

# 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

### Joint Committee on Human Rights

**Counter–Terrorism Policy and Human Rights: Bringing Human Rights Back In**  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200910/jtselect/jtrights/86/86.pdf>

**The Government Reply to the Report by Lord Carlile of Berriew Q.C.**  
<http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/legislation/prevention-terrorism-act-2005/independent-reviews/response-lord-carlile-5th-repo2835.pdf?view=Binary>

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## Israel

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Israel: Foreign Relations

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Israeli ambassador the matter of adherence to diplomatic protocol in commenting on proceedings in Parliament and internal British political activities. [322131]

**David Miliband:** I have no plans to discuss these matters with the Israeli ambassador. He, like everyone else, is entitled to his views on proceedings in Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100324/text/100324w0002.htm#10032439000041>

#### Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the consideration by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development of Israel's application for membership. [322896]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK supports Israel's bid for accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. However, there remain a small number of issues, such as the scope of statistical data, which are being resolved in the course of the accession process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100324/text/100324w0002.htm#10032439000042>

## European Parliament

### 3 questions to Tony Blair on Middle East and Faith Foundation

There is a real opportunity here. It's clear that President Obama is committed to work with the broader international community and the parties to reach a deal within a reasonable timeframe. President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad have dedicated themselves to building a functioning Palestinian State which can live side by side with Israel, in peace and security. The Government of Israel recognises and subscribes to the "Two State" principle.

But the process is fragile and can be easily reversed. This is why it is crucial that the parties, with the international community's support, move now from proximity talks to direct negotiations, and then on to a final status deal. Only negotiations between the parties, with supporting change on the ground, can lead to a lasting and just peace. ...

... the prospects for a vibrant Palestinian economy are huge. ... As an example of what can be achieved, one has only to look at the Palestinian high-tech sector, which boasts a workforce of 3,600 engineers, combined with a number of entrepreneurs committed to working alongside the Israeli high-tech sector and on their own account, to produce high-end ICT products for a global market. ...

... as the world becomes ever more globalised, religion can serve either to emphasise the differences between peoples, or help them come together and understand and accept their shared humanity and spirituality. I have found in my work with the Faith Foundation that people of different faiths are ready and willing to work with one another to solve shared problems, ... The Middle East is no exception. It is all too easy to succumb to extremist agendas which emphasise difference and hatred of the other. The truly challenging, but ultimately far more satisfying, calling is to seek out and promote shared values. ...

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/030-71018-081-03-13-903-20100319STO70948-2010-22-03-2010/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/030-71018-081-03-13-903-20100319STO70948-2010-22-03-2010/default_en.htm)

## United Nations

### Ban to attend Arab League summit amid new concerns about the Middle East

... I say again, here, what I have been repeatedly saying: that settlements are illegal under international law. This must stop," ... Mr. Ban reiterated that there were no alternatives to a two-State solution, and that all final issues should be resolved within 24 months despite possible provocations from extremists. ...

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34187&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>

Second Reading House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100324-0002.htm#10032438000476>

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee: Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldselect/lddelreg/106/106.pdf>

## **\*\* Crime and Security Bill**

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

Select Committee on the Constitution: Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldselect/ldconst/107/107.pdf>

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee: Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldselect/lddelreg/106/106.pdf>

## **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>

House of Lords Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100324-gc0001.htm#10032436000075>

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

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

## **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\\_9780111008379\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111008379_en.pdf)

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated

### **\*\* closes tomorrow**

**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>

**Arrest warrants – universal jurisdiction Note by the Ministry of Justice**

(closes 6 April 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/arrests-warrants.pdf>

**Draft clause: Prosecution of certain extra-territorial offences: England and Wales**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/private-prosecutions-draft-clause.pdf>

**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>

**Revised Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (England and Wales only)** (closes 15 June 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1671&external=no&menu=1>

**Continuing need for a controlled activity category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme (England and Wales only)** (closes 17 June 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1710&external=no&menu=1>

**Reform of the coroner system** (closes 1 July 2010)

*Includes questions as to when it may be appropriate to carry out a non-invasive post-mortem examination, for example by means of MRI scan.*

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-coroner-system.htm>

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