

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Director of Public Prosecutions

Letter to Baroness Vere about the CPS and police flagging definition for hate crime

... The shared CPS and police flagging definition for hate crime is: "Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity."

The flagging definition for hate crime was agreed between the CPS and the NPCC (ACPO as it was then) in 2007. I can confirm that this is wider than the definition set out in legislation. This is to ensure that we capture all relevant cases. ...

It is important to put the victim's perception at the heart of the definition. This gives a clear signal that, once flagged as a hate crime, thorough investigation will follow. The definition seeks to encourage reporting and to increase confidence in the Criminal Justice System. ...

In order for a crime to be charged and prosecuted as a hate crime however, the CPS uses the legal definitions contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003). The CDA 1998 creates a number of specific racially or religiously aggravated offences. For other offences, the CJA 2003 places a duty on the courts to increase the sentence where the defendant has been convicted of an offence where they have demonstrated hostility towards the victim based upon the victim's protected characteristic or have been motivated by such hostility.

This means that not every incident that the victim or another person has perceived to be a hate crime will actually be a hate crime in law. ...

To read the full text of the letter see

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0026/Alison_SaundersBaroness_Vere_Lord_Vinson1_6_Dec_2017.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

West Bank: Demolition

Lyn Brown (Labour) [122138] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the effect of planned demolitions in the West Bank village of Susiya on the viability of a future Palestinian state incorporating Area C of the occupied West Bank.

Alistair Burt: We are gravely concerned by the proposals to demolish around 30% of the structures in the West Bank village of Susiya. Senior officials most recently raised the planned demolitions in Susiya with the Israeli Ambassador to London on 8 January. I visited Susiya and discussed the threat of forcible transfer with the Susiya Bedouin community on 21 August 2017 during my visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We encourage Israel to cease its counter-productive policy of demolitions, and provide a transparent route to construction for Palestinians in Area C of the West Bank. Demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but the most exceptional cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122138/>

Trade Agreements

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [123090] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January to Question 121983, if he will list each of the 14 trade working groups and 21 countries; and where that information has previously been made public.

Greg Hands: Trade Working Groups have been set up with the following partners: Andean Community (comprising Peru, Colombia and Ecuador), Australia, Canada, China, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE), Israel, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Turkey and the USA. Individual announcements and statements are available on the department's website.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123090/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121983/>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Middle East: Religious Freedom

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [123003] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations at the UN on the increase in persecution of Christians and other non-Muslim religions in the Middle East and steps to prevent such persecution.

Alistair Burt: Her Majesty's Government consistently promotes and defends the

right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in a variety of ways, including at the United Nations. For example, we work to sustain UN Human Rights Council consensus on the adoption and implementation of the European Union sponsored Resolution on 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation sponsored Resolution on 'Combating Religious Intolerance'. Furthermore, the FCO minister with direct responsibility for human rights, Lord Ahmad, stressed the importance of working to defend the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) when he addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in September, 2017.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office ministers and officials routinely raise individual cases and highlight practices and laws that discriminate against people on the basis of their religion or belief. We also continue to support a number of projects to promote tolerance through the FCO's Magna Carta Fund, including a project to promote the teaching of religious tolerance in more than 50 secondary schools in Iraq, Lebanon, and Morocco.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123003/>

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Other Relevant Information

United Nations

UN chief urges vigilance against anti-Semitism and discrimination of all kinds

Warning that hate is on the rise and that Nazi symbols, mindsets and languages are back, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called for vigilance against anti-Semitism and discrimination of all kinds.

["We must stand together against the normalization of hate,"](#) said the Secretary-General, speaking at the Park East Synagogue in New York, on Saturday.

"We must reject those who fail to understand that as societies become multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural, diversity must be seen as a source of richness and not a threat," he underscored.

In his remarks, the UN chief cited examples from around the world showing the rise of the neo-Nazi threat as well as the growing concern that such groups are trying to "rebrand themselves" and present themselves as kinder or gentler to win wider favour.

"They are less crude and more dangerous," warned Mr. Guterres.

He said that such groups sometimes seek to falsely claim that "they have no problem with Jews, their target is the other group, the other religion, the other minority," cautioning that whenever and wherever the values of humanity are abandoned, "everyone is at risk."

We must reject those who fail to understand that as societies become multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural, diversity must be seen as a source of richness and not a threat Secretary-General Guterres

Recalling the theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day that highlights the importance of education as a shared responsibility, the Secretary-General called on leaders across the board to step up.

"Words matter," he stressed, adding: "It matters what leaders say. It matters what kind of example is set by public officials from mayors to ministers to heads of state. As Rabbi Schneier has said, all of us have a responsibility to act against indifference." Concluding his remarks, the UN chief urged everyone across the globe to stand up to hatred and to work together to build a world of pluralism, mutual respect and coexistence for all.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58451#.WmS3IZOFgqI>

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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 10 days**

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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