

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Foreign Affairs](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Racial Violence

Jim Shannon [63430] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the handling of racially motivated attacks.

Caroline Dinenage: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Education regularly meets Cabinet colleagues including the Home Secretary, and discusses a wide range of policy and delivery issues.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-07/63430/>

[TOP](#)

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Embassies

Michael Gove [63171] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his policy is on the basing of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv; and if he will make a statement.

Tobias Ellwood: The UK position on Jerusalem has not changed; the British Embassy is based in Tel Aviv and we have no plans to move it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-06/63171/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: USA

Baroness Tonge [HL5092] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions the Prime Minister had during her recent meeting with President Trump regarding the proposed US embassy move to Jerusalem.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and President Trump discussed a range of foreign policy issues during their meeting on 27 January. The UK's position on the location of our embassy has not changed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-30/HL5092/>

Israel: USA

The Marquess of Lothian [HL5150] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister raised the issue of the location of the US Embassy in Israel with the government of the US during her visit to Washington on 25 to 26 January.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and President Trump discussed a range of foreign policy issues during their meeting on 27 January. The UK's position on the location of our embassy has not changed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5150/>

Palestinians: Employment

Lord Lothian [HL5214] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they, the EU and other international agencies are taking steps to increase the employment opportunities available for young Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza; and what assessment they have made of the benefits of introducing a system of loans for small and new businesses.

Lord Bates: Job creation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) is a priority for the UK and other donors. The Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP), a joint UK-EU programme, is improving the competitiveness of the Palestinian private sector and helping to create jobs for young people. The system of loans for small and new businesses in the OPTs is comprehensive and well resourced, hence the focus of UK efforts is to provide matching grants and technical assistance to Palestinian businesses

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-03/HL5214/>

European Parliament

West Bank settlements added to Middle East debate

The title of a statement by EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on prospects for resuming Middle East peace talks will be changed to "Situation in the West Bank, in particular settlements".

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170209IPR61724/opening-%E2%80%93-west-bank-settlements-added-to-middle-east-debate>

[TOP](#)

Foreign Affairs

House of Lords Written Answers

Palestinians: Syria

Baroness Tonge [HL5089] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to the 560,000 Palestinian refugees who have been displaced by the crisis in Syria.

Lord Bates: The UK supports Palestinian refugees affected by the Syria crisis through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This includes those who have fled to Jordan and Lebanon, as well as those displaced inside Syria. As part of DFID's Syria Crisis Response, we have provided £79.8 million to UNRWA's Syria Regional Emergency Appeals. In 2015 DFID's funding to UNRWA provided food assistance every 3 months to over 67,000 people inside Syria, and over 4,000 in neighbouring countries. Our support also facilitated over 150,000 visits to primary health care services inside Syria, and more than 15,000 visits in Jordan and Lebanon. UNRWA continues to meet immediate needs through a range of programmes, including the delivery of essential relief items such as blankets, clothing, and cooking equipment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-30/HL5089/>

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: Religion

Caroline Spelman [63036] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what progress his Department is making on supporting religious leaders to promote community cohesion and reconciliation through its Conflict, Security and Stability Fund; in which countries religious leaders are being supported by that fund; and which religious communities those leaders represent.

Alok Sharma: Through the Conflict Stability and Security Fund, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) delivers projects to help prevent violent extremism, promote human rights, and support community peace-building in Africa, the Middle East, South and Central Asia and Eastern Europe. This includes working with religious leaders as well as other stakeholders. Separately, through the FCO's Magna Carta Fund, we fund various projects to support community cohesion and freedom of religion or belief across the world. Examples include: supporting human rights defenders in South Asia, promoting legal and social protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief in secondary school curricula in the Middle East and North Africa, and support for de-radicalisation and the re-integration of young people in Nigeria who have been exposed to violent extremist groups. In October 2016, the FCO hosted a groundbreaking conference to consider how protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief can help to combat violent extremism by building more inclusive societies. A range of faith leaders were invited to attend this event.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-03/63036/>

[TOP](#)

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>

[TOP](#)

Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes in 3 days**

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>

**** closes in 7 days**

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>

[TOP](#)

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