

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Other Relevant Information](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

Downing Street

Gordon Brown speech: Transforming Politics

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22337>

Home Office

Public reporting mechanism for terrorist material on the internet

The public will be able to report suspected terror-related and violent extremist websites to the police in a new online scheme launched by the Home Office today. A [dedicated Directgov webpage](#) will be linked to a new national police team within the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Prevent delivery unit, who can investigate offensive and extremist sites.

The pilot scheme aims to make the internet a more hostile environment for terrorists and violent extremists who seek to exploit modern technology. If a website meets the threshold for illegal content, officers can exercise powers under section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006 to take it down.

Statement from the Security Minister: 'We want to protect people who may be vulnerable to violent extremist content and will seek to remove any unlawful material. This is also about empowering individuals to tell them how they can make a civic challenge against material that they find offensive, even if it is not illegal. The internet is not a lawless forum and should reflect the legal and accepted boundaries of society.'

Statement from the national coordinator for Prevent: Assistant Chief Constable: 'Used in the right way the internet is an extremely positive communications tool. However it also means that terrorists and violent extremists can, and do, use it to influence and train would-be terrorists, and to plan their operations. Communities have a vital role to play in helping to tackle terrorist and violent extremist use of the internet – and we would encourage the public to refer material to the police through this new online reporting webpage. 'This new unit will investigate referrals from the public, proactively seek out illegal material on websites and work closely with industry to make it harder for terrorists to exploit the internet.' ...

To read the full press release see

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/public-reporting-terrorist.html>

[TOP](#)

Israel

UK Parliamentary Question

Gaza

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government when the investigations into the conflict in Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009 requested by the Goldstone report are expected to be completed by (a) Israel, and (b) the Hamas Government in Gaza. [HL1538]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead): We have been clear in our call for all credible allegations to be properly investigated. The UN Secretary General is due to deliver a report in February 2010 into the progress of both Israeli and Palestinian investigations of their conduct during the Gaza conflict. Israel, Hamas, and the Palestinian Authority are all expected to contribute to this report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100201w0002.htm#10020125000328>

[TOP](#)

Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

** Children, Schools and Families Bill

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

Public Bill Committee amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/amend/psc0080201m.209-215.html>

** Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

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

Money Resolution

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100201/debtext/100201-0007.htm#10020113000007>

Ways and Means Motion

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100201/debtext/100201-0007.htm#10020113000008>

Programme Motion

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100201/debtext/100201-0007.htm#10020113000008>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100201/debtext/100201-0007.htm#10020113000001>

Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/004/pro0040201p.127-131.html>

** Crime and Security Bill

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

Public Bill Committee amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/003/amend/psc0030201m.77-83.html>

Equality Bill

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

** Flood and Water Management Bill

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

Consideration of Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/053/amend/pbc0530201m.747-753.html>

Scottish Parliament

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Other Relevant Information

Welsh Assembly Government

One Wales Government announces commitment to seeking referendum on new powers

The First Minister and Deputy First Minister have announced their intention of asking for a referendum on new powers for the Assembly. The Welsh Assembly Government has tabled a motion on a referendum to be debated by AMs next week.

First Minister Carwyn Jones said: "This is a formal proposal, under the Government of Wales Act, for a referendum. If it is supported by at least forty AMs next week, I will convey that request to the Secretary of State for Wales. We will be asking for a referendum on whether laws which affect the people of Wales - the laws under which our government works - should be made in Wales. ...

Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones said: "Since the National Assembly came into being it has become a part of the fabric of everyday Wales – it has earned its place at the heart of the day to day lives of Welsh citizens. It is only right therefore that the Assembly is given the tools to do the job not only properly but more efficiently – creating Welsh laws, in Wales, tailor-made for the priorities of our communities and the people of this country. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/latest/100202referendum/?lang=en>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated

** closes today

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

Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010
(closes 15 March 2010)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6605.aspx

**** Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct** (2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

**** Equality Bill: Draft Guidance** (16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (closes 21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SCO29438