

# Political Affairs Brief

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

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## Home Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Anti-Semitism

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what (a) research and (b) programmes he plans to commission for the purposes of tackling anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [22577]

**Andrew Stunell:** The cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism is currently preparing to publish a three-year on response to the recommendations made by the All Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism. Once this report has been published we will reassess what still needs to be done and commission research and develop a programme of action accordingly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101110/text/101110w002.htm#1011106000048>

#### Crime: Race and Criminal Justice Statistics

**Lord Avebury:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 22 October (WA 205), what the obstacle is to police forces identifying racially and religiously aggravated offences separately; and whether they will ensure that in future those data are of sufficient quality to be published in the annual Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System.[HL3367]

**The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):** Police forces record crimes in accordance with the law and the provisions set out in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime (HOCR). The relevant legislation (the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as added to by the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001) created a single offence of racial or religious aggravation. Police recorded crime statistics currently include racially and religiously aggravated offences as set out in law. The Home Office plans to require forces to submit more detailed information on these and other notifiable offences from April 2011 which will provide additional data to show the split between the racial and religious elements.

Police data on racially or religiously aggravated offences have been published in the Race and the Criminal Justice System report since 2002 and tables showing the figures for individual police force areas have been published since 2003.

Once new proposals by the Home Office are in place, The Ministry of Justice's chief statistician will be responsible for any decision concerning the inclusion of these new data in subsequent reports dependent on their quality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101110w0001.htm#10111057000435>

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### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### **Mordechai Vanunu**

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the Government of Israel to release Mordechai Vanunu. [22507]

**Alistair Burt** [*holding answer of 8 November 2010*]: While we are concerned by the developments in this case and monitor the situation, Mr Vanunu is not a UK national and we are therefore constrained in the attention we can give to this. The UK has a strong record of lobbying the Israeli Government hard on issues regarding human rights and those directly related to our foreign policy objectives. Therefore, our capacity to lobby on specific cases, especially on behalf of non-British Nationals, is extremely limited.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101110/text/101110w001.htm#10111049000060>

#### **Middle East: Peace Negotiations**

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his (a) Israeli and (b) Palestinian counterparts on the Israeli Government's proposal for a compulsory oath of loyalty; and if he will make a statement. [23034]

**Alistair Burt:** We attach importance to the values set out in Israel's Declaration of Independence and basic laws. We are concerned by anything that detracts from these and will be watching this debate carefully. We do not want to see steps to prejudice Israel's non-Jewish citizens or to discriminate against people on the basis of their religion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101110/text/101110w001.htm#10111049000059>

#### **Israel**

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the Israeli organisation Peace Now's statement that "intensive building is proceeding in 36 settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem"; and whether they intend to make representations to the government of Israel.[HL3318]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** As my right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we are very disappointed by the continuation of settlement building, following the recent expiry of the settlement moratorium. We continue to call on Israel to freeze settlement activity. Settlements are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace. We have made our views clear to the Government of Israel and will continue to discuss these issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101110w0001.htm#10111057000454>

#### **Israel and Palestine**

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Mr Hathem Qufishe, a Palestinian MP, has been released by Israel, following his arrest in Hebron on 18 October; and, if not, whether they will make representations on his behalf.[HL3317]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** The detention of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli Prison Service facilities is a serious concern. We have called on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that their rights, particularly the rights to a fair trial and family visits, are upheld.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101110w0001.htm#10111057000455>

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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>

#### Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/psc0641011a.1161-1163.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

#### **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>

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated

#### **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>

#### **The Future of the Citizenship Survey** (closing date 30 November 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1756366.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](http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen)

**Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy**  
(closes 14 January 2011)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr\\_strategic\\_review.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx)

**Prevent Review** (closing date not stated)

<http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

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