

Political Affairs Brief

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

SCoJeC

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Home Office

English Defence League march in Leicester banned

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/edl-march-ban>

ACPOS

Hate Crime Guidance Manual 2010

http://www.acpos.police.uk/Documents/Policies/ED_ACPOS_HateCrimeManual_Sept2010.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Equality Act Starter Kit

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-starter-kit/>

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Israel

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign Secretary addresses regional issues in meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister

... Speaking as a friend of Israel, the Foreign Secretary underlined the British position that the success of the direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians was in Israel's long-term strategic interests. The Foreign Secretary highlighted the depth of concern in the international community about the settlement moratorium and urged that it be extended.

The Foreign Secretary stressed to Foreign Minister Lieberman the importance the United Kingdom attaches to addressing Iran's nuclear programme. He highlighted the strong sense of unity shown at their meeting in New York by the Foreign Ministers of the E3+3 countries on the twin track approach to Iran's nuclear programme.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22927155>

Church in Wales

Archbishop of Wales address to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

... the situation in Israel/Palestine is also appalling ... Now I realise, that whenever I say anything about this matter, I will be accused of being anti-Semitic, but our own Prime Minister has described Gaza as a prison camp. ... Gaza is the second most densely populated area in the world with 1.2 million people living on a strip of land between the desert and the sea measuring 280 square kilometres. Two-thirds of these people live in abject poverty, in refugee camps, after the confiscation of their homes and land by the Israeli Government. ... The situation resembles the apartheid system in South Africa because Gaza is next to one of the most sophisticated and modern countries in the world – Israel. Whereas Israel has excellent technology and infrastructure, in Gaza people carry goods by horse and cart. Whereas Israel has an educational system second to none, next to it children live who are denied even a basic education because their schools have been bombed. ...

Now, no-one denies that Israel has the right to exist and defend itself, and it is indeed surrounded by states that want its destruction, and one cannot condone the firing of rockets into Israel by Hamas. But the longer things continue as they are then moderate, ordinary Palestinians become more resentful and are in danger of being radicalised. ...

In December 2009, a group of leading Palestinian Church leaders issued what some regard as the most significant theological statement on the Israel/Palestine conflict in many years ... the Kairos document. The Methodist Church, this year also produced a report ... Both of those reports say that the key hindrance to security and a lasting peace for all in the region is the occupation of Palestinian territory by the State of Israel. ...

Archbishop Rowan wrote a paper as long ago as 1994 entitled '*Holy Land and Holy People*' where he argues that the biblical people of God, the Jews, are given a homeland in order to better facilitate the promotion of community life defined by wisdom and justice. On this understanding, the modern State of Israel, if it claims also to be the homeland for the Ancient Jewish people of God, must take seriously this vocation as the paradigm nation where justice and wisdom are seen to be done. ...

The wall ... covering a distance of 702 kilometres, four times as long and twice as high as the Berlin wall consists of fences, ditches, razor-wire, grooves and paths, an electronic monitoring system, patrol roads and a buffer zone, not only separates Israelis from Palestinians but Palestinians from family members and friends. ...

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/bishops/sermons/b38.html>

European Union

Transforming the Quartet principles: Hamas and the Peace Process

http://www.iss.europa.eu/uploads/media/op85_Transforming_the_Quartet_principles.pdf

United Nations

UN office shocked at alleged deliberate burning of mosque in West Bank

The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process today voiced its shock following the burning of a mosque in the West Bank that is suspected to be an act of arson. According to media reports, the incident took place early this morning in the village of Beit Fajjar near Bethlehem. ... It follows several recent attacks on mosques as well as on Palestinian civilians and property, UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters ...

UNSCO reminded the Israeli Government that the extremists responsible for such attacks must be brought to justice and the rule of law upheld. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36335&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

UN chief presses Middle East leaders to find a way forward

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ... urged the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to continue their efforts to find a way forward in their direct talks to resolve the long-running conflict. ... [He] welcomed the continuing US efforts to sustain the talks and ... encouraged Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Abbas to find a way forward, reiterating his belief that negotiations are the only way for Israelis and Palestinians to resolve all final status issues and realize their aspirations. ...

Earlier this week the Secretary-General expressed disappointment that Israel had not moved to extend the moratorium on the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36320&Cr=Palestin&Cr1=>

Syria says it is ready to make peace with Israel if it fulfils UN resolutions

Syria said today that it “has the will” to make peace with Israel within the framework of United Nations resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory, stressing that the return to it of the Golan Heights is non-negotiable. ... Foreign Minister Walid Al-Moualem [told](#) the General Assembly. “Our solemn position has been known for years. We have the will to make peace ...

Turning to the Israeli-Palestinian talks, he said that there is much talk about peace in Israel “yet the drums of war continue to sound,” with land appropriation for settlement building going on unabated. ... “Israel is feverishly pursuing its Judaization plans for Jerusalem which it has long sought to depopulate of its Palestinian inhabitants. Israeli actions threaten the safety of Jerusalem’s holy sites. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36262&Cr=SYRIA&Cr1=>

Two-pronged solution needed to end Middle East conflict, Israel tells UN

The long-running conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is based on both emotional and practical problems, Israel’s Foreign Minister [told](#) the General Assembly today, stressing the need for a two-staged solution. ... “We need to raise an entire new generation that will have mutual trust and will not be influenced by incitement and extremist messages,” said Mr. Liberman ...

“This friction exists in all instances where there are two nations with different religions, languages and competing claims to the same land ... Where effective separation has been achieved, conflict has either been avoided, or has been dramatically reduced or resolved, ... Thus, the guiding principle for a final status agreement must not be land-for-peace but rather, exchange of populated territory,”

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36247&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>

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

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

Scottish Parliament

** End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Stage 1 oral evidence session (including from faith communities)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/or-10/ela10-0702.htm#Col181>

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Other Relevant Information

Scottish Assembly Government

Joint Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) capacity building fund

closing date for applications 17 December 2010

The Advancing Equality Fund has made available £50,000 for awards of up to £5,000 for the joint Welsh Assembly Government / Equality and Human Rights Commission Capacity Building Fund available to third sector organisations ... to help organisations increase their engagement with the community and partnership working with the statutory sector and improve or better understand their governance obligations. This is the second and final tranche of this fund.

For details and application form see

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/funding/ehrcfund/?lang=en>

Quilliam

Cheering for Osama: How Jihadists use Internet Discussion Forums

<http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/images/stories/pdfs/cheering-for-osama-how-jihadists-use-the-internet-forums.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes in 2 days**

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-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=140&status=2&criteria=1

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

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>

Charity Commission: Proposed withdrawal of paper forms for Annual Returns, Registration applications, and forthcoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations (closes 2 December 2010)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About us/About the Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx)

Equality Act 2010 - Performance of the Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales

(closes 17 December 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/equality/equalityact2010/?lang=en>

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education** (closes 31 December 2010)

http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen

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