

# 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

#### **Kosher Meat: EU Action**

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the effect on that community of proposed EU regulations on labelling kosher meat; and if she will make a statement. [15754]

**Mr Paice:** The Government are still considering their position in relation to the recent vote in the European Parliament on the provision of food information to consumers and the proposed requirement to indicate the method of slaughter where an animal has been slaughtered without prior stunning. Currently, there is no statutory obligation to indicate the method of slaughter on meat labels. However, the EU Commission is looking at the introduction of standardised welfare indicators and an EU wide welfare labelling scheme, although it is not yet clear how religious slaughter practices will be reflected in any new arrangements. We will ensure full consultation, including with religious groups, on any proposals that may emerge.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0001.htm#10091620000019>

### UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Keith Vaz (758) English Defence League** - That this House notes with concern the activities of the English Defence League (EDL) which is trying to spread fear, hatred and violence against Britain's ethnic minority community; further notes that the EDL has planned a rally in Leicester on 9 October 2010; recognises that this rally has the potential to be provocative and to threaten race relations and community cohesion; and congratulates the Hope Not Hate Campaign for its efforts to maintain peace and unite communities.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41718&SESSION=905>

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office

### Papal visit moves to London

Pope Benedict XVI has led a celebration of Catholic Education in Twickenham on the second day of his official visit to the UK. He will address civil society in Westminster Hall this evening. ... The Pope will also meet with religious leaders and people of faith at St Mary's before paying a visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury in Lambeth Palace. In the evening, the Pope will address to civil society in Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster. He will then lead a celebration of evening Prayer in Westminster Abbey. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22879645>

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## Holocaust

### Scotland (newspaper report)

#### School trips to learn of Holocaust spared from budget cuts

An education programme which flies schoolchildren to Auschwitz to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust will be spared from forthcoming Scottish Government cuts, The Scotsman has learned.

In the week SNP education minister Keith Brown visited the former concentration camp with 17-year-old students from Scottish schools, the Scottish Government confirmed the £214,000 programme will be protected. The programme, which teaches teenagers about the results of prejudice, was only spared by Holyrood two years ago after a Scotsman campaign. Every year two trips, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust, take around 400 Scottish schoolchildren to Auschwitz.

There had been fears that, with finance secretary John Swinney needing to find between £1.5 billion and £2bn of savings next year, it could be under threat again, despite Tory Education Secretary Michael Gove promising to protect the scheme in England and Wales. But a senior Scottish Government source told The Scotsman last night: "The trips are completely safe and will not be cut."

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the trust, said: "Thanks to the great commitment of the Scottish Government, hundreds of students have already benefited from taking part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, passing on what they have learned in their schools and communities.

"With continued funding, thousands more will have the opportunity to participate in the project - seeing the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau at first hand and gaining real insight about where prejudice and discrimination can ultimately lead."

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/School-trips-to-learn-of.6536326.jp>

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## Israel

### United Nations

#### Children in Gaza turned away from UN schools due to lack of building materials

Despite Israel's promise to ease the closure of the Gaza Strip, 40,000 Palestinian children eligible to enrol in United Nations schools this year had to be turned away this week because building materials for school construction have not been approved to enter the area since 2007.

While for the first time in three years Israel has allowed the import of school supplies for Government schools in Gaza, the almost absolute ban on the import of construction materials has left students with lots of pens and notebooks but without classrooms, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East reported. ... Construction of a standard school requires an estimated 220 truckloads of building materials, or 22,000 truckloads for 100 schools. The only crossing Israel allows to open, Kerem Shalom, can accommodate just 250 truckloads per day, mostly for food and basic humanitarian supplies. Despite promises, Israel has yet to approve a single truckload of construction materials for UNRWA's schools and has agreed to "negotiate" coordinating materials for just eight out of the 100 needed schools. Since the easing of the closure, Israel has allowed just 240 truckloads of construction materials monthly for all uses, compared with more than 5,000 trucks monthly before the closure (4 per cent of pre-closure levels). ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35961&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

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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>

Bill as brought from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/2011019.pdf>

#### **\*\* 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/psc0630916.173-179.html>

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **\*\* End of Life Assistance Bill**

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

Papers and written evidence for next scrutiny committee meeting

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/papers-10/elap10-07.pdf>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

**\*\* closes in 3 days**

### **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](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](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf)

### **Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order (Scotland)** (closes 26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

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