

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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UK Parliament Debate

Summertime (Scotland)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/debtext/101116-0004.htm#1011172000002>

UK Parliamentary Questions

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has (a) undertaken and (b) evaluated on the causes of anti-Semitism in schools in each of the last three years. [22003]

Tim Loughton: No research on the causes of anti-Semitism in schools has been undertaken nor evaluated by the Department in the last three years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0005.htm#1011174000084>

Meat: Slaughter

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission whether any (a) beef, (b) lamb and (c) chicken served in House of Commons catering outlets was slaughtered using halal methods in the last 12 months; and how customers are made aware of the slaughtering method of the meat served. [24197]

Sir Stuart Bell: No beef or lamb purchased by the House of Commons is halal slaughtered unless specifically requested by an event organiser. However, it has recently come to the attention of the House of Commons Catering Service that it has unknowingly received supplies of poultry slaughtered using pre-stun halal methods, and consequently customers have not been made aware of this fact. Contracts for the supply of meat and poultry are currently in the process of being re-tendered and as part of that process it has become apparent that the practice of supplying halal meats and poultry is widespread in the catering supply chain. The House Service is in discussions with bidders about how this can best be managed in future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0005.htm#1011174000096>

Downing St

List of Parliamentary Private Secretaries

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/11/government-publishes-list-of-parliamentary-private-secretaries-57099>

Home Office

Government will not 'dictate' how people behave says Theresa May

... Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equality Theresa May has today announced that the socio-economic duty, which was created as part of the 2010 Equality Act, will be scrapped. The announcement came as the Home Secretary outlined a radical new approach to equalities that rejects political correctness and social engineering. [In a speech](#) ... the Home Secretary announced plans to tackle inequality by treating people as individuals rather than labelling them in groups, and ending the top-down approach that saw Whitehall trying to impose equality from above. ... Theresa May said: 'Equality has become a dirty word because it has come to be associated with the worst aspects of pointless political correctness and social engineering. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/equality-speech>

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Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Israel: Borders

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of roadblocks in the West Bank which have been removed by the government of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [21938]

Alistair Burt: According to the UN's most recent annual report (published in June 2010) on "West Bank Movement and Access" the number of roadblocks in the west bank was 505. This was in comparison to 626 the previous year.

While we welcome the improvements around the west bank, access into and within the west bank remains seriously restricted, and further easing is essential to help the Palestinian economy grow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w001.htm#10111659000013>

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to achieve a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [24014]

Alistair Burt [holding answer 15 November 2010]: This conflict matters to British national security: we will continue to take every opportunity to promote peace, working with all parties, the US and our EU and UN partners.

Our goal is a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state, based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states, and a fair settlement for refugees.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed these issues during his recent visit to the region and underlined the need for a renewal of Israel's moratorium on settlement construction. He is also in

regular contact with Secretary Clinton and Senator Mitchell on progress. In addition we will continue our work supporting those building the institutions of a future Palestinian state, and continue to work with partners to secure greater change on the ground in Gaza.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0001.htm#10111659000015>

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with (a) the US Secretary of State, (b) the French Foreign Minister, (c) the Egyptian Foreign Minister, (d) the Jordanian Foreign Minister and (e) the Quartet's Middle East peace envoy on the Middle East peace process. [23035]

Alistair Burt: We are in regular contact with the US and the other key partners cited on the middle east peace process (MEPP) at both ministerial and official level.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is holding further discussions with Secretary Clinton this week. He also discussed MEPP with former French Foreign Minister Kouchner on 14 October, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh on 23 October and with right hon. Tony Blair on 30 October.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0001.htm#10111659000016>

Gaza

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they are making to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza; and whether this amount is likely to increase in light of the agency's budget shortfall.[HL3602]

Baroness Verma: The UK is providing core funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) through a five year (2007-11) commitment worth up to £110 million. In June this year we provided £19 million under this commitment. In October we provided an additional £8 million to ensure UNRWA can continue to deliver essential services, such as healthcare and education. This brings our total assistance to UNRWA for 2010 to £27 million which, among other things, will help provide maternal healthcare to 263,000 women and 242,000 children, education for 45,000 children, vocational training for 1,000 vulnerable and disabled people, and food and cash aid for 29,000 extremely poor people. Approximately 30 percent of UNRWA's funding is spent in Gaza.

The Minister of State for International Development, my right honourable friend Alan Duncan MP, recently met UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Filippo Grandi, to discuss the funding shortfall. The UK fully supports UNRWA's fundraising efforts and, in addition to the extra funding we have provided, we are calling on other donors to honour their funding commitments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101116w0001.htm#10111636000377>

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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>

Committee stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/debtext/101116-0002.htm#10111632000002>

Committee Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/pro0641611p.315.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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101116-0002.htm#10111643000022>

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>

The Stage 1 debate will take place on 25 November

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Other Relevant Information

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses: Annual Report For 2009

http://www.osce.org/publications/odhr/2010/11/47692_1563_en.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated

** *closes tomorrow*

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

**** Improvements to Criminal Justice Statistics** (closing date 18 February 2011)
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/statistics-cp171110.htm>

Prevent Review (closing date not stated)
<http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

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