

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

King's College London: Protest

The following three questions all received the same answer

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL6481] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King's College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of a speech by Ami Ayalon to the KCL Israel Society on 19 January 2016.

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL6482] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King's College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of a speech by Dan Meridor at KCL on 12 February.

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL6483] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King's College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of an event hosted by the KCL Libertarian Society on objectivism on 5 March, which was to have been addressed by Yaron Brook and Carl Benjamin.

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Office for Students (OfS) only became operational on the 1 April 2018, so any discussions before that date would have taken place with its predecessor body, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Officials in the Department for Education (DfE) liaised with HEFCE colleagues in January 2016, in relation to the speech by Ami Ayalon to the Kings College London (KCL) Israel Society.

The department has not had discussions with HEFCE or the OfS concerning disciplinary actions taken with regard to the incidents that took place at KCL on 12 February and 5 March. In general, the OfS and DfE do not routinely discuss disciplinary actions, as this is matter for the institution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-20/HL6481/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-20/HL6482/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-20/HL6483/>

Department for Education

Out-of-school education settings: Report on the call for evidence conducted November 2015 to January 2016

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698250/Out-of-school_education_settings-Report_on_the_call_for_evidence.pdf

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Israel

See also the three House of Lords written answers headed "King's College London: Protest" in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6691] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have given in the last three years to voluntary and civil society organisations in Israel and Palestine to support dialogue and political agreement.

Lord Bates: The Department for International Development has allocated £3 million for a three year (2017-2020) programme to help Israelis and Palestinians work together for a just and peaceful political solution. The programme will facilitate dialogue between youth leaders and religious communities; and strengthen co-operation in the health sector. In addition the British Embassy in Tel Aviv provided around £271,000 in 2016-17 to facilitate young Israeli religious leaders' participation in cross-community workshops to develop and promote community-led policy recommendations for peace.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-27/HL6691/>

UK Parliament Petition

To impose an immediate two-way arms embargo between the UK and Israel

Huda Basil Jaser Ammori: Trading arms with Israel makes the UK complicit in Israel's continuing violations of human rights and international law.

On the 30th March 2018, Israel murdered 15 and injured 1,500 Palestinians, who protested the occupation and siege on Gaza.

The Israeli assault on Gaza in July-August 2014, in which 2,205 Palestinians (including 521 children) were killed, was only one example of Israel's acts of violence against the Palestinian people. Yet UK-made weapons and military technologies continue to be sold to and used by the occupying Israeli forces.

Israeli military and industry sources openly attribute the success of Israeli exports to the weapons and technologies being 'combat proven.'

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/216561>

United Nations

In Emergency Meeting, Security Council Speakers Voice Grave Concern over Alleged Chemical Weapons Use in Syria, as Versions of Recent Attacks Sharply Differ

In an emergency meeting following claims of chemical weapons attacks against civilians in Douma, Syria, both Security Council members and officials briefing them voiced grave concern that the use of such weapons risked being normalized — and could contribute to rapidly escalating tensions between world Powers — for the first time since the end of the cold war.

Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy for Syria ... said several States had suggested that Syria's Government was responsible, while others — including the Government of Syria itself — had called those claims a fabrication. ...

Thomas Markram, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, cited reports that at least 49 people had been killed and hundreds injured in the alleged chemical weapons attack in Douma. ... he emphasized that what was being seen in Syria could not go unchallenged by anyone who valued the decades of efforts to bring about disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. ...

Anatolio Ndong MBA (Equatorial Guinea) said recent protests in Gaza, missile attacks in Syria and the reprehensible chemical attack in Douma all represented a genuine threat to international peace and security. ... he appealed to those States with influence on the parties in Syria, Israel and Palestine to push them towards negotiations. ...

Bashar Ja'afari (Syria) said ... Syria condemned in the strongest terms the ruthless Israeli aggression on the T4 airport, which had left several civilians dead and injured. That attack would have occurred without United States support for Israel, which had never been held accountable for its State terrorism and its threat to regional and global peace and security. By failing to refer to Israeli aggression in their statements, Western countries were complicit in such action. Today's Israeli aggression, confirmed by the Prime Minister of Israel, was an indirect response to the Syrian military's success against armed terrorist groups. ...

The United States, United Kingdom and France had been eager to hold Council meetings on the basis of fabricated information. Since 2013, they had created "a big elephant of lies" that was stomping its big feet on the Council's credibility. He wondered whether those countries had sought today's meeting to legitimize Israel's aggression earlier in the day or to obstruct the agreement reached between his Government and terrorists in Douma. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13284.doc.htm>

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Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

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

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.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>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Integrated Communities Strategy green paper (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

**** Home Education** (closing date 2 July 2018)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/home-education-call-for-evidence-and-revised-dfe-a/>

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