

Political Affairs Brief

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

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House of Commons Debate

Daylight Saving Bill: Second Reading

includes:

col 1084 **Rebecca Harris:** ... **Rebecca Harris:** ... I have had two representations from amateur astronomers, saying that in the height of summer the measure could delay their ability to gaze at the stars for an extra hour, and I have had representations from the orthodox Jewish community that in the deep midwinter there could be problems in getting to work on time after morning prayers, which are daylight-sensitive. I recognise and appreciate those concerns ... Those might not be insurmountable problems, and employers could be understanding in the darker weeks of winter.

col 1118 **Mr Matthew Offord (Hendon) (Con):** I believe my hon. Friend's constituency contains a community of orthodox Jewish people, as does mine in Hendon. ... how [would] the proposed changes ... affect them, particularly in the winter, but also in the summer when their days of prayer are dictated and determined by sunrise and sunset?

Mr Ellwood: ... There are many groups ... who have concerns in respect of various aspects of life, and those matters need to be weighed up in deciding on the bigger picture of whether this change is worth making. The whole purpose of having this debate and allowing the discussion to progress and the Government to take an interest, is to balance out the various arguments and see whether the change is in the interests of Britain as a whole. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101203/debtext/101203-0001.htm#10120330000001>

UK Parliamentary Questions

Burial Law

Lord Clement-Jones: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered any reform of burial law in order to permit reuse of old graves for burial and to ease the financial burdens placed on local authorities in administering public cemeteries.[HL4645]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): We are currently considering whether to permit the reuse of old graves as a solution to the shortage of burial space in some areas. We recognise that such arrangements could relieve local authorities from the costs of acquiring and developing new land for burials. Authorities in London are already permitted, under provisions within the London Local Authorities Act 2007, to reuse old private graves.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101203w0001.htm#10120331000300>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S3M-7529 Jackson Carlaw: Sentencing of Mohammed Sandia—That the Parliament condemns the comments of Mohammed Sandia who posted a series of what it considers disgraceful anti-Semitic remarks on The Scotsman newspaper's website; welcomes what it considers Sheriff Gordon Liddell's unequivocal condemnation of Sandia's comments when he appeared for sentencing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 10 November 2010; considers that Mr Sandia's prosecution sends out a welcome message to society at large about how indefensible anti-Semitism is and how vile its consequences can be; congratulates the determination of the police and Crown Office to pursue this case to its conclusion, and urges editors of all media, and online media outlets in particular, to be on their guard to prevent similar instances of religious or racial hatred from finding their way onto their pages in the future.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20354>

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign Secretary offers condolences to families affected by Israel forest fire

... the Foreign Secretary said: "The British Government has been saddened by the Carmel Forest fire in northern Israel which has claimed so many lives. On behalf of the whole Government I send my condolences to those who have lost family members. Our thoughts are with the thousands who have had to leave their homes due to the blaze. This tragedy is all the more sad as it comes as the Jewish community around the world celebrates Chanukah, a time of hope and joy. The Prime Minister has instructed the Royal Air Force to deploy two helicopters from Cyprus, and these are now in Israel assisting with the international effort to put out the fires. The UK will continue to do whatever it can to help."

To read the full press release see

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=296320682>

Amnesty and other NGOs

Dashed Hopes: Continuation of the Gaza Blockade

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_21083.pdf

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[Relevant Legislation](#) ** New or updated

UK Parliament

**** Daylight Saving Bill**

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

Second Reading Debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101203/debtext/101203-0001.htm#10120330000001>

**** Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

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

Second Reading scheduled for 2 December 2011

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101203/debtext/101203-0003.htm#10120330000007>

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/pbc0640112a.1241-1242.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>

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

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

Scottish Parliament

Certification of Death Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated

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>

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

Prevent Review (closing date not stated)

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

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