

# 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

#### Abattoirs: CCTV

... **Lord Henley:** ... we do not condone animal cruelty of any sort. We will ensure that all allegations of the ill treatment of animals are fully investigated and, where necessary, prosecutions are made.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** My Lords, if that is so, should not those of us of the Christian culture, with our attendant laws for animal welfare, understand the practice of halal slaughter, and also be told when we may be eating that meat and therefore supporting the practice?

**Lord Henley:** ... I can say that we have no plans whatever to make the practice of halal or kosher killing illegal. However, we think that it is worth considering the appropriate labelling of all meat so that people know exactly what it is that they are eating and how the meat has been killed. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101123-0001.htm#10112323000866>

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## Israel

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Israel

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they and the quartet on the Middle East are taking to protect the Bedouin living in 45 unrecognised villages of the Negev in Israel, and in particular the town of Rahat and the village of Araqeat; and how they will ensure their access to education and health services. [HL4008]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** We are aware of the demolition of a mosque in the Bedouin town of Rahat on 7 November 2010. More widely, we are concerned by the treatment of Arab minorities in Israel. Our ambassador to Israel has raised this with the Israeli authorities on several occasions; we will continue to do so as necessary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101123w0001.htm#10112321000778>

## Middle East Peace Process

**Lord Dykes:** To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last held talks with Senator George Mitchell to discuss Middle East peace efforts; and what themes were broached in those talks. [HL3974]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** My right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary last spoke to Senator Mitchell and Hilary Clinton during his recent visit to Washington on 16-17 November. They discussed the way forward on the Middle East peace process, including the need for a renewal of the settlement moratorium.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101123w0001.htm#10112321000783>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Robert Halfon (a1) As an Amendment to Richard Burden's proposed Motion (Occupation of the Palestinian Territories):** Line 1, leave out from 'House' to end and add 'regrets that some link worldwide Islamist extremism to Israel's action regarding Gaza; notes that the objective of Islamists worldwide is not a peaceful resolution to the Middle East, but Jihad, and an ideology that believes that Israel, and by extension, Jews, should be wiped off the map per se; cites President Ahmadinejad, who makes no distinction between the West Bank and Tel Aviv; further notes that when Ehud Barak offered almost everything to Yasir Arafat at Camp David in 2000, far from discouraging Islamists, it emboldened them; further notes that when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, far from stopping extremists, it encouraged them, prompting many terrorist acts around the world; further regrets the Hamas coup against the more moderate Fatah movement in 2007; further regrets the 6,000 missiles fired by Islamists onto Israeli towns since the Gaza withdrawal; further regrets the blowing up of border crossings by Hamas, and the hijacking of aid convoys for their own purposes; acknowledges the one million tons of humanitarian supplies that have entered Gaza since 2009 alone from Israel, and the 15,000 tons of supplies entering Gaza every week; further notes finally that Egypt has also closed its border to Gaza; and therefore calls on the Government to reject the idea of moral equivalence between a democratic state subject to the rule of law, and terrorist groups who seek nothing of the kind.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42075&SESSION=905>

***The EDM to which this is an amendment was included in yesterday's PAB and is copied below:***

**Richard Burden (1068) Occupation of the Palestinian Territories** - That this House notes the 43-year-long occupation of the Palestinian Territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem by Israel; further notes the presence of over 500,000 illegal Israeli settlers on occupied land and the refusal of the government of Israel to halt the construction of such settlements, or even to suspend construction to allow peace talks with the Palestinian leadership to progress; further notes the continuing siege of the Gaza Strip, which since June 2007 has prevented exports from Gaza and disrupted the import of humanitarian supplies and materials to rebuild homes, schools, hospitals and businesses destroyed by war; reaffirms its continued belief in a lasting peace settlement with a secure and independent state of Palestine alongside a secure and independent Israel; and calls on the Government, working with the EU, to remind Israel that the continuation of trade and other preferences under the EU-Israeli Association Agreement is dependent on it implementing its own obligations to respect the human rights of Palestinians and to uphold international law.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42075&SESSION=905>

### **UN political chief urges early resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks**

The United Nations political chief today called for efforts to break the current impasse in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, including a freeze on settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory, and urged a return to direct negotiations by the parties. ... "We are in the midst of a delicate period which will determine whether a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks is possible," B. Lynn Pascoe, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, told the Security Council in his latest [briefing](#) on the situation in the Middle East. ... he reported that there has been "significant" construction in a number of settlements since the expiry of the moratorium and plans announced for more construction in parts of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. ... He stressed the need to work to bring about a return to direct talks between the parties ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36845&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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/psc0642411m.1223-1229.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/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/am026-c.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/am026-d.htm>

### **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 has been postponed to 1 December

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

**\*\* closes in 2 days**

**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)

**Improvements to Criminal Justice Statistics** (closing date 18 February 2011)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/statistics-cp171110.htm>

**National statistics, published by the Department of Health about the experience of black and minority ethnic patients**

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_121762](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121762)

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

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

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