

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Cabinet Office

Queen's Speech 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2017>

Queen's Speech 2017: background briefing notes

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/620838/Queens_speech_2017_background_notes.pdf

Policy Paper: Queen's Speech 2017: what it means for you

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/queens-speech-2017-what-it-means-for-you/queens-speech-2017-what-it-means-for-you>

Bills that will be introduced

(Brexit) Repeal Bill

The Bill will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and convert EU law into UK law, create temporary powers for Parliament to make secondary legislation, replicate the common UK frameworks created by EU law in UK law, and maintain the scope of devolved decision-making powers immediately after exit from the EU.

(Brexit) Customs Bill

The Bill will enable the UK to have a standalone UK customs regime, and provide flexibility to accommodate future trade agreements with the EU.

(Brexit) Trade Bill

The Bill will enable the UK to operate an independent trade policy upon exit from the EU.

(Brexit) Immigration Bill

The Bill will allow for the repeal of EU law on immigration, and make the migration of EU nationals and their family members subject to relevant UK law once the UK has left the EU.

(Brexit) Fisheries Bill

The Bill will enable the UK to control access to fisheries and management of its waters.

(Brexit) Agriculture Bill

The Bill will support farmers and protect the natural environment.

(Brexit) Nuclear Safeguards Bill

The Bill will enable the Office for Nuclear Regulation powers to take on the role and responsibilities required to meet international safeguards and nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

(Brexit) International Sanctions Bill

The Bill will establish a new UK framework to implement international sanctions on a multilateral or unilateral basis.

Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill

The Bill will provide for the installation of charging points for electric and hydrogen vehicles, and extend compulsory motor vehicle insurance to cover the use of automated vehicles.

Space Industry Bill

The Bill will create new powers to license a wide range of commercial spaceflight, and create a regulatory framework for spaceflight.

High Speed 2 Phase 2A Bill

The Bill will provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the HS2 network.

Smart Meter Bill

The Bill will extend powers to make changes to smart meter regulations, and introduce a Special Administration Regime in case a provider becomes insolvent.

National Insurance Contributions Bill

The Bill will implement changes to National Insurance contributions announced in the 2016 Budget and Autumn Statement.

Travel Protection Bill

The Bill will update the Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL) scheme.

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill

The draft Bill will propose banning landlords and agents from requiring tenants to make payments as a condition of their tenancy with the exception of rent, a capped refundable security deposit, a capped refundable holding deposit and tenant default fees.

Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill

The draft Bill will propose establishing a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner, defining domestic abuse, creating a consolidated domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order, and ensuring that sentencing for abusive behaviour involving a child reflects the devastating life-long impact that abuse has on the child.

Civil Liability Bill

The Bill will ban offers to settle whiplash claims without the support of medical evidence and introduce a new fixed tariff of compensation for whiplash injuries.

Courts Bill

The Bill will end direct cross examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators, introduce digital services which will allow businesses to recover debts more easily, and provide a better working environment for judges.

Financial Guidance and Claims Bill

The Bill will establish a new statutory body with responsibility for coordinating the provision of debt advice, money guidance, and pension guidance, transfer the regulation of claims management services to the Financial Conduct Authority, and transfer complaints-handling responsibility to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Goods Mortgage Bill

The Bill will increase protections to borrowers who have taken out a mortgage on goods that they own.

Armed Forces Bill

The Bill will enable part-time service and limited geographic employment within the Regular Armed Forces, and provide Service personnel returning from special leave with an easier transition back into duty.

Data Protection Bill

The Bill will ensure that data protection framework is suitable for the digital age, strengthen rights and empower individuals to have more control over their personal data including a right to be forgotten, and establish a new data protection regime.

Draft Patient Safety Bill

The draft Bill will propose establishing the Health Service Safety Investigation Body in law, and, except when there is an ongoing risk to the safety of patients or evidence of criminal activity, it will prohibit the disclosure of information held in connection with an investigation conducted by the Health Service Safety Investigation Body.

There will also be three **Finance Bills** to implement Budget decisions.

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Downing Street

PM call with Israeli PM: 20 June 2017

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the Prime Minister yesterday to offer his condolences over the recent tragic events in London.

They agreed the UK and Israel would continue working closely together to counter terrorism and extremism in all its guises.

They agreed the relationship between the UK and Israel would continue to go from strength to strength.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's commitment to a two-state solution enabling an Israel free from terrorism and a viable Palestinian state. The Prime Minister noted that settlement-building was an impediment to the progress of peace talks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-israeli-pm-20-june-2017>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

"Support for a two-state solution is the only way to ensure a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Statement by Ambassador Peter Wilson, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the Security Council briefing on the Middle East Peace Process

... We recognise that the anniversary of the war of 1967 holds great significance for all sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For Israelis it marks the anniversary of a war from which Israel emerged victorious, against all the odds. For Palestinians it marks an enduring tragedy of 50 years of occupation; 50 years without self-determination.

