

MEETING Ministers

Tackling sectarianism was one of the SNP's top manifesto commitments, and the first legislative proposal of the new Government was the *Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill*, which they originally wanted on the statute book before the summer. Although a delay has since been announced to allow more consultation, SCoJeC had already received an urgent invitation from Roseanna Cunningham, the new Community Safety Minister, to discuss the proposals.

The Bill creates two new statutory offences. The first proscribes religiously motivated offensive football-related behaviour in public, including at broadcasts, public screenings, etc. It covers all the equality characteristics, including ethnic or national origin, so catches both the abuse of Israeli and Palestinian flags by Old Firm fans, and disorder at matches involving Israeli teams in Scotland.

The second new offence is making threatening communications, including implied threats. This includes written, electronic, or recorded communications such as voicemail, and communications from abroad, but drama and theological debate are excluded.

We welcome these efforts to clamp down on hatred and bigotry, and are pleased that Parliament will now be able to give them greater scrutiny. In particular we appreciate the fact that the intention is to cover all religious hatred rather than only sectarianism in the narrow sense, and that there is explicit reference to communications from abroad; this will assist the authorities to act against the kind of internet hatred that the Jewish Community has unfortunately experienced.

We had also requested an urgent meeting with Michael Russell, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, about recent incidents in a number of Scottish universities. This became more urgent when the University and College Union in effect resolved that the Macpherson principle that "a racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person" should not apply to antisemitism (see page 5). This means that Jewish students cannot necessarily expect academic staff to defend them, and the Jewish Student Chaplaincy Board is having to deal with an increasing number of cases of quite severe stress. The Minister assured us of his support, undertook to make his concern about these developments clear to university authorities, and offered to address a Jewish student meeting in the near future.



TOP LEFT: WITH ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM, MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS; AND ABOVE: WITH MIKE RUSSELL, CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



SCoJeC goes digital



This month sees the re-launch of our facebook, Jewish Chronicle, and twitter pages. "Follow" and "Like" them to keep up-to-date with all our events and activities. The facebook page allows users the chance to interact, comment, post their own stories, and participate in discussions. The development of new social media makes this an exciting time, and we are delighted to be part of it!

facebook: tinyurl.com/scojec-facebook

twitter: twitter.com/scojec

JC: thejc.com/blogs/scojec

and, of course, our own website www.scojec.org which is crammed with news, information, and a huge variety of resources!

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www.scojec.org

Please send your comments and contributions to Four Corners

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LORD WINSTON LAUNCHES the online 'Jewish Way of Life'

The *Jewish Way of Life* software is a resource for teachers and pupils that runs on the SCoJeC website, and is based on the very successful CD-ROM that is based on the travelling exhibition that is based on the original box of Jewish artefacts that Ruth Winston-Fox used to take round schools to show them something of the Jewish religion.

We were therefore very pleased that her son, Lord Robert Winston, who also features in the resource, was able to join us for the launch. He said, "It is a great pleasure to be associated with this latest development of the *Jewish Way of Life* Exhibition, with which my late mother was so closely associated for so many years, and I congratulate the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Learning and Teaching Scotland for bringing this initiative to fruition."

The other main speaker at the launch was Stewart Stevenson MSP, who stood in at short notice when the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell, was unable to attend due to illness. However, he sent his good wishes, saying: "Good quality education is essential to the fabric of a multi-cultural Scotland. That is why it is important for us to recognise what an important tool education is for tackling discrimination and promoting equality and cultural awareness. I am delighted to see the development of resources such as *The Jewish Way of Life* that will help achieve these goals, and provide the skills to learn, understand, and respect the value of different values and beliefs and make a better future for all of society."

The event was also attended by councillors and officials from East Renfrewshire Council, and by pupils from local schools, and included a tour of Giffnock Synagogue led by Rabbi Moshe Rubin.

The software was demonstrated to the visitors by pupils from Calderwood Lodge Primary School (pictured right top and centre). The head teacher, Vanessa Thomson, commented: "We were delighted that we could be part of the SCoJeC project. Our children have found the resource to be an interesting and active way to help them express and articulate their understanding of their beliefs and practice. We were all very proud of the four children who showed ease and confidence in presenting the resource. Set alongside the other high profile and interesting speakers, it made it a lovely event."

