

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

Circumcision

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on health of circumcision of male infants. [19052]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no recent assessments of the likely effects on health of circumcision of male infants.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to GPs and health care professionals on the circumcision of male infants. [19053]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not published guidance on male circumcision. General guidance is that doctors should communicate treatment options, outcomes and risks with the patient and gain consent for any procedure. Doctors should make every effort to discuss with parents what is in the best interests of the child. The welfare of infants must be paramount, whatever the reason for undertaking the procedure. Any medical procedure must be undertaken in hygienic conditions, with appropriate pain relief and aftercare.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101022/text/101022w001.htm#1010227000062>

Crime: Race and Criminal Justice Statistics

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide that the annual Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System include all available information about the religion or beliefs of the defendants and victims; and that separate tables are given for racially and religiously aggravated offences. [HL2655]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Ministry of Justice Head of Profession for Statistics is responsible for the content and timing of Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System, and takes very seriously the view of users of the publication. Police data on racially or religiously aggravated offences have been published in the report since 2002 and tables showing the figures for individual police force areas have been published since 2003. Due to the way in which police figures are recorded, it is not possible to separate offences that are racially aggravated from those that are religiously aggravated.

The religion and belief of defendants and victims has been collected by the CPS

since April 2007, and we are assessing data quality for inclusion in the next publication. The Ministry of Justice's chief statistician is responsible for the timing and content of statistical releases and will ensure that if the data are of sufficient quality it will be published.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101022w0001.htm#10102225000296>

[TOP](#)

[Israel](#)

United Nations

Gaza blockade continues to exact high humanitarian toll – UN rights expert

The people of Gaza continue to suffer from the humanitarian consequences of the Israeli blockade of the area, despite the recent partial easing of the restrictions ... “The situation in Gaza remains very serious from a humanitarian perspective. The blockade has been eased in some respects, but it has been maintained in other respects, and it continues to put the population there under great psychological and physical stress,” Richard Falk, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, told reporters at the UN Headquarters in New York. ... Israel’s continued refusal to allow export of goods from Gaza has destroyed its internal economy, and young people from Gaza continue to be denied the right to visit their families in the West Bank and East Jerusalem or to attend universities in other parts of the territories ...

In his [report](#), his last in his capacity as Special Rapporteur, the expert reminded the world of the dire situation of residents of the West Bank ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36540&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

[TOP](#)

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>

notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0632510m.745-751.html>

Scottish Parliament

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Other Relevant Information

Quilliam

Radicalisation on British University Campuses: a case study

http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/images/stories/pdfs/radicalisation-on-british-university-campuses.pdf?dm_i=JI3,9VTX,2SFTK3,QMLZ,1

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated

** closes in 4 days

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

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

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

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

[TOP](#)