

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](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Question

Food: Labelling

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to require halal meat offered for sale to be labelled as such. [22813]

Mr Paice: I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101111/text/101111w0001.htm#10111164000023>

[TOP](#)

Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Middle East: Armed conflict

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent attempts to pass a letter to Gilad Shalit via the International Committee of the Red Cross. [20073]

Alistair Burt: We have called repeatedly for the release of Gilad Shalit and will continue to do so, and the international community will continue to work towards that end. We are aware of media reports on the specific issue highlighted but do not have further information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101111/text/101111w0002.htm#10111178000016>

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to (a) the Israeli Government and (b) the US Administration on the need for negotiations with the Palestinians for the purposes of securing a peace settlement; and if he will make a statement. [22722]

Alistair Burt: During my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to the

region on 2 to 4 November, he emphasised to both the Israeli and Palestinian Prime Ministers the need to persist with direct negotiations and the risk that the window would otherwise close on a two state solution. He underlined to the Government of Israel the need to announce a new moratorium on settlements so that talks can continue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (Mr Hague) discusses these issues regularly with Secretary Clinton and Senator Mitchell.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101111/text/101111w0002.htm#10111178000017>

Occupied Territories: Housing

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 plans for new settler homes in East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [23038]

Alistair Burt: We are extremely disappointed by the decision of the Israeli Government to issue tenders for the construction of further settlements in east Jerusalem. This is not helpful.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear during his recent visit to the region, settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are an obstacle to peace. Their construction should stop.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101111/text/101111w0002.htm#10111178000019>

Israel and Palestine

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they and the Quartet will make representations to the Government of Israel regarding the refusals of licences to Palestinians to build in East Jerusalem and the threat of demolition to existing Palestinian dwellings in East Jerusalem.[HL3316]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The UK has a strong record of lobbying hard on issues relating to house demolitions and settlement building. East Jerusalem is occupied territory under international law: we do not recognise Israel's annexation.

House demolitions or the eviction of Palestinians from their homes in east Jerusalem, such as the recent evictions which took place in the Old City, are deeply unhelpful. We view any attempts to change the facts on the ground as a serious provocation likely to raise tensions, as well as being harmful to the peace process and, of course, in contravention of international law.

My right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary underlined his concerns about ongoing Israeli settlement activity during his visit to the region on 2-4 November.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101111w0002.htm#10111153001728>

[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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0641111a.1165-1168.html>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/amend/am019-ra.htm>

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>

[TOP](#)

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

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

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

Prevent Review (closing date not stated)

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

[TOP](#)

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