The collaboration with SCoJeC also involved the Pears Foundation, which produced the original CD-ROM and sent a copy to every school in England and Wales, the Board of Deputies, which administers the travelling exhibition, and Learning and Teaching Scotland, who converted the software so that it can be run from any computer on the internet. It has been very well received, and teachers who tested it have commented that it is well structured to allow them to select appropriate sections for individual pupils, that it fits very well with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, and that it helps pupils to take ownership of their learning.

Try it out for yourself at <http://www.scojec.org/resources/jwol/jwol.html>



Scotland & its Jews — A Trip to Paradise

BY RONALDO GOMLEVSKY

LEFT, RONALDO PHOTOGRAPHING THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL IN KIRKCALDY

BELOW, CHATTING WITH SARAH BRONZITE AND CHRISSE NYSSSEN IN ABERDEEN SYNAGOGUE

I thank Hashem for having offered me the opportunity to find out about Scotland and its Jewish communities for a special edition of the Brazilian *Menorah* Magazine, and SCoJeC for helping me to organise the trip. I spent twelve unforgettable days, meeting Jewish people in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews, and taking photos of so many different synagogues and of Calderwood Lodge Jewish primary school in Glasgow.

I was present at the festivities of Yom Ha'Atzmaut and at the Yom HaZikaron memorial service. I talked with Orthodox and Reform rabbis, the Chief Executives of the welfare organisations, with communal leaders, teachers, and students, and was welcomed into your homes.

I was particularly impressed with the excellent work done by Cosgrove Care to support people with learning difficulties, and by Jewish Care's work with elderly people throughout Scotland, and in their Kandu and Thistle Clubs. I was sad with the members of Clarkston Synagogue when I found out it has to close because people have moved away to other neighbourhoods. I enjoyed myself at Glasgow Maccabi where I found photos that made me remember my country, and also the Maccabi Brazil flag, and at the Archives Centre where I found out so much about the history of the community. I also explored Scotland more widely, visiting several important and historic places.

From Loch Lomond to Urquhart Castle, and Loch Ness to the Highlands, from that most well-known of Scottish musical instruments the bagpipes, to the good whisky and beers, from fields of barley and oilseed rape to Edinburgh Castle, from Aberdeen Angus cattle to Glasgow Cathedral, from the River Clyde to the River Tay, from Victorian architecture of the big cities to the modern architecture of the Scottish Parliament, and from the Palace of Holyrood house to St. Andrews Castle, I recorded everything through the lens of my camera. But it is also engraved in my heart as one of the most fantastic experiences I have had in all my travels through more than 80 countries. This trip was one of the most pleasant in all my life as a journalist. All of you should know that you have, forever, a friend in Rio de Janeiro.

See the special edition of *Menorah* magazine at

www.menorahnet.com.br/anterior/pdf/620%20revista%20menorah.pdf

בת קול מירושלים

A VOICE FROM JERUSALEM



Dorothy Berman's War of Independence Diary

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
AUBREY ISAACS

In early November 1947, Dorothy Berman, then aged 20, travelled from Glasgow to France, where she set sail for Palestine to participate in a leadership training programme organised by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem. Dorothy was a youth leader in Habonim, and was the only Scot selected to join the international group of idealistic Diaspora youth leaders. She landed in Palestine at a unique moment, when the future of the Zionist movement was under debate. Days after her arrival in Jerusalem, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine, opening the path towards Jewish statehood. It also heralded the beginning of the War of Independence and the siege of Jerusalem.

Dorothy, who at that time hebraised her name to Devora, found herself witness to historical events of great drama and importance. She kept a diary in which she wrote every day, recording the unfolding events of the War of Independence. She also wrote heroically long and detailed letters to her worried parents and sisters in Scotland, hoping to shield them from her fears and concerns. She took many photographs and saved mementos.

As Israel was born and entered into a struggle for her very survival, Dorothy became trapped in besieged Jerusalem. She joined the Haganah where she performed guard and lookout duties, built roadblocks, and worked as a hospital assistant. She had many adventures and came perilously close to enemy action. She documented her experiences and her fears in her diary, as well as the optimistic and positive letters most of which never made it or only arrived months after they had been written. She keenly felt the dangers of the war that overtook her life, and yet deeply appreciated and celebrated the miracle to which she was witness – the rise of the independent Jewish state.

At the end of the year Dorothy returned to Glasgow and became a youth leader in Bnei Akiva. She married Bernard Isaacs and her own plans for aliyah were delayed. In 1990, Dorothy belatedly fulfilled her ambition and returned permanently to Israel, settling in Jerusalem.

