

# 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

#### Faith Schools: Equality

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that the exceptions to the equality duty contemplated in clause 29 of and schedule 3, part 2 of the Equality Bill be extended to faith schools in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [317017]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** In relation to their pupils, faith schools are not covered by clause 29 of the Equality Bill as a result of clause 28(2). They are instead covered by Part 6 of the Bill and the exceptions they need to operate are provided in that Part and in Schedule 11. In relation to other services and public functions provided by faith schools, the exceptions contained in Clause 29 will apply to all public bodies, including maintained faith schools. The exceptions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 apply mainly to local authorities in relation to their education functions. Where they need to apply more widely, including to maintained faith schools, they do. An example of this is paragraph 11 of the Schedule. There is no need for additional legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0010.htm#100309127000038>

### Communities and Local Government

#### Cohesion Delivery Framework 2010: Overview

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1501439>

#### Tackling Race Inequality: Summary of responses

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1493644.pdf>

### Cabinet Office

#### Ministers agree to further strengthen devolution

Peter Hain and Paul Goggins, Ann McKeichin and Wayne David; Carwyn Jones and Ieuan Wyn Jones; Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness; Alex Salmond and Fiona Hyslop; today announced further progress to strengthen devolution.

Ministers agree a revised and updated Memorandum of Understanding underpinning devolution.

The Ministers also agreed a protocol setting out how the four administrations will seek to firstly avoid disputes and where this proves impossible how they will be resolved. They agreed that the process should be fair, accessible, informed and responsive. They also committed to further work to improve the process. ...

**To read the full press release see**

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news\\_releases/2010/100310-devolution.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100310-devolution.aspx)

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## Holocaust

### Downing Street

#### **New award honours British holocaust heroes**

Britons who saved the lives of Jews and other persecuted groups during the Holocaust have been honoured with a new award in recognition of their bravery. At a reception at Number 10, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the courage of these “true British heroes” who “answered the call of humanity”. ... The PM said: “It is right that we reflect and learn from the past as we go forward in the future. That is why I was pleased to create a new award to recognise those amazing British individuals who through extraordinary and selfless acts of bravery protected and rescued Jews and others in the Holocaust.

“These individuals are true British heroes and a source of national pride for all of us. They were shining beacons of hope in the midst of terrible evil because they were prepared to take a stand against prejudice, hatred and intolerance. We pay tribute to them for the inspiration they provide now and for future generations to come.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22743>

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### **British heroes of the Holocaust**

Foreign Office Minister Ivan Lewis spoke at a reception honouring British Holocaust Heroes on 9 March ...

The people being honoured today came from all walks of life, having found themselves in all sorts of different circumstances. ... In many cases all these people have in common was their willingness to take the greatest of risks and their desire to help other people when nobody else would do so. Sadly, some - like Louisa Gould and Jane Haining, recipients of the award today - paid with their lives.

Individually these stories are incredibly moving and inspiring; each deserves our recognition. And by coming here today and honoring these heroes we can remind those who preach intolerance, inequality and discrimination that we will not stand for it.

Today marks the official acknowledgement by Her Majesty’s Government of 27 exceptional individuals. ...

I myself have visited the eerie death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau which stand as living testimony to the full horror of Man’s greatest inhuman act to Man. ... I have witnessed the impact of holocaust education on young people whose awakening to the darkest chapter in history is a catalyst to their commitment to ensuring no such chapter should be written again.

I, as a British Jew, would not be stood here today if hundreds of thousands of brave men and women had not sacrificed their lives to take on and defeat the Nazis.

Today demonstrates the importance of not forgetting. We should recognise

organisations such as the Holocaust Education Trust for the work that they do to increase the understanding and awareness of the Holocaust amongst children and adults today. The Trust plays an exceptional role in ensuring that the horrors of the Holocaust are not forgotten; for they must never be forgotten. And that people today are motivated to confront the injustices and discrimination that they see around them. We will continue to support its work, and that of other organisations that preserve the memory of the Holocaust. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=21863278>

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### UK Parliamentary Question

#### **Israel: Courts Martial**

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of Palestinian children being held by the Israeli authorities and facing trial in a military court. [320777]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** According to Defence for Children International, as of January 2010, there are currently 318 Palestinian children in Israeli detention.

The UK continues to make its position clear to both the Israelis and the Palestinians on a wide range of human rights issues. This includes not only social and economic rights but also the security and treatment of detainees, including juveniles.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0022.htm#100309149000007>

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### **Foreign Secretary condemns Israeli building in East Jerusalem**

Foreign Secretary David Miliband condemned yesterday's decision by Israeli authorities to advance the planning of 1600 units in East Jerusalem. The Foreign Secretary commented: "This is a bad decision at the wrong time. It will give strength to those who argue that Israel is not serious about peace. Along with our EU partners, I condemn it as certain to undermine the mutual confidence we need. The recently launched proximity talks are an important opportunity to move towards a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians. Real peace will require the courage, commitment and compromise of both sides. This needs to be demonstrated not only by words, but by actions. The leadership of both sides must restrain those who try to provoke or disrupt the situation at this crucial moment of opportunity."

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21865391>

### European Parliament Debate

#### **Implementation of Goldstone recommendations on Israel/Palestine**

*The transcript of the debate will not be available until tomorrow.*

#### **Motions for Resolution**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0135&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=P7-RC-2010-0136&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0136&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0138&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0140&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0145&language=EN>

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2010-0146&language=EN>

## United Nations

### **Ban speaks out against Israeli plans to expand settlements**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has repeatedly called for Israel's settlement construction to come to a halt, has condemned its announcement that it is building 1,600 new housing units in East Jerusalem. "He reiterates that settlements are illegal under international law," according to a statement by his spokesperson issued last night in New York. "Furthermore, he underscores that settlement activity is contrary to Israel's obligations under the Roadmap, and undermines any movement towards a viable peace process," ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34030&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>

notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/036/amend/am036-a.htm>

#### **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>

Consideration of Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/073/amend/pbc0730803m.1235-1241.html>

Bill as brought from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/045/2010045.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/045/en/2010045en.pdf>

**\*\* Electronic Commerce Directive (Hatred against Persons on Religious Grounds or the Grounds of Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2010**

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi\\_9780111490402\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111490402_en_1)

House of Lords Motion to approve agreed without debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100309-0002.htm#10030971000239>

**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>

**\*\* Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (Amendment) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/prosecutionoffencesact1985amendment.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/078/2010078.pdf>

## Scottish Parliament

**End of Life Assistance Bill**

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

**\*\* Draft Census Order**

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi\\_9780111007907\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111007907_en.pdf)

Consideration in Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/eet/or-10/ee10-0802.htm#Col3270>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

**\*\* closes in 5 days**

**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)

**2011 Census Statistical Outputs (England and Wales)** (closes 26 March 2010)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/open-consultations/2011-output-consultation---main-statistical-outputs/index.html>

**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>

**Call for Evidence on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill** (12 May 2010)  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/currentInquiries.htm>

**Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Guidance** (closes 14 May)  
[http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/HA\\_strategic\\_guide\\_draft.pdf](http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/HA_strategic_guide_draft.pdf)

**2011 Census Statistical Outputs (Scotland)** (closes 14 May 2010)  
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

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