

Political Affairs Brief

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

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Scottish Parliamentary Question

Racism

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-34777 by Fergus Ewing on 21 July 2010, whether it considers that the conviction of Mohammed Sandia for posting anti-Semitic material on The Scotsman website is sufficient evidence that anti-Semitic graffiti at Glenduffhill Jewish cemetery was not an isolated incident. (S3W-37794)

Fergus Ewing: We are aware of the recently reported conviction of an individual, following the posting of comments on newspaper websites. We are not aware of any connection between this incident and the incident referred to in S3W-34777. However, the Scottish Government takes any incidents of anti-Semitic behaviour as of the utmost gravity whether these are isolated incidents or not. We condemn and abhor anti-Semitic views and anti-Semitic behaviour. We continue to work productively with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and others and through this we can achieve the aspiration of One Scotland of many cultures, faiths and beliefs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-37794>

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Israel

Council of Europe

Council conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process: 3058th Foreign Affairs Council meeting

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU believes that urgent progress is needed towards a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. ...
2. The EU notes with regret that Israel has not extended the moratorium ... Our views on settlements, including in East Jerusalem, are clear: they are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace. ...
3. ... the EU will continue to work closely with the parties and reaffirms its support to the US efforts in order to bring the parties back to the negotiating table.

4. ... The EU will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties. This could include agreed territorial swaps. ...
5. The EU commends the work of the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of the future State of Palestine and reiterates its full support for their endeavours in this regard and the Fayyad plan. ... The EU remains ready to develop further its bilateral relations with Israel within the framework defined at the Association Council of June 2009 and by its conclusions of December 2009. Within the framework of these conclusions, the EU is also ready to develop further its bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority.
6. ... Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative.
7. ... The EU reiterates its call for the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza. ... The Council calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay. The Council calls for a complete stop of rocket attacks at Israel and all other forms of violence.
8. ... the EU welcomes the recent announcement by the Israeli government concerning new measures to facilitate exports out of Gaza. ...
9. The EU recalls its readiness to assist in the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza in close partnership with the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government... the EU is ready to extend its support to improvements to the crossings infrastructure, to purchase and install the necessary equipment and also to train Palestinian border and crossings management personnel to operate the crossings.

To read the full press release see

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/118448.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Daylight Saving Bill

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

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

Identity Documents Bill

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

**** Localism Bill**

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

Bill as introduced

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

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.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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Other Relevant Information

European Muslim Research Centre

Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate Crime: UK Case Studies 2010

http://www.muslimsafetyforum.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Web_EMRC_2010revised_SecureUSE-THIS.pdf.pdf

Policy Exchange

Faith Schools We Can Believe In

http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/pdfs/Faith_Schools_We_Can_Believe_In_-_Nov_10.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated

** closes in 4 days

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>

** closes in 4 days

Prevent Review (closes 17 December 2010)

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

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 (closes 18 February 2011)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121762

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