When Dorothy's health declined several years ago she left her home to move to nursing care. It was then that her son Aubrey (who had worked as Director of Jewish Education in Glasgow) rediscovered the four volumes of her diary, fifteen of her letters home, and her photographs and documents from the period of the War of Independence. Aubrey gathered and edited all the material into a moving book entitled *A Voice from Jerusalem*. It provides an intensely personal insight into the last months of the British mandate and the early days of the State of Israel through Dorothy's young eyes. It tells of meetings with people now famous, describes living in conditions of severe food and water shortage, yet captures the excitement and sense of hope that filled Jewish hearts around the world as Israel arose miraculously from the ashes of the Holocaust.

Dorothy Isaacs died in February 2010 and this book was published to mark the first anniversary of her passing.

TOP: DOROTHY BERMAN (ISAACS)

LEFT CENTRE: LETTER HOME USING THE BRAND NEW STAMPS OF THE JEWISH STATE. (THE STAMPS WERE PREPARED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND BEFORE THE NAME OF THE NEW JEWISH STATE HAD BEEN DECIDED.)

LEFT: 30TH NOVEMBER 1947: ZION SQUARE, JERUSALEM. WITH FRIENDS GAZING AT THE CEREMONIAL HANGING OF THE ZIONIST FLAG ON TOP OF THE CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

RIGHT: WITH FRIENDS STUDYING IN AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



This intriguing photo from the large collection of old photos at the Archives Centre dates from the 1960s and seems to be the opening of a new facility at the Glasgow Board of Shechita's abattoir. The importance of the event is shown by the large number of communal leaders at the time in attendance, including Rabbis Herling, Gottlieb, Shapiro, Dryan, and Benarroch, and Reverends Balanow and Grant.

HARVEY KAPLAN
DIRECTOR, SCOTTISH JEWISH ARCHIVES CENTRE



THANKS TO HELLO DELI FOR DONATING THE PRIZE

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the

CAPTION COMPETITION

from issue 29 is
Dvora Grant with

**Are we all in this
together? Oy Vey!**

SOME THOUGHTS ON Tisha b'Av

MARC LIVINGSTON

For me, Tisha b'Av, the fast on the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av, is the forgotten Jewish holiday. Whilst I have strong memories from my years at Calderwood Lodge of planting trees in the school playground for Tu b'Shvat (the new year for trees), eating chocolate when my class had its designated hour in the hut attached to the back of the lunch hall on Sukkot, and of dressing up as a fine looking Thunderbird for the primary 3 Purim party, I have no memories whatsoever of Tisha b'Av.

Why is this? Surely a school that provided me with such a broad and deep Jewish education must have marked the day somehow? Actually, no, it didn't. And the reason why is simple – Tisha b'Av falls during the summer holidays!

Yet as I have got older, the relevance of the day has increased dramatically. Tisha b'Av nearly always falls during the period in July and August when youth movements run their camps and Israel tours.

A major lesson to be learnt is never to underestimate the power of informal education through youth movements. Whatever Jewish education you have had, you can always learn something more just by being involved with other Jewish youngsters your age from all over the world. My most poignant Tisha b'Av memory comes from when I ran a ceremony on the Haas Promenade in Jerusalem for the forty 16-year-olds participating in the FZY tour group. The Promenade overlooks the whole of the Old City, and just looking at the faces of these teenagers as they realised where they were and how they could connect to this day is something that will stay with me forever.

But what is the importance of this date for you as a Jew in Scotland today? According to Jewish tradition, this is the day that marks why we live in this glorious country! On this day, in the year 70 CE, the second Temple was destroyed, and so began the exodus of the Jewish people from biblical Israel to the Diaspora. And nearly 2000 years later, we have all ended up here!

You'd like to think that would be enough. Dayeinu. But it's not. Tisha b'Av is also the day of various other catastrophes from Jewish history:

- ❖ *The First Temple, built by King Solomon, was destroyed by the Babylonians.*
- ❖ *The First Crusade was declared in 1095, killing 10,000 Jews in its first month.*
- ❖ *Jews were expelled from England in 1290.*
- ❖ *Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492.*
- ❖ *On Tisha b'Av 1914 (August 1), World War I broke out.*
- ❖ *On the eve of Tisha b'Av 1942, the mass deportation of the Warsaw Ghetto Jews began.*
- ❖ *The Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires was bombed, killing 86 and wounding 300 on Monday July 18, 1994, the 10th of Av.*

Whatever your level of Jewish observance and identity, something in that list is bound to resonate with you. Please don't let the same knowledge gap exist for you or your child as it did for me. Whether you mark the day by doing the complete 25 hour fast, or just by telling your child one of the various stories associated with this date – please mark it somehow!

