

Political Affairs Digest

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

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House of Commons Written Answers

Faith Schools

Keith Vaz [62248] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will list the number of faith schools in England by (a) religion and (b) local authority area.

Caroline Dinenage: This information is available in the statistical first release at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016> Figures for England are in table 2c. Figures for each local authority are in tables 7f and 7g.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-30/62248/>

Faith Schools

Keith Vaz [62249] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the number of faith schools that were opened in 2015; and where each of those schools are situated.

Caroline Dinenage: In the 2015 calendar year, 14 new state-funded mainstream schools opened in England. The table below gives a breakdown of this number by local authority. (Source Edubase)

Local Authority	Total faith schools opened in 2015 calendar year
Birmingham	2
Plymouth	1
Hillingdon	1
Hounslow	1
Norfolk	1
Staffordshire	1
Kingston upon Thames	1
Manchester	1
Slough	1
Lancashire	1
Stockton-on-Tees	1
Derby	1
Buckinghamshire	1
England Total	14

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime

Fulton MacGregor: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle hate crime in schools. (S5W-6546)

Angela Constance: All forms of hate crime and prejudice are completely unacceptable. In schools, we want all children and young people to learn tolerance, respect, equality and good citizenship to address and prevent prejudice. Whilst not specifically about tackling hate crime, promoting positive attitudes amongst children and young people is key to long term prevention.

The Scottish Government takes bullying very seriously, and we are currently refreshing our national approach to anti-bullying (including prejudice based bullying). 'Respect for All' will help everyone involved in the lives of children and young people to identify and address bullying, including racist, homophobic and abusive behaviour whether it happens online or offline. Teachers, schools, local authorities, youth organisations and sports organisations will be able to draw on this advice when refreshing their anti-bullying policies. The guidance will be published later this year.

In addition, Relationships sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum in Scotland. In 2014 we published guidance on RSHP education in schools that clearly states how important it is that RSHP education addresses diversity and reflects issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people or children with LGBTI parents, such as same sex marriage and hate crime.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-06546&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Bob Blackman [62082] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Palestinian Authority after a demonstration hosted by President Abbas' Fatah party to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of its first terror attack on Israel at which terrorists who have killed Israelis were honoured.

Tobias Ellwood: While we have not raised this specific issue with the Palestinian Authority, our Consul-General raised the issue of incitement with President Abbas on 24 December. We continue to support the reinstatement of the Tripartite Committee on Incitement as the appropriate channel to deal with allegations of incitement from either side.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-27/62082/>

Downing Street

PM meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu: 6 February 2017

... In their discussions, the Prime Ministers committed to working together to build on our longstanding relationship and the strong ties that already exist between our 2 countries in a wide range of areas, from trade and investment, to innovation and technology, and defence and security.

They discussed their shared belief in free trade and agreed to establish a new UK-Israel Trade Working Group to continue the progress we have seen in our burgeoning trade and investment relationship, and to prepare the ground for a post-Brexit trade agreement. It was noted that Lord Price will visit Israel soon to take this forward. They also discussed opportunities to increase investment in research and development and technology, and strengthen partnerships in these areas between our governments, universities and businesses.

They talked about the important work we do together on intelligence-sharing and cyber-security, and committed to talk further about how we can deepen this co-operation, to help keep our people safe.

They also discussed a number of international issues. On Iran, the Prime Minister was clear that the nuclear deal is vital and must be properly enforced and policed, while recognising concerns about Iran's pattern of destabilising activity in the region. They also talked about the Middle East Peace Process and the UK's firm commitment to a 2-state solution as the best way to bring stability and peace to the region. The Prime Minister reiterated the UK's opposition to settlement activity.

As we prepare to mark 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, the Prime Minister underlined that Britain remains a close and firm friend of Israel and reiterated our support for Jewish communities in the UK. She invited Prime Minister Netanyahu to attend events taking place in the UK to mark the anniversary in November, as a Guest of Government. He also invited her to visit him in Israel.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-israeli-prime-minister-netanyahu-6-february-2017>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood statement on Israel's Land Regularisation Bill

Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood said: It is of great concern that the bill paves the way for significant growth in settlements deep in the West Bank, threatening the viability of the two-state solution.

As a longstanding friend of Israel, I condemn the passing of the Land Regularisation Bill by the Knesset, which damages Israel's standing with its international partners.

We reiterate our support for a two-state solution leading to a secure Israel that is safe from terrorism, and a contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-the-middle-east-tobias-ellwood-statement-on-israels-land-regularisation-bill>

United Nations

UN Middle East envoy 'concerned' over scheduled vote on Israel's settlement regularisation bill

The top United Nations Middle East envoy today expressed concern about the scheduled vote by the Knesset, Israel's legislative body, on a bill that would "legalize" Israeli settlements on privately-owned Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

“I am concerned by the scheduled vote on the so-called 'Regularisation Bill' as it would enable the continued use of privately-owned Palestinian land for Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank,” said the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, in a [statement](#).

“If adopted into law, it will have far reaching legal consequences for Israel and greatly diminish the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace,” Mr. Mladenov added, noting that the bill has been deemed unconstitutional by the Attorney General of Israel and is in contravention of international law.

“I urge Israeli legislators to reconsider this move,” he stated, stressing that all core issues should be resolved between the parties through direct negotiations on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions and mutual agreements.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56112#.WJnTuBJ96nY>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

Assisted Dying Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/assisteddying.html>

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/culturalpropertyarmedconflicts.html>

Lobbying (Transparency) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/lobbyingtransparency.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Promotion of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (United Kingdom Participation)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/promotionofisraelipalestinianpeaceunitedkingdomparticipation.html>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Consolidation and revision of the school governance regulatory framework in Wales

(closing date 17 February 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/consolidation-and-revision-school-governance-regulatory-framework-wales>

Measurement framework for equality and human rights (closing date 21 February 2017)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-measurement-framework/measurement-framework-consultation>

Racism at work (closing date 27 February 2017)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RacismAtWork>

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (Scotland) (closing date 14 March 2017)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

The UK's policy towards the Middle East Peace Process (closing date 30 March 2017)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/middle-east-peace-process-inquiry-16-17/>

Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill (closing date 10 April 2017)
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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