

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 Questions

Communities: Preventing Extremism

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislation authorises local authorities to map locations and residential areas containing Muslims, as provided in the Preventing Violent Extremism scheme National Indicator No 35; and what assessment they have made of the effect of such action on Muslims. [HL2911]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Department for Work and Pensions (Lord McKenzie of Luton): National Indicator 35 or NI35 "Building resilience to violent extremism" is one of the 188 indicators that make up the national indicator set. All district and unitary local authorities in England are required to report against NI35 and some have agreed it as a priority indicator in their local area agreement. The principles of the national indicator set are set out in more detail in the Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities.

The Communities Secretary has made clear that work on "Prevent" should be done in partnership with Muslim communities. Local authorities can do this only by knowing who their communities are. The measure around understanding and engagement of Muslim communities in NI35 is consistent with the statutory duties placed on local authorities to involve their communities in local decisions.

A new duty to involve came into force on 1 April 2009 as part of the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and includes an additional requirement on local authorities to ensure that people have greater opportunities to have their say. Statutory guidance, "Creating Stronger and Prosperous Communities" which supports the Act, was issued to local authorities in July 2008.

A copy of this guidance is available on the CLG website at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publicationslocalgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>

It is for local authorities themselves to make assessments about the impact of their work on local communities. We would expect them to listen to any concerns raised by their communities about any aspects of their work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329w0002.htm#10032931000528>

Extremist Websites

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the list of extremist websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations announced by the then Prime Minister on 5 August 2005 was first established; on what dates the list has been updated; whether the deportation of a foreign national has been (a) considered and (b) executed on the grounds of active engagement with one of the organisations on the list; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of the list. [301377]

Alan Johnson: The Prime Minister's announcement on 5 August 2005 set out a 12 point plan designed to counter the threat of terrorism. As my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary said on 1 September 2008, Official Report, column 1594W, significant progress had been made on the 12 point plan and that all counter-terrorist work was now subsumed into the Government's long-term counter-terrorist strategy (the Contest strategy).

The Home Secretary may make a deportation order where he is satisfied that deportation is conducive to the public good. The basis for such a decision could include, for example, the individual being engaged in the promotion or dissemination of extremist material (including via websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations). The police and other law enforcement and intelligence partners work closely to identify sources of extremism. Where an individual is found to have been engaged in the encouragement of terrorism or dissemination of terrorist publications, the police and CPS would seek to prosecute them. In the case of a foreign national engaged in extremist activities, we seek to deport them. In the case of organisations, the Terrorism Act 2000 allows an organisation to be proscribed if the Home Secretary believes it is concerned in terrorism. The Terrorism Act 2006 extended the meaning of concerned in terrorism to include the unlawful glorification of acts of terrorism.

I am not prepared to comment on individual cases of deportation. I can, however, confirm that individuals who are suspected to have engaged in extremist activity have been deported on grounds that their presence in the UK not being considered conducive to the public good. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 30 November 2009, Official Report, column 474W, which provide the number of foreign nationals deported from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour (relating to foreign nationals who foment hatred or violence in support of their extremist beliefs). The police and other counter-terrorism partners seek to identify extremist websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations. A list of proscribed organisations is available on the Home Office website at: <http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/terrorism-threat/proscribed-terrorist-orgs/proscribed-terrorist-groups/index.html>

For national security reasons it is not possible to provide details of all such websites, premises or organisations of concern.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0022.htm#10033085000017>

Crime: Hate

Lord Waddington: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Bach on 5 February (WA 72), who are the members of the Independent Advisory Group to the cross-government hate crime programme "Race for Justice". [HL2984]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Bach): The Race for Justice Advisory Group members are a broad range of community representatives who are all independent of any relevant government department or criminal justice agency. They are led by an independent chair, Professor John Grieve, and include academic experts, representatives of third-sector bodies, victims groups and people directly affected by hate crime. The group is self-selecting and has invited new members to join when it has felt it needed to

broaden membership to respond to new challenges. Members of the group have expertise and involvement in all five strands of monitored hate crime, being disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender.