CALENDAR

The "Three Weeks" between the Fasts of 17 Tammuz and 9 Av are a time of mourning the destruction of the Temples.

FAST OF 17 TAMMUZ:
dawn till
nightfall 19 July
FAST OF 9 AV:
evening 8 till
nightfall
9 Aug

THE *Talking Peace* PROJECT

ALICK ISAACS WAS BORN IN GLASGOW AND IS A SCHOLAR AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND HARTMAN INSTITUTE IN JERUSALEM. HIS BOOK *A PROPHETIC PEACE* DEVELOPS FROM AN ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPERIENCES AS A COMBAT SOLDIER IN THE SECOND LEBANESE WAR IN 2006 INTO AN ORIGINAL PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM HIS FINAL CHAPTER

While writing this book, I have also been working on a small but significant project that grew out of the aspiration to create a fresh discourse about peace in the Middle East. Bringing together and engaging people who had never previously met constructively reassures me that progress is possible.

We rejected the popular notion that a silent majority is enough. We sought to bring together representatives of the full scale of Israel's political spectrum with the objective of building a vocal majority in favor of peace. We invited rabbis from settlements, thinkers, and leaders of influence to engage in a year-long process of intra-national discourse.

On one occasion we travelled to meet with one of the most influential rabbinic leaders of the settlers who had lost their homes in the evacuation of the Gaza Strip. As we sat in his temporary home, we listened to his account of its devastating impact on his community. He spoke with passion about his efforts to win support for his cause. I asked him to imagine what impact he could have if he made the same efforts to win support for peace – as he perceives it. He turned to his wife and asked, "What should I say to that?" "I think you should listen," she said. He did, and joined our group.

There were many truly transformative moments. One example stands out. One settler leader told us he had dreamed that, on the way to our meeting, he had stopped to pick up hitchhikers. Later, he realised one of them was a Hamas bomber. He described how he stopped the car, ordered everyone out, and protested that it was not fair to behave like this. "I gave you hospitality. I picked you up! Why are you doing this? It is against your faith as much as mine!" In the dream the terrorist was convinced and removed his explosives belt. The settler took him to the police and told them to behave decently. "He is our enemy", he said, "but you must not violate his honor". This was the end of the dream. The group sat flabbergasted by this medley of associations. I gently asked him what he felt the dream meant. His answer was, I think, amazing. He asked to be introduced to Palestinians that he could talk to.

It was not that his beliefs had changed, but his openness to engage with the 'other'. Coexistence is possible without the resolution of significant differences. Perhaps that is what is meant by the wolf lying down with the lamb – for its coexistence with the lamb to be meaningful, the wolf must still be a wolf.

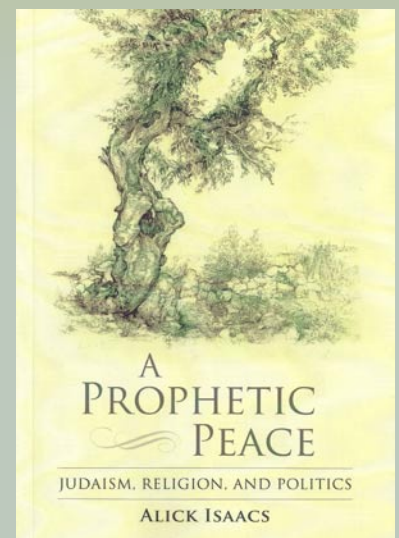
YOU CAN HEAR ALICK ISAACS
SPEAK ABOUT HIS PROJECT:

**EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF
SPIRITUALITY AND PEACE:**
FRI 26 AUG, 10.30 AM,
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, PRINCES ST

**GLASGOW: SUN 28 AUG,
4.00 PM, GIFFNOCK SYNAGOGUE**

**ABERDEEN: MON 29 AUG,
6.30 PM, QUEENS CROSS
CHURCH, ALBYN PLACE**

CONTACT SCoJeC FOR MORE DETAILS



SCoJeC Four Resign

FROM UNION OVER ANTISEMITISM

Gillian Raab. Following our AGM in June, SCoJeC Council unanimously agreed to endorse their decision, and their resignation letter says that, as "members of ... the representative council for Scotland's Jewish communities, now that UCU has adopted a racist policy towards Jews, these positions have become incompatible. We are resigning in consequence."

