

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Department for International Development

Lord Bates

Department for Work and Pensions

Damian Hinds

Penny Mordaunt

Ministry of Defence

Earl Howe (and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords)

In addition:

Treasurer of HM Household (Deputy Chief Whip)

Julian Smith

Paymaster General

Mel Stride

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/election-2017-ministerial-appointments>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre

How did Scotland Vote? - UK General Election 2017

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2017/6/12/How-did-Scotland-Vote--UK-General-Election-2017/SB/2017/40.pdf>

Scottish Government

Next steps on tackling hate crime

A series of practical measures have been set out to tackle and prevent hate crime in Scotland, focused on tackling prejudice and building stronger communities.

Responding to the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime which reported in September, Communities and Equalities Secretary Angela Constance has confirmed:

- Creating a delivery group of key partners with Ministerial oversight to ensure the advisory group's recommendations lead to meaningful changes on the ground ...
- Tackling hate crime in the workplace ...
- A public campaign aiming to prevent hate crime by raising awareness of what hate crime is and how to report it and showing perpetrators the impact of these crimes on victims
- Adopting the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's definition of anti-Semitism – driving work to tackle this form of prejudice

Angela Constance said: "These actions will drive practical measures in the months and years ahead that demonstrate Scotland's leadership in the fight against hate crime. We are making abundantly clear that there is no place here for intolerance, discrimination or violence.

"We must continue to tackle the underlying causes and conditions that allow hatred and intolerance to flourish. It is vital in these challenging times that we remain united, which is why we are redoubling our efforts to promote fairness, equality and a respect right across our society." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities - Scottish Government response to the report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion

... In some cases, specific terminology exists that has been agreed internationally and which helps to better define these issues. One example is the definition of anti-Semitism which was agreed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in May 2016. We have already said that we find the definition to be helpful in describing manifestations of anti-Semitism. We will adopt the definition to inform our work in this area, and work with stakeholders to better understand how the definition translates into improved practice for tackling anti-Semitism. ...

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520818.pdf>

Welsh Assembly

National Assembly Commission sets out plan for name change

The Assembly Commission has agreed to legislate to rename the National Assembly for Wales as the Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru before the end of this Assembly. ...

The change will be taken forward as part of a wider programme of reforms being considered following the transfer of the relevant powers by the Wales Act 2017. ...

To read the full press release

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=1725&assembly=5>

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Israel

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign Secretary statement on settlement units in the West Bank

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said: We condemn the announcement of yet further settlement units in the West Bank. Settlements are illegal under international law, and not conducive to peace. This spike in settlement activity makes a two state solution, with an Israel that is safe from terrorism and a Palestinian state that is viable and sovereign,

harder to achieve.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-settlement-units-in-the-west-bank>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-06039 Ivan McKee: Amnesty Campaign to Oppose the Purchase of Products from Illegal Israeli Settlements – That the Parliament welcomes the news that Amnesty International is launching a campaign to oppose the purchasing of products from illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land in order to prevent money from going towards what it considers to be the appalling treatment of the Palestinian people in these areas; opposes the building of these illegal settlements, which, it believes, makes finding a peaceful solution in the region more difficult; understands that Amnesty is organising an event in London on 13 June 2017 that will be attended by both the distinguished human rights lawyer, Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, and Michael Lynk, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, and wishes Amnesty all the best with the campaign.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-06039>

United Nations

Concerned about Public Criticism of Palestine Refugee Agency, Secretary-General Calls on Member States to Continue Supporting Its Essential Services

The Secretary-General is concerned about recent public criticism of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the integrity of its operations. He wishes to express his support for UNRWA and his admiration for the role it plays in delivering essential services and protecting the rights of millions of Palestine refugees across the Middle East.

UNRWA is mandated by the General Assembly, whose members have repeatedly acknowledged the Agency's unique contribution to peace and security in that region. UNRWA operates in the front lines of difficult conflict situations and provides education for half a million refugee girls and boys, teaching them human rights and tolerance. Its education and relief activities contribute critically to stability in the region.

The Secretary-General calls on all Member States to continue their support to the Agency in order for UNRWA to be in a position to fulfil impartially and efficiently its essential role and to implement its humanitarian mandate to serve Palestinian refugees until a just and durable solution to their situation is found.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sgsm18568.doc.htm>

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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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