

Political Affairs Brief

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

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House of Lords Short Debate

Daylight Saving Time

Baroness Miller of Hendon: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans permanently to move clocks in England, Wales and Northern Ireland forward by one hour. ...

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox): ...While we do not propose to change our summer time arrangements at the moment, we continue to listen to representations and will consider any evidence presented to us...

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100624-0002.htm#10062474000596>

UK Parliamentary Questions

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what meetings have been held of the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism since his appointment; which officials at each civil service grade attended each meeting; what matters were discussed at each meeting; what further meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement; [2933]

(2) what steps he plans to take to deal with anti-Semitism (a) on university campuses and (b) in student unions; what recent discussions he has had on the issue with representatives of the Jewish community; and if he will make a statement. [2985]

Mr Willetts [holding answer 22 June 2010]: There have been no meetings of the BIS Anti-Semitism and HE Group since my appointment. I have had no meetings so far to discuss anti-Semitism in higher education with representatives of the Jewish community. However, I am due to meet with representatives of the Jewish community and the HE sector to discuss this issue and the work of the BIS Anti-Semitism and HE Group. There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education, whether on campus or in student unions. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and have supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100624/text/100624w0007.htm#10062484000025>

Civil Partnerships

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with leaders of religious groups on the Government's policy on allowing same-sex couples to register relationships in a religious setting. [4163]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality" on 16 June 2010. This document sets out a programme of work to tackle discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

It confirms our support for civil partnerships and sets out our commitment to "talk to those with a key interest in this issue about what the next stage should be for civil partnerships, including how some religious organisations can allow same-sex couples the opportunity to register their relations in a religious setting if they wish to do so".

We will be talking with leaders of religious groups as part of this process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100624/text/100624w0010.htm#10062484000061>

Department for Education

Lists of schools that have registered interest in becoming Academies (*include a number of Jewish schools*)

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/~media/Files/lacuna/academies/OUTSTANDING_SCHOOLSTHATHAVEREGISTEREDANINTERESTONLY.ashx

and

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/~media/Files/lacuna/academies/LISTOFNOTOUTSTANDING_SCHOOLSTHATHAVEREGISTEREDANINTERESTONLY.ashx

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

** Academies Bill

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

Notice of Amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/001/amend/ml001-iii.htm>

** Identity Documents Bill

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0012406a.1.html>

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

**** closes in 6 days**

Reform of the coroner system (closes 1 July 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-coroner-system.htm>

Identity Documents Bill (Committee consideration to be completed by 8 July)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/06/identity-documents-bill-committee-issues-call-for-evidence/>

Equality Act: obtaining information in potential discrimination and equality of term cases (closes 13 July 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx

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

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