Lord Waddington: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Bach on 5 February (WA 72), whether they will publish the advice of the Independent Advisory Group to the cross-government hate crime programme "Race for Justice" given to assist the preparation of the new hate crime manual. [HL2985]

Lord Bach: In addition to the advice given to the "Race for Justice" programme, the Advisory Group took a decision to act as the standing Independent Advisory Group to the Hate Crime Portfolio Group of the Association of Chief Police Officers. It is this group who that is developing the refreshed hate crime manual. Given that this document will be owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers, Her Majesty's Government do not intend to publish the advice received in the preparation of the document. The Association of Chief Police Officers has indicated that they intend to complete an equality impact assessment which will reflect the advice of the advisory group and all other consulted groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329w0002.htm#10032931000529>

VAT: Churches

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in favour of the extension of the provisions of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [325260]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations. The future of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond March 2011 will be considered in the spending review later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0049.htm#10033127000065>

Communities and Local Government Committee

Report: Preventing Violent Extremism

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmcomloc/65/65.pdf>

Home Office

New support for victims of hate crime

Victims of hate crime and their families will soon benefit from more than £265,000 to provide increased access to vital support services ... A total of eight organisations from the voluntary sector will receive grants of up to £50,000 to help run projects that work to prevent hate crime and provide specialist support to victims including counselling, access to information and training for frontline staff. ...

The Home Office invited third sector organisations that provide services or projects that support victims of hate crime and their families to apply for a grant of up to £50,000 in February 2010. Fifty-four applications were received and were subject to a rigorous assessment process. The successful applicants [include]:

Community Security Trust (race/religion) - £48,869

To read the full press release see

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/support-victims-hate-crime.html>

Office for Security and Counter Terrorism

Channel: Supporting individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists
<http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/prevent/channel-guidance2835.pdf?view=Binary>

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Holocaust

UK Parliamentary Question

World War Two: Genocide

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the policy of the government of Germany on release of files on (a) Nazi war criminals and (b) Adolf Eichmann; and if he will make a statement. [324378]

Chris Bryant: The case to which my hon. Friend refers is currently being considered by the German Federal Administrative Court; it is therefore a matter for the Court and the German Government.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100329/text/100329w0011.htm#10032947000012>

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Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with his Israeli counterpart on the teaching of Arabic in Israel. [323631]

Chris Bryant: The UK regularly raises concerns regarding coexistence between the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. I discussed these in my meeting with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister on 9 February. We also highlighted the issue in the 2009 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report on Human Rights, which was published on 17 March.

Additionally the UK has provided over £100,000 of financial support to educational projects which promote coexistence, including the teaching of Arabic, between Jewish and Arab children in Israel.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0038.htm#1003318000017>

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of (a) rockets and (b) mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 January 2010; what reports he has received of the number of persons (A) killed, (B) seriously injured and (C) slightly injured; and if he will make a statement. [324397]

Chris Bryant: According to our information, in 2010, as of 10 March, there have been 41 rockets and 28 mortars fired at Israel from Gaza. There has been one fatality (a foreign worker) in 2010 in Southern Israel as a result of a rocket attack,

and no injuries. Additionally two Israeli soldiers were killed on 26 March following a clash with Palestinian militants.

There have been no cross-border rockets or mortars fired into Israel from Lebanon this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0038.htm#1003318000016>

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the amount of charitable fundraising carried out in the UK for humanitarian purposes in Gaza via the Union of Good. [325030]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development (DFID) has not made an assessment of the amount of charitable fundraising carried out in the UK for humanitarian purposes in Gaza via the Union of Good.

The Union of Good is not a registered charity in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100329/text/100329w0033.htm#10032956000098>

Islamic National Bank: Palestinians

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on freezing by the US administration of assets of the Islamic National Bank based in Gaza. [325225]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers have discussions with a variety of individuals and organisations, including international partners, as part of the process of policy development and delivery on counter-terrorist finance. As with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0048.htm#10033127000049>

Hamas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to freeze the assets of financial institutions operating in UK jurisdictions which provide banking facilities to Hamas. [325223]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Hamas (including its military wing, the Izz-al-Din al-Qassem Brigades) is subject to an EU asset freeze under Council Regulation (EC) No. 2580/2001. The Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 provides enforcement provisions in the UK in respect of this Regulation. Hamas' military wing is also proscribed in the UK.