This move was prompted by the Union voting to repudiate the definition of antisemitism proposed by the European Monitoring Centre (EUMC), because its examples include using traditional antisemitic stereotypes to criticise Israel, and 'holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel'. "By claiming that the EUMC definition 'silences debate'," they wrote, "UCU is claiming a licence to vilify Jews in service of its political aims". They also point out that to deny those problems is to deny Jewish experience. Because the UCU resolution wants to exclude only one kind of racism – antisemitism – from the Macpherson principle, that "a racist incident is any incident that is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person", it is itself antisemitic.

SCoJeC does not take a position on matters relating to Israel unless they affect Jewish people in Scotland. The UCU decision does just that. Jewish students and the student Chaplain report clearly antisemitic incidents masquerading as anti-Zionism on Scottish campuses. This hostility drives students away from J-Soc events, and now the UCU decision could deter academics from offering them support when they are attacked.

The Council also agreed to write to all Scottish universities, asking them to consider whether their relationship with UCU is compatible with the Equality Act, which "requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations".

Four SCoJeC members have joined many other Jewish academics in resigning from the University and College Union (UCU) in protest at its adoption of a policy that legitimises antisemitism. The four are SCoJeC Chair, Paul Spicker; immediate past Chair, Walter Sneader; Director, Ephraim Borowski; and Council member

Never like this in Glasgow!

Ellis & Susan Simpson
made aliyah in 2009 but still
have some things to get used to ...

THE POST OFFICE

Susan went to the post office in Ra'anana to buy some stamps. After taking a number and waiting her turn to be called, Susan approached the clerkess.

*Susan: "I'd like a dozen airmail stamps for the UK."
Clerkess: "I've only got eight."*

Susan looks at the clerkess, waiting for her to ask one of the three other clerks for more airmail stamps. That doesn't happen.

Susan keeps looking at the clerkess, waiting for her to go into the back store – this is the main post office, after all – to fetch more airmail stamps. That doesn't happen.

Susan, unsure if she is dreaming this, takes the path of least resistance and continues in her mission.

*Susan: "OK. And I'd like five stamps for posting letters inside Israel."
Clerkess: "I've got a set of ten here. They're really nice; you'll take the ten."*

Susan, still unsure if she is dreaming this, pinches herself. Nothing happens. This is real.

Susan: "Er, ok, all right then."

Susan goes back home thinking: it was never like this in Glasgow!

THE BICYCLE UNIT

We're both keen cyclists and are now members of the Bicycle Unit of the Civil Guard in Ra'anana, a kind of Reserve Police force, and every so often we go out on night patrol to keep the streets safe. Since it's normally too dangerous to cycle on the streets, we keep the streets safe by cycling on the pavement, but that's a minor matter...



Dundee News

SHARON LEVY &
PAUL SPICKER

Dundee Synagogue is now back in action! A disastrous series of leaks in the harsh winter brought down ceilings, and the extensive damage caused the building to be closed for nearly six months. The repairs are now completed, and as part of this the synagogue has a new kitchen, much better suited to kosher catering than before. Rabbi Rose visited us last month to inspect the facilities and advise on matters of kashrut, and also led a well-attended discussion on Shavuot and the week's parshah.

With the synagogue closed, this year we celebrated Purim in grand style in a special location in the North East Fife. A few extraordinary characters descended on the small village of Strathkinness to enjoy yummy home cooking, playing 'king of the castle' and preparing Mishloach Manot parcels, whilst the adults engaged in a highly meaningful ... chit chat. Our youngest community member (to date) had special hosting duties as the hall we occupied was her playgroup 'palace'. Dressed for the occasion as a princess, she took control of all the cowboys, action man, and Paul Spicker – the mighty Chair of SCoJeC!

A few weeks later our skilful chef braved the showers to produce fantastic kosher cuisine for our traditional spring BBQ in Dundee, after which, with full stomachs, we held our AGM. With the election of new officers, plans for exciting 'outreach' work with communities in St Andrews and Aberdeen, and a decision to explore the possibility changing our charitable status to a SCIO, the future of Dundee Hebrew Congregation looks bright!



