

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Home Affairs

Department for Work and Pensions

Ethnic Minority Advisory Group invites applications for membership

... EMAG provides advice to the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force ... It reviews planned initiatives to ensure they have the best chance of success, makes recommendations on new initiatives that Government could take forward and examines existing policies to advise if they are working as intended. Applicants are being sought from various sectors including education, voluntary and community groups, training providers, faith groups and employers ...

Membership of EMAG is voluntary and unpaid. The group meets quarterly, usually in London. ... The closing date for applications is Friday 26 February 2010. For further details ... please visit: <http://www.emetaskforce.gov.uk/index.asp> or telephone Christine Wright on 020 7449 5630.

To read the full press release see

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2010/january-2010/dwp008-10-180110.shtml>

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Holocaust

Downing Street

POW's Auschwitz story gives hope for the future

The Prime Minister has described former British Prisoner of War at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Denis Avey, as a truly remarkable man, after meeting him in the run up to Holocaust Memorial Day. Denis Avey helped a Jewish prisoner survive the camp by swapping clothes with him and taking his place in the camp on two separate occasions, allowing the Jewish prisoner to receive vital food and rest in the British camp. ... Mr Brown and his wife Sarah welcomed Mr Avey along with Holocaust Survivor Ben Helfgott MBE, Chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, Lord Janner, and two student ambassadors to Downing Street. The PM also signed the Holocaust Memorial Day Book of Commitment.

Gordon Brown said: "As we approach Holocaust Memorial Day, a time to reflect on the

horrors of the past, it is people like Denis Avey and his extraordinary acts of kindness and compassion for others, that give us hope for the future. His story is even more poignant on this, the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; a reminder of the unimaginable cruelty faced by those held there and why we must continue to fight persecution and intolerance wherever it is found.”

- Read [Denis Avey's story](#) on the BBC website
- Visit the [Holocaust Educational Trust](#) website
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22242>

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[Israel](#)

United Nations

Israel compensates UN for damages during last year's Gaza offensive

Israel has paid the United Nations \$10.5 million for damage to the world body's properties in Gaza during last year's Israeli offensive against Hamas. During the three-week operation, which Israel says it launched in response to rocket attacks against it, Israeli shells struck the UN's main centre in Gaza City, setting ablaze a warehouse with hundreds of tons of food and medicine, and at least three UN schools run for Palestinian refugee children were also attacked. The incidents were investigated by the UN Headquarters Board of Inquiry early last year, after which Israel and the UN held discussions over compensation.

“With this payment, the United Nations has agreed that the financial issues relating to those incidents referred to in the terms of reference of the Board of Inquiry are concluded,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's spokesman Martin Nesirky told a news briefing today. “The Secretary-General would like to record the cooperative approach that the Government of Israel has shown in the course of the discussions that led to this settlement.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33559&Cr=gaza&Cr1=>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

**** Children, Schools and Families Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/childrenschoolsandfamilies.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/amend/pbc0082201a.101-102.html>

**** Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/constitutionalreformandgovernance.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/004/amend/pbc0042201a.437-443.html>

Crime and Security Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/crimeandsecurity.html>

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Supplementary to the Fourth marshalled list of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/amend/su20-iva.htm>

Flood and Water Management Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/floodandwatermanagement.html>

Scottish Parliament

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

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Consultations

** new or updated

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment (Scotland only) (closes 2 February 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Communities and Local Government: Creating a Single Equality Scheme for 2010 – 2013 (closes 28 February 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/987402.pdf>

Proposal to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to simplify the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices; and Temporary Event Notices (closes 9 February 2010)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6498.aspx

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