As such, any financial institutions or other persons that hold or operate accounts for Hamas (including its military wing) are required to freeze those accounts. In addition, the asset freeze prevents financial institutions and others from making funds, economic resources or financial services available to Hamas.

The prohibitions in the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 apply to persons in the UK and British citizens elsewhere, including corporate bodies incorporated or constituted under the law of any part of the UK or a Scottish partnership, including banks, financial institutions, charitable organisations and non-governmental organisations, in the UK or established under UK law.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0048.htm#10033127000046>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Nick Palmer (1225) Ban on commercial fur trade in Israel – That this House notes that the Knesset is currently considering a bill to ban the commercial fur trade; further notes that there would be an exclusion in this ban for fur used for religious purposes; further notes that a recent poll in Israel showed that 79 per cent. of people in that country support the ban; further notes that, while fur factory farming and the use of steel-jawed leghold traps are banned in the UK, furs produced using these cruel methods are still on sale here; and calls on the Government to take note of this proposed legislation and to bring in a ban on the fur trade in the UK as soon as possible.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40885&SESSION=903>

Petition to the House of Commons

Gaza

The Petition of residents of Bristol and others, Declares that the Government should fulfil its responsibilities as a high contracting party to the Geneva Convention.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to immediately take steps to institute a war crimes investigation in the UK into Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip between 27 December and 18 January 2009, and for the UK prosecuting authorities to search out and prosecute (or extradite for trial elsewhere) all suspected war criminals identified by the investigation; and urges the Government to seek a binding resolution at the UN Security Council to establish an international commission of inquiry into the Gaza attacks and the referral of potential cases to the International Criminal Court.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. -[Presented by Stephen Williams , Official Report, 26 January 2010; Vol. 504, c. 781 .] [P000706]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: Although under the Geneva Conventions Act the UK has jurisdiction to prosecute war crimes in an international conflict, we consider that it is the primary responsibility of the parties involved to investigate such allegations. The Report of the UN Human Rights Council-mandated Fact Finding Mission on Gaza (The Goldstone Report) and the UN General Assembly also made clear that the parties should do. From the outset we have called for the very serious allegations about conduct of the Gaza conflict by both sides to be properly and impartially investigated by the parties to the conflict. On 5 February, the UN Secretary-General released a report outlining the progress of investigations by the parties. Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) contributed material to this report. The UN Secretary-General's report highlighted that the responsibility to investigate and prosecute alleged violations of international humanitarian law during a conflict falls first and foremost to the parties to the conflict.

It is clear that Hamas have not conducted anything like the sort of credible, independent investigation required; however, we welcome the Palestinian Authority's establishment of an Independent Investigative Commission. This and the Israeli 31 January 2010 update document outlining the progress of Israel's investigations are steps towards the full and credible accountability we are seeking. However, concerns remain and we continue to follow progress closely. It was for this reason that the UK voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the follow up to the UN fact-finding mission on the Gaza on 26 February. We have consistently called for full, credible and impartial investigations into the allegations in the Goldstone Report on the conduct of both parties during that conflict which is exactly what this resolution called for.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100329/petntext/100329p0001.htm#1003297000034>

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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-h.htm>

**** Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill**

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

Notices of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/040/amend/am040-e.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/040/amend/am040-d.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/040/amend/am040-c.htm>

**** Crime and Security Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/045/amend/am045-a.htm>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329-0007.htm#10032921000080>

**** Equality Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/096/amend/pbc0963003a.1305-1306.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>

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

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Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes tomorrow**

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>

**** FAWC Strategic Plan** (10 May 2010)

<http://www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/letter100322.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

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>

**** Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001** (closes 15 July 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2010-pathogens-toxins/consultation-paper2835.pdf?view=Binary>

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