

Political Affairs Brief

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

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Other Relevant Information](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Questions

Voluntary Organisations

3. Fiona Bruce (Congleton) (Con): What assessment he has made of the effects on voluntary organisations of the Government's regulatory and administrative requirements. [1343]

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd): One of our priorities is to make it easier to run a voluntary organisation, so we are committed to clearing the thicket of bureaucracy that too often gets in the way of doing good and to setting up a joint task force with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to look at how we can reduce red tape for small organisations.

Fiona Bruce: The requirements for people to obtain more than one Criminal Records Bureau check when working or volunteering with different community organisations is causing much duplication and expense, both to individuals and to community groups ... Will the Minister consider reviewing the CRB check procedure and introducing one single registerable and transferrable check for each individual?

Mr Hurd: ... the Government are committed to reviewing the criminal records and vetting and barring regime ...

Paul Goggins (Wythenshawe and Sale East) (Lab): ... Given statements made in recent days by the Prime Minister and others about deep and early cuts in public spending at the same time as statements about an extended role for voluntary organisations in the delivery of public services, ... will he confirm ... that he and other Ministers will uphold the compact with voluntary organisations and, in particular, the commitment to three-year funding as a minimum and to full recovery of costs for volunteering?

Mr Hurd: ... The compact is an important framework for the relationship between the state and the sector at a very important time in its development. We want the sector to work more closely with the state and the compact has an important part to play in making sure that that relationship works productively.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100609/debtext/100609-0001.htm#10060953000016>

[TOP](#)

UK Parliamentary Questions

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of resolutions of the UN Security Council of which the Government of Israel is in breach; and if he will make a statement. [1191]

Alistair Burt [*holding answer 7 June 2010*]: We have made no such estimate. The UK will continue to impress upon the Israeli Government the need to act in line with their international obligations. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in his statement on 2 June 2010.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise at the UN Security Council the matter of the restrictions placed by the Government of Israel on access for humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [1194]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement to the House on 2 June 2010, the situation in Gaza is unacceptable and unsustainable, and is a cause of public concern here in the United Kingdom and around the world. The UK supports the UN Security Council statement of 31 May which underlined the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza. We will also continue to impress on the Israeli Government the importance of UN Security Council resolution 1860, which calls for sustained delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100609/text/100609w0005.htm#10060949000064>

Mordechai Vanunu

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli government on the incarceration of Mordechai Vanunu. [1302]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the circumstances surrounding Mr Vanunu's detention in Israel and continue to monitor his case closely.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100609/text/100609w0005.htm#10060949000065>

International Labour Organisation

New ILO report on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories

The annual report of the International Labour Office (ILO) on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories shows some improvement in the economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory although the latter remains precarious, particularly in Gaza. ... "The bleak economic, social and humanitarian situation in the occupied Arab territories, creates an environment in which workers' rights and human dignity continue to be violated on a daily basis", ILO Director-General Juan Somavia said, adding that "in the absence of other opportunities, many Palestinians are bound to seek work in the informal economy, often at the price of precarious working conditions and poor labour protection". ... the report welcomes "every effort of the Government of Israel to ease the burden for Palestinian workers and families.

To read the full press release see

[http://www.ilo.org/global/About the ILO/Media and public information/Press releases/lang--en/WCMS_141537/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/About%20the%20ILO/Media%20and%20public%20information/Press%20releases/lang--en/WCMS_141537/index.htm)

The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_130550.pdf

[TOP](#)

Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

Scottish Parliament

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Other Relevant Information

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

EU Fundamental Rights Agency presents its Annual Report

... The FRA 2010 Annual Report provides concrete and comparative data on the situation on the ground in the 27 EU Member States. It also provides advice to the EU institutions and Member States, based on the evidence found.

The Agency's surveys and studies undertaken in 2009 in particular show that many equality bodies, national human rights institutions and data protection authorities lack resources, are not independent enough, and often have very weak mandates. Many separated asylum-seeking children disappear whilst their case is being processed. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual) persons suffer discrimination in areas of everyday life, such as at work or in bars. Racism continues to be a part of everyday life for many immigrants and minorities living in the EU, and the majority of EU Member States do not keep official records of racist crime. ...

To read the full press release see

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/media/mr-100610_en.htm

Annual Report 2010

Includes 2.3 (p38) "Trends in Anti-Semitism"

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/AR_2010-conf-edition_en.pdf

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

HRH The Prince of Wales delivered a speech on 'Islam and the Environment' at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

... HRH paid tribute to the role of faith communities in the UK and praised the work done by OXCIS, in particular the Young Muslim leadership programme. [he] reaffirmed the need to help UK's minority communities and faith groups integrate into British Society. ... [and] argued that there were more commonalities between the teachings of the great faiths on the relationship with nature than differences. ...

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22350511>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes tomorrow**

ACPOS Draft Hate Crime Guidance Manual (closes 11 June 2010)

http://www.scojec.org/consultations/current/10vi_acpos_draft_hate_crime_manual.doc

**** closes in 5 days**

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>

**** closes in 7 days**

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>

Welsh Assembly Review of Standing Orders (closes 16 July 2010)

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3_inq_so.htm

[TOP](#)

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