

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
SCoJeC

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Pope speaks about UK visit

... In his weekly address to the Vatican, the Pope said: "... I send heartfelt greetings to all the people of Great Britain. ... The Pope ... commented on how much he is looking forward to meeting representatives of the many different religious and cultural traditions that make up the British population, as well as civil and political leaders.

To read the full press release see

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22825823>

Scottish Government

Programme for Government 2010-11

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/09/08140859>

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Community Relations

Prime Minister

PM sends Rosh Hashanah greeting

Cameron thanks Jewish community for 'the insight which the Jewish faith gives us into what makes a healthy society'

British Prime Minister David Cameron has sent the following message ahead of the Jewish New Year:

I want to take this opportunity to wish all the Jewish community in Britain – and indeed around the world - a Shannah Tovah. At this time of reflection and of hope for the year ahead, let me thank you for what you as a community do for our country and for the insight which the Jewish faith gives us into what makes a healthy society. At the heart of the Jewish way of life is an approach to building community and a moral compulsion to play your part in changing the world for the better, from which we can all learn.

As the year 5771 begins with renewed contacts between Israel and the Palestinians, I am sure that you share my hope that this year will bring us closer to a true and lasting peace for Israel and the entire Middle East.

The above appears on the British Embassy in Israel website. It does not currently appear on the Downing Street website.

<http://ukinisrael.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=22812149>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign Secretary's Rosh Hashanah message

Foreign Secretary William Hague says Jewish New Year is time to look forward as it opens with direct peace talks

British Foreign Secretary William Hague has sent a special video message for Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year. In the video, the Foreign Secretary says: "Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, but also a time to look forward as the New Year begins with direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians."

The Foreign Secretary added that he hopes "all concerned will reflect on the journey that has brought them to this important moment," as well as looking forward "to a future of peace and security for people throughout the Middle East."

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22823841>

Scottish Government

First Minister's Rosh Hashanah message

... First Minister Alex Salmond said: "On behalf of the Scottish Government I extend my very best wishes to our Jewish communities the length and breadth of Scotland who are looking forward to celebrating Rosh Hashanah - the Jewish New Year.

"The festival, which begins this week, is also a "Day of Judgement" - a time of reflection and self-assessment, when people look back over the year that has passed and its achievements and reaffirm the values of their faith.

"It is also a good opportunity for people of all faiths and none to reflect on, and welcome, the significant contribution that the Jewish community makes to Scottish society.

"Scotland's Jewish community represents a remarkable achievement historically. It is less than 200 years since Jewish people first came to Scotland in significant numbers. From the moment they arrived, Jewish workers and entrepreneurs helped to grow Scotland's economy, while also making a positive and substantial impact on our culture.

"Over the years successive generations have made an invaluable contribution to our economic, cultural and social life. Charity is a fundamental principle of Judaism, and I welcome, and am grateful for, the active participation of the Jewish community in many welfare projects that benefit all our communities.

"I extend my very best wishes to the Jewish community for a "Shanah tovah u metukah" - a good and sweet year for us all."

To read the full press release see

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/09/07150418>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Daylight Saving Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/daylightsaving.html>

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/parliamentaryvotingsystemandconstituencies.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630709a.133-134.html>

Scottish Parliament

** End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Written evidence to the committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/papers-10/elap10-04.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated

Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people

(closes 20 September 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/policing-21st-century/>

Taking action on rights, support and protection of victims of crime and violence

(closes 30 September 2010)

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0053_en.htm

Data protection legislative framework (closes 6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

General Medical Council (GMC) Equality Scheme 2011 – 2014 (closes 15 October 2010)

[https://gmc.e-](https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=140&status=2&criteria=)

[consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=140&status=2&criteria=](https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=140&status=2&criteria=)

Guidance on Concessionary Schemes for Surface Water Drainage Charges

Applies in England only (closes 22 October 2010)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>

Consultation on the change to policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund (closes 29 October 2010)

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7313.aspx>

Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency (closing date 10 November 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf

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