

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Communities and Local Government

2008-09 Citizenship Survey: Empowered Communities Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1547220.pdf>

2008-09 Citizenship Survey: Volunteering and Charitable Giving Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1547056.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S3M-6305 Kenneth Gibson: Rise in Anti-Semitism—That the Parliament expresses concern at the rising trend of anti-Semitic activity throughout 2009; acknowledges that the number of anti-Semitic incidents including extreme violence, assaults, damage and desecration of property, threats, abusive behaviour, including verbal abuse, and the disbursement of anti-Semitic literature almost doubled in the United Kingdom; recognises that a majority of the incidents were arbitrary and opportunistic in nature and notes that the number of politically motivated anti-Semitic incidents is also on the rise; believes that there is never an excuse for any type of hate crime, nor should they be accepted or tolerated, and considers anti-Semitic incidents to be counterproductive as a method of achieving political aims and not conducive to an overall peace solution in the Middle East.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18996>

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Israel

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Estonia, Israel, and Slovenia invited to join OECD

... The invitation to Estonia, Israel and Slovenia to join the OECD acknowledges the efforts already made to reform their economies, including in such areas as combating corruption, protecting intellectual property rights and ensuring high standards of corporate governance, while looking forward to further reforms. All three countries will contribute to OECD work in a number of specific areas. ... Israel's scientific and technological policies have produced outstanding outcomes on a world scale. ... Other

OECD countries will benefit from the unique perspectives and policy-making experiences that they can share in these areas and beyond. ...

The OECD will welcome the three future members at a special ceremony during the annual meeting of the OECD Council at ministerial level on 27 May in Paris. ...

To read the full press release see

http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3343,en_2649_201185_45159737_1_1_1_1,00.html

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Murder in the name of family honour

At a landmark conference held recently in Ramallah in the occupied Palestinian territory, delegates were told of documented cases of “honour” crimes where women and girls had been poisoned, strangled, shot and forced to commit suicide by relatives because their alleged behaviours had tarnished the family “honour”. These behaviours included talking on the phone with a man, being late or the mere rumour or supposition that an illicit behaviour may have happened. ...

... a Task Force was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs specifically mandated to address the phenomenon of crimes committed in the name of “honour” in the occupied Palestinian territory.

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/MurderInTheNameOfFamilyHonour.aspx>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

Scottish Parliament

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

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Consultations ** new or updated

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)

<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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