, in light of this, the timing of the visit of the Ambassador of Israel to the UK, Mark Regev, to the Parliament on 18 May 2017 to be particularly insensitive, and calls on those who are meeting with him formally to raise these issues in discussion.
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-05645>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

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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