

Political Affairs Digest

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

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

The following two questions both received the same answer

John Mann [70428] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many times he has discussed anti-Semitism with his international counterparts in the last calendar year.

John Mann [70702] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made representations on antisemitism to his (a) Russian, (b) Polish, (c) Latvian, (d) Lithuanian, (e) Saudi Arabian and (f) Malaysian counterparts since he took office.

Alok Sharma: Combating all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism, remains an important part of the Government's human rights work internationally. Through our membership of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), we actively supported the adoption of a Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016. The UK is now encouraging individual states to adopt the definition domestically. Since 2010, the UK's Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues has played an important role in driving a more coherent and strategic approach to our work in this area, including on anti-semitism. The current Special Envoy Sir Eric Pickles raised antisemitism during his recent visits to Poland in October 2016 and March 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70428/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70702/>

Antisemitism

John Mann [70429] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many meetings she has had with which organisations to discuss issues related to anti-Semitism since 2015.

Philip Lee: The Secretary of State for Justice has not met with any organisations to discuss issues related to anti-Semitism since 2015.

Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published routinely on Gov.uk and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/moj-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70429/>

Hate Crime

John Mann [70433] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much government funding has been provided to the hate crime programme in each year from 2014 to 2017.

Marcus Jones: In 2012 we published 'Challenge It, Report It Stop It' which covered the period 2012-2014. This plan delivered real improvements in the way in which hate crime was reported. This was followed by the publication in July 2016 of 'Action Against Hate', the UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime. In support of both action plans, the Department for Communities and Local Government has provided over £2.5 million to organisations during the period 2014-2017 to tackle hate crime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70433/>

"Challenge It, Report It Stop It", referred to above, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307624/HateCrimeActionPlanProgressReport.pdf

"Action Against Hate", referred to above, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Hate crime and its violent consequences

New written evidence

Supplementary evidence: Home Office and the Solicitor General

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/written/49526.pdf>

Supplementary evidence: Consultative Panel on Parliamentary Security

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/written/68840.pdf>

Supplementary evidence: Google

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/written/49839.pdf>

British Pakistani Christian Association

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/written/69096.pdf>

Dimensions UK

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/written/49524.pdf>

[TOP](#)

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Homicide

Joan Ryan [70541] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the Palestinian Authority on Article 99 of Penal Law No.16 of 1960.

Tobias Ellwood: While we have not had any discussions with the Palestinian Authority on this specific issue the Foreign and Commonwealth Office works closely with other government departments, including the Department for International Development (DFID), and with the Palestinian Authority to enhance gender equality in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. DFID has supported interventions to tackle violence against women and girls by working with the Palestinian security and justice sectors. This has included the development of Police Family Protection and Juvenile Units, the specialization of public prosecutors to work on cases of violence against women and the development of a gender strategy for the Palestinian Civil Police.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70541/>

Information about Article 99 of Penal Law No.16 of 1960, referred to above, can be read at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/Executive_summary_study_called_honour_killings_Palestine.pdf

Palestinians: Domestic Violence

Joan Ryan [71417] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestinian Authority and her Department, whether her Department has had discussions with the Palestinian Authority on the content of a programme on Official Palestinian Authority TV, entitled Talk of the Land, broadcast on 1 April 2017, promoting domestic violence.

Rory Stewart: We have not discussed the content of this particular programme with the Palestinian Authority (PA). The UK deplores any promotion of violence against women and girls. The UK assess the PA's commitment to gender equality, including tackling domestic violence, through their adherence to the UK Partnership Principles and we raise concerns where appropriate. As part of our Security and Justice programme we have supported the PA to tackle violence against women through training specialised public prosecutors and judges and developing specialised units that cater to female victims of violence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-20/71417/>

Palestinians: Terrorism

Ian Austin [70597] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions his Department has had with the Palestinian Authority on its decision to increase payments to those convicted of terrorist offences and to the families of those who have died carrying out terrorist attacks against Israel.

Tobias Ellwood: We are not currently aware of any recent decision to increase these payments. We regularly raise the issue of payments to prisoners and their families with senior Palestinian officials. We push them to ensure that such payments are transparent and needs-based.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70597/>

Israel: Deportation

Gavin Shuker [70977] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the deportation of human rights activists from Israel.

Tobias Ellwood: Our Deputy Ambassador to Tel Aviv met with Israel's Europe Director on 13 March to discuss the new immigration law, and we continue to push for clarification from Israel on the impact on British nationals. We have also updated our travel advice for Israel, recommending that concerned UK nationals contact the Israeli Embassy for further information.

The British Government has been consistent in our opposition to the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, but we believe the best way to combat this movement is through discussion rather than legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70977/>

Issa Amro and Omar Barghouti

Margaret Ferrier [71321] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has made representations to the Israeli Government on the (a) charges brought against Issa Amro by the Israeli military court and (b) arrest of Omar Barghouti in March 2017.

Tobias Ellwood: We have not raised the particular cases of Mr Amro or Mr Barghouti with the Israeli authorities but we are following their cases closely. Officials from our Consulate-General in Jerusalem attended Mr Amro's court hearing on 26 March, visited him at Youth Against Settlements in Hebron on 6 January and met his lawyer on 17 January.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-19/71321/>

Hannah Bladon

Bob Blackman [71426] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to ensure that no funding from the public purse is used by the Palestinian Authority to support or assist any person involved in the murder of Hannah Bladon in Jerusalem; and if she will make a statement.

Rory Stewart: UK financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is only used to fund the salaries of PA health and education public servants in the West Bank who are on a vetted EU list. The list of eligible beneficiaries is subject to a vetting process that includes screening against international and ad hoc sanctions lists, covering a large number of different risk categories including terrorism financing. The UK utterly deplores any violence or intolerance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-20/71426/>

Foreign Affairs Committee Inquiry into the UK's policy towards the Middle East Peace Process

New written evidence

HARIF, UK Association of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/46245.pdf>

Anglo Israel Association

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/48068.pdf>

Jonathan Hoffman

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/46424.pdf>

Roger Higginson

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/47205.pdf>

Ruth Tenne

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/47306.pdf>

Eric Willoughby

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/foreign-affairs-committee/the-uks-policy-towards-the-middle-east-peace-process/written/48309.pdf>

STUC Congress

The outcome of the Motions listed in yesterday's *Political Affairs Digest* was:

Motion 110: "Support trade union activists campaigning for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel"

Remitted

Motion 111: "Ending links with Histadrut"

Remitted

Composite Q: "Palestine - Firefighters Under Occupation"

comprising Motions 112 ("Palestine") and 113 ("Palestine - firefighters under occupation")
Agreed

To read the full text of the Motions see

<http://www.scojec.org/pad/2017/iv/17iv25.pdf>

[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>

Lobbying (Transparency) Bill

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

Promotion of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (United Kingdom Participation)

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations ** new or updated today

Independent review of hate crime legislation [in Scotland] (closing date 12 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/2f6c8d5f/>

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

[TOP](#)

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