

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Holocaust

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region: An overview of governmental practices

http://www.osce.org/documents/odhr/2010/01/42482_en.pdf

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Israel

Scottish Parliament Petition

Petition by Asid Khan calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review its policy with respect to trade missions or trade initiatives by publicly funded bodies to Israel and to direct or influence Scottish Trade International to end any ongoing initiatives with Israel.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/pdfs/PE1308.pdf>

United Nations

Roadblocks remain in quest to achieve Middle East peace, says Ban

Daunting challenges remain in the search for lasting peace in the Middle East, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today, calling for the prompt resumption of political talks and the swift delivery of concrete results. "Permanent status issues, including Jerusalem, borders, refugees, security, settlements and water will be resolved only through negotiations," Mr. Ban said in a message to the UN International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace ... At this crucial juncture, Israel should refrain from taking steps which have the potential to prejudge negotiations and create tensions," especially in East Jerusalem, where settlements are expanding and Palestinians are being evicted, the Secretary-General's message ... the Secretary-General also condemned renewed rocket fire from Gaza, "which indiscriminately targets Israeli civilians."

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33746&Cr=Palestin&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>

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/am035-a.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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Other Relevant Information

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is preparing its 2009 annual report on hate crimes. The report provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes as well as of responses to combat hate crimes. As in past years, ODIHR encourages submission from non-governmental organisations. Information submitted should be, to the greatest possible extent, brief and concise and be sent by 19 March 2009.

http://tandis.odihhr.pl/content/documents/hcr2009_cs_subm_en.pdf

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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>

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 (closes 2 April 2010)

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

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (closes 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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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SCO29438