

# 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

### UK Parliamentary Question

#### Crime: Hate

**Lord Dear:** To ask Her Majesty's Government when a revised version of the document Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service-Good Practice and Tactical Guidance March 2005 will be published. [HL1660]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the revised version of the document Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service-Good Practice and Tactical Guidance March 2005 will give advice to police that takes account of section 29JA of the Public Order Act 1986, inserted by paragraph 14 of Schedule 16 to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. [HL1661]

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Bach):**

The Association of Chief Police Officers anticipates publishing a new Hate Crime Manual in March 2010. The document is currently in development and has taken into account the views of stakeholders and the advice of the Independent Advisory Group to the cross-government hate crime programme, "Race for Justice".

The Association of Chief Police Officers has also indicated that it will include a section on incitement to hatred offences and has said that it would be prepared to issue supplementary guidance on this offence should it be enacted before the manual is completed. It has further indicated that the guidance, whether as part of the manual or otherwise, will take account of Section 29JA of the Public Order Act 1986, as inserted by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100205w0001.htm#10020539000086>

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# Holocaust

## UK Parliamentary Question

### Holocaust Memorial Day

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313933]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government fund the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, a registered charity, to co-ordinate a national event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day every year. The Trust also supports and co-ordinates local events across England, Wales and Scotland.

This year was a significant milestone, representing the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was "The Legacy of Hope"-people learning from the past, to give hope for the future. Several hundred people, including many survivors, gathered at the national event in London, to listen to the testimonies of victims and survivors alike. Tens of thousands of people gathered at hundreds of local events drawing on the same theme.

I was also pleased to open a Topical Debate on the subject of Holocaust Memorial Day in the House on 28 January this year, in which many hon. and right hon. Members from all sides participated.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100205/text/100205w0023.htm#10020537000208>

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# Israel

## UK Parliamentary Question

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 468W, on Palestinians: overseas aid, what assessment he has made of whether Israel is in compliance with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention in respect of the population of Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [314058]

**Chris Bryant:** We have serious concerns about the Israeli restrictions on Gaza and the impact they have on the lives of Gazans. Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the fourth Geneva convention as an occupying power. The fourth Geneva convention is clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing the passage and distribution of relief consignments. The restrictions currently imposed on the passage of relief supplies are, as we see it, a disproportionate response to the security threat.

We have consistently pressed the Israeli Government to comply with their obligations under international law and allow passage of relief supplies. Although aid is entering Gaza, according to the UN this is insufficient to meet the needs of the Gazan people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100205/text/100205w0005.htm#10020537000058>

## United Nations

### **Ban sends report to General Assembly on follow-up to inquiry into Gaza conflict**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has transmitted a report to the General Assembly on the follow-up to the report made by the United Nations fact-finding mission into the deadly conflict in the Gaza Strip at the start of last year. ... Mr. Ban stressed that he hoped Israel and the Palestinians conduct those inquiries appropriately. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33685&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

### **Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict**

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/225/83/PDF/N1022583.pdf?OpenElement>

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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>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/061/2010061.pdf>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/amend/psc0080502a.831-837.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/psc0040502a.789-795.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>

Sixth marshalled list of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/amend/ml020-vi.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

**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](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](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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