

# Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

## Contents

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

## [Israel](#)

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Israel

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Israel has responded to the United Nations Resolution (ref: A/HRC/RES/10/19) of 26 March 2009; if so, in what terms; and, if not, whether they will make representations to the Government of Israel for a full response in the near future. [HL3163]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead):** The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement:

"The resolution adopted today in Geneva by the United Nations Human Rights Council has no connection to the safeguarding of human rights. As a democratic country, Israel will continue its internal inquiry procedures, out of its commitment to the rule of law and moral values. Israel has an outstanding legal system, widely esteemed around the world. Israel will continue to realize its right to protect its citizens, while at the same time maintaining the strictest moral standards".

The UK will continue to press both the Israelis and Palestinians to conduct full, credible and independent inquiries into the serious issues raised by the UN Human Rights Council fact-finding mission on Gaza.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407w0003.htm#10040744000265>

#### Israel and Palestine

**Lord Ahmed:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in response to the Government of Israel's construction of Israeli settlements in Palestinian occupied territory. [HL3118]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead):** We along with our EU and US partners have condemned Israel's plans to build 1,600 housing units in East Jerusalem.

The UK will continue to urge both sides to show the courage, commitment and compromise needed to make real progress. The quartet has also expressed its determination to move swiftly to proximity talks addressing issues of substance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407w0003.htm#10040744000266>

## Gaza

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Middle East quartet plan to put into practice the proposals in the statement issued following their Moscow meeting on 19 March. [HL3071]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead):** The UK is represented in the Middle East quartet through its membership of the European Union. We welcome the quartet's statement as an important way of reinforcing the key messages from the international community to both sides of the conflict. We will continue to work with our international partners to encourage both sides towards credible negotiations and to work for an urgent and durable solution to the situation in Gaza.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407w0002.htm#10040744000262>

## Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received of allegations that funds raised in the UK for non-governmental organisations operating in Gaza have been used to support the political activities of Hamas. [325658]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any such reports.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100407/text/100407w0017.htm#10040762000005>

## Edinburgh Sheriff Court

The case against five members of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign who were charged with racially aggravated conduct following their disturbance of a Jerusalem String Quartet concert has been dismissed in Edinburgh Sheriff Court today. The Crown has given notice that it will appeal.

**To read the full judgment see**

[http://www.scojec.org/pab/2010/iv/10iv08\\_judgment\\_spsc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/pab/2010/iv/10iv08_judgment_spsc.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### \*\* Children, Schools and Families Bill

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

House of Lords Committee Stage and remaining stages

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407-0016.htm#10040763000150>

Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/105/2010105.pdf>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease080310a.htm>

## **\*\* Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill**

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

House of Lords Committee Stage and remaining stages

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407-0020.htm#10040812000046>

Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/106/2010106.pdf>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease080310a.htm>

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

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

House of Lords Committee Stage and remaining stages

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100407-0011.htm#10040758000228>

## **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>

## **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)

[TOP](#)

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated

**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](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>

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SCO29438