

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 Lords Written Answers

Middle East: Freedom of Expression

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4295] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support and encourage free speech in Israel and Palestine following reports of intimidation and public order offences committed by far-right groups in that country.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not taken any action on this specific incident, the UK stands up for and strongly supports the right of freedom of expression. We welcome the repeated public commitments of the Israeli Government, including the President and Prime Minister, to uphold and protect Israel's longstanding tradition of freedom of expression.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-18/HL4295/>

Gaza: Infrastructure

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4331] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel to ensure that the building materials and machinery necessary to improve the infrastructure needed for winterisation assistance are allowed into Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate-General in Jerusalem frequently urge the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Gaza. We have carried out demarches to this effect, urging Israel to go further in easing movement and access restrictions on Gaza. We also support projects to improve movement and access of people and goods in and out of Gaza through the Global Britain Fund.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4331/>

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Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666576/draft-animal-welfare-bill-171212.pdf

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Scottish Parliament

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 6 days**

Proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (closing date 9 January 2018)

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj-corporate-secretariat/ni-crime-survey-consultation-2017/>

Draft Animal Welfare Bill (closing date 17 January 2018)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/draft-animal-welfare-bill-17-19/>

Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill (closing date 31 January 2018)

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/consultation-on-the-animal-welfare-bill/>

Introducing 'opt-out' consent for organ and tissue donation in England (closing date 6 March 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-opt-out-consent-for-organ-and-tissue-donation-in-england>

Promoting Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland (closing date 9 March 2018)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/promoting-organ-donation-and-transplantation-northern-ireland>

Electoral Reform (Scotland) (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

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