Let's be clear; half a century of Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza is a tragedy for all sides; a tragedy for Palestinians who yearn for independence, and a tragedy for Israelis who yearn for peace and security. And it's a tragedy that has been exploited, with terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizballah cynically manipulating the narrative of occupation for their own ends. ...

Support for a two-state solution is the only way to ensure a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And to make that a reality, it is incumbent on both sides to refrain from any steps that damage the prospects of a two-state solution.

This means the people of Israel living free from the scourge of terrorism and anti-Semitic incitement which gravely undermine the prospects for a two-state solution. We condemn the horrific murder of Hadas Malka, a twenty-three year old Israeli Policewoman last Friday. We condemn the recent discovery of part of a tunnel passing under two UNRWA schools in Gaza. We call on Hamas to renounce violence and dismantle its tunnel network; they cannot be allowed to pose a threat to Israel's security.

And, Mr President, if the two-state solution is to become a reality, it also must mean Israel refraining from further settlement expansion. ...

Despite these challenges, the United Kingdom's longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process remains clear and unchanged: we support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state; based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees. ...

We cannot afford to fail. As Special Coordinator Mladenov has made clear, there is an urgent need to address the dire and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, with over 65,000 people currently displaced. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/support-for-a-two-state-solution-is-the-only-way-to-ensure-a-just-and-lasting-resolution-to-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict>

United Nations

Fifty Years after Third Arab-Israeli War, Negotiated Two-State Solution Remains Only Path to Lasting Peace, Special Coordinator Tells Security Council

... "Now is not the time to give up on this goal," Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, told the 15-member Council via video teleconference from Jerusalem, adding that it was pertinent to create the conditions for a return to negotiations to resolve all final status issues on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, mutual agreements and international law. ...

In resolution 2334 (2016), the Council had reiterated its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Yet, there had been a sizeable increase in settlement-related announcements as compared with the previous reporting period, with plans for nearly 4,000 housing units moving forward and 2,000 tenders issued, he said.

The situation in Gaza had heightened intra-Palestinian tensions, resulting in an increasingly dangerous humanitarian situation, and raising serious concerns about the prospect of another conflict. "Gaza is a tinderbox," he warned, adding that "if and when it explodes, it will have devastating consequences for the population and derail all efforts at advancing peace". ...

A deep disappointment was overcoming the Palestinians because of the international system's failure to support them, said Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, Secretary-General of the

League of Arab States. Peace treaties between Israel and Egypt, and between Israel and Jordan, demonstrated that peace was possible, but interim settlements and arrangements only prolonged the conflict. The occupation of territory in 1967 was the heart of the matter and there could be no solution without decisively addressing that issue on the principle of land for peace. ...

Every ounce of what the Council did should be to fight Hamas, stressed the representative of the United States, warning that the organization was determined to destroy everything in its path. "Please address the real threat that is causing so many people harm, and that is the threat of Hamas," she emphasized, calling for a Security Council resolution that condemned Hamas and carried consequences for anyone that continued to support it. ...

Palestinian officials and media outlets affiliated with Fatah continued to commemorate perpetrators of past terror attacks against Israeli civilians, while Hamas leaders also continued their deplorable practice of celebrating recent attacks against Israeli civilians as "heroic", [Nickolay Mladenov] said. Some Israeli officials had also employed provocative rhetoric. Council resolution 2334 (2016) reiterated the call by the Middle East Quartet (United Nations, Russian Federation, United States, European Union) on both parties to take affirmative steps "to reverse negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the two-State solution", he recalled, adding that, in May, Israel approved a number of positive measures to improve the Palestinian economy. Further, Palestinian and Israeli Finance Ministries held a number of meetings to discuss fiscal leakages, a critical issue given the Palestinian Authority's \$800 million financing gap. ...

Peter Wilson (United Kingdom) emphasized that the Middle East continued to face an unrelenting human tragedy that had gone on for more than half a century. The anniversary of the 1967 Six-Day War held great significance for all sides, he recalled, describing the Israeli occupation a tragedy for all involved, and a situation that had been exploited by terrorist organizations. So many decades of violence only proved that conflicts could not be managed or contained in perpetuity. Support for a two-State solution would be the only way to secure a just and lasting resolution to the conflict, and to make that a reality it was necessary that all sides refrain from actions that would impair the prospects for a two-State solution. The ongoing settlement activity was at its highest rate in a quarter of a century, which created real physical barriers to the prospects for two States for two peoples. He welcomed the recent announcement of the Arab League regarding its willingness to resume negotiations and the efforts of the United States to prioritize peace in the Middle East. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12878.doc.htm>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

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>

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