Working with Other Communities

Engaging with other communities has always been an important part of SCoJeC's role, and our Director, Ephraim Borowski, has now been elected Convener of BEMIS, the ethnic minority infrastructure body of which he has been Vice-Convener for the past 5 years. SCoJeC and BEMIS have worked closely together throughout that time on projects such as the immensely successful interfaith pilgrimage in 2008 (see Four Corners 19).

Rami Ousta, Chief Executive of BEMIS, said, "The cooperation between BEMIS and SCoJeC has, for a long time, been instrumental in promoting and supporting the ethnic and cultural minorities in Scotland and promoting community cohesion and the race equality agenda as a whole. Ephraim's commitment has been key to this process, and we look forward to him continuing this role as the Convener of BEMIS."

Kirking of the Parliament

On the evening before the sitting of the new Scottish Parliament, SCoJeC Director Ephraim Borowski read a specially-composed prayer in Hebrew and English at the "Kirking" of the new Parliament in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, in the presence of Prince Edward, the Duke of Wessex.

The service of music and readings was attended by many of the newly-elected MSPs, including the First Minister and the leaders of the other parties, and representatives of all sections of public life in Scotland. It was a genuinely interfaith event: the sermon was delivered by Archbishop Mario Conti, an Imam read from the Koran, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Primus of the Episcopal Church, and the Archbishop, jointly blessed the new Parliament.

Following the service, Ephraim and SCoJeC Deputy Director Leah Granat attended a reception in Parliament Hall. This was a valuable opportunity to meet and congratulate new and returned MSPs, and renew acquaintance with representatives of other faith communities and leaders of civil society in Scotland with whom we have had dealings over the past decade.



Communal Briefing

DON'T LET GOVERNMENT DAMAGE YOUR ORGANISATION!

SCoJeC's third annual briefing for communal organisations on changes to legislation that could impact on the community was attended by nearly 30 representatives from more than 20 communal organisations.

Presentations included information about the new "Protection of Vulnerable Groups" scheme that has replaced the old "Disclosure" system. Everyone, paid or volunteer, who works with children, young people, or adults who are deemed to be 'vulnerable,' must become a scheme member, as must their immediate supervisors, and those responsible for making employment decisions about them. Although still complex, the improvements in the new scheme are significant: people no longer have to apply for separate checks if they work with a number of different organisations, and most of those who only have incidental or occasional supervised contact with children or vulnerable adults do not have to be scheme members.

The second session covered Charity Law, including the requirements for charities to include their Scottish Charity Number on all printed material, and for "cross-border charities" that operate in Scotland as well as England or Wales, to register with both the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the Charity Commission.

Much concern was voiced about the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011, which stipulates that a quarter of all deaths will be randomly selected for review. Although this is not yet in force, a pilot of the new rules is expected to begin early next year and is expected to result in burials being delayed. Bereaved relatives will only be notified that a death has been selected for review when they go to register the death, and in most cases burial will not be able to proceed until the review is completed. In some cases this may only take a few hours, but at other times, for example, if a death has taken place on a Friday or before a bank holiday, there may be a delay of several days. This will place grieving families in a difficult situation, uncertain of when the funeral can take place.

There is a provision in the Act to allow relatives to apply for registration and burial to proceed in parallel with the review, but this is entirely at the discretion of the area Medical Reviewer. There is therefore concern that this could result in inconsistency, as is currently the case in cases of sudden and unexpected deaths referred to the Procurator Fiscal – in Dundee more than a third of such post-mortems are conducted by non-invasive methods ("view and grant") while in Glasgow all but 1% are invasive.

Next the meeting discussed Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs). This new status provides charities with a legal identity independent of their members and Trustees, thereby acquiring the power to make legal agreements in their own name, whilst also limiting the personal liability of their Trustees. The procedure for becoming a SCIO is very straightforward, and provides substantial benefits at minimal cost.

See MEMO+ at <http://tinyurl.com/scojec-memo-scio>

Finally, the meeting received an update about the project on "Being Jewish in Scotland" that SCoJeC is working on with the Scottish Government, and provided feedback on a new pilot questionnaire.

Feedback on the event has been extremely positive, with both content and presentation scoring on average around 4.25 on a 5-point scale.