

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (780) Hate speech and university campuses –That this House notes the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, its section on Antisemitism in Higher Education and its five recommendations; welcomes the establishment of the Higher Education sub-group of the Inter-departmental working group on Antisemitism; further welcomes improved reporting of incidents through the Community Security Trust and Union of Jewish Students; recognises the continued increase in attacks linked to hostilities in the Middle East, the related incidents that have taken place in universities and that 2009 will see the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents since records began in 1984; notes with concern recent reports on the radicalisation and racial incitement caused by speakers on campus; is concerned that little progress has been made on the question of hate speech since the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism; believes that more can and should be done by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, higher education institutions and the sector as a whole on this matter, applauds the decisions that have been taken to cancel events likely to breach the peace, radicalise students or incite hatred; calls for more progress, with greater urgency in the creation of a wide ranging policy to help vice-chancellors and Student Union representatives to deal effectively with speaker invitations and hate speech; and calls for universities to establish good practice guides based on the speaker request processes that exist.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40373&SESSION=903>

Home Office

Grants boost security for small retailers

Hundreds of small retailers across the country are set to receive grants to buy security devices such as alarms, security cameras and UV markers, Home Office minister Alan Campbell announced today. ... The fund ... sets out a broad range of actions to tackle crimes against retailers and small businesses.

The grants are being used to:

- purchase security equipment for individual retailers, such as CCTV, infrared security cameras, security shutters and rollers, safes, alarms, anti-fraud equipment such as UV markers to detect counterfeit notes and anti-graffiti paint
- fund partnership projects benefiting larger groups of small business. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/security-grants-small-retailers.html>

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UK Parliamentary Questions

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to vote in favour of the endorsement of the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict at the forthcoming meetings of (a) the UN General Assembly and (b) the UN Security Council. [313371]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN General Assembly in New York considered the Goldstone report on 5 November 2009 where we made our position clear: some aspects of the report were flawed-particularly its failure to acknowledge fully Israel's right to protect its citizens, and the inadequate attention paid to Hamas' actions. We eventually decided to abstain on the resolution, with France and 42 others, because voting for the resolution would have meant endorsing the report and ignoring its flaws. However, the issues raised by the report were very serious, and they should be credibly and independently investigated.

The UN Secretary General is expected to release a report on the progress of both Israeli and Palestinian investigations in February 2010. We will consider his report when we receive it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100202/text/100202w0017.htm#10020286000062>

Gaza

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to enable the reconstruction of the infrastructure of Gaza following Operation Cast Lead. [HL1535]

Lord Brett: The Department for International Development (DfID) is funding early recovery projects in Gaza including rubble clearance, road repairs, removal of unexploded ordnance and rehabilitation of agricultural buildings. DfID also supports the UN Access Support Team which facilitates the entry of UN and non-governmental organisation staff as well as materials into Gaza from Israel. Whilst this work is important in establishing conditions on the ground conducive to large-scale reconstruction, such activity will only be possible once restrictions on access for aid, aid workers and reconstruction materials into Gaza are significantly eased. Improving access to Gaza is a priority for the UK Government and we raise the issue with the Government of Israel at all available opportunities. Most recently, on 1 December 2009, Secretary of State Douglas Alexander discussed this issue with Ehud Barak, the Israeli Minister of Defence. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Mike Foster also met with Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shalom in November and Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon in October to discuss the issue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100202w0002.htm#10020278000458>

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UK Parliament

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

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

Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmpublic/childsch/100202/am/100202s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmpublic/childsch/100202/pm/100202s01.htm>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/pro0080202p.23-29.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/psc0040201a.769-775.html>

**** Crime and Security Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/003/amend/psc0030201a.131.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/003/pro0030202p.7-13.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>

Report Stage, House of Commons

includes discussion about concessionary schemes for surface water drainage charges for community groups

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100202/debtext/100202-0004.htm#1002025600001>

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/053/pro0530202p.167-173.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

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>

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