

# Political Affairs Digest

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

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### Home Affairs

#### House of Lords Written Answer

##### Radicalism: Schools

**Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL6664] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to roll out the Prevent initiative to raise awareness of far-right extremism in schools.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since July 2015, specified authorities, including schools, childcare providers, colleges and universities are required under the Prevent duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty guidance makes clear that the duty is intended to address all forms of extremism and terrorism, including Far Right.

The Government provides a range of support to schools to implement the duty. For example, the Prevent e-learning package includes examples of Far Right extremism, and our Educate Against Hate website for teachers includes lesson plans to support discussion about far right extremism in the classroom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6664/>

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### Israel

#### House of Lords Written Answers

##### Israel: Education

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL6730] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 March (HL6185), whether they intend to make representations to the government of Israel to ensure that all school children are taught both Hebrew and Arabic.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have no plans to raise this issue with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-27/HL6730/>

## Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6667] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 20 March (HC132346), what action they intend to take in respect of the assessment by non-governmental organisations that Israel has implemented only one of 40 recommendations outlined in the 2012 report Children in Military Custody.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Minister for the Middle East said in a statement on 23 March, "The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains a human rights priority for the UK. We will continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law and obligations. We have offered to help the Israeli authorities through expert-to-expert talks with UK officials. The offer still stands and we hope Israel will take us up on it. While we recognise that Israel has made some improvements, it needs to do much more to safeguard vulnerable people in its care."

I raised concerns over the treatment of minors in detention with the Israeli Justice Minister during my visit on 11 April, after having visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6667/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132346/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-the-sentencing-of-ahed-tamimi>

## West Bank: Internally Displaced People

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6668] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they will take to prevent the forcible transfer of farming-shepherding communities throughout Area C of the West Bank.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is concerned by Israeli proposals to forcibly transfer some communities in Area C, including the Bedouin population from the E1 area, which the UN has said could constitute forcible transfer. We have been clear about this with the Israeli authorities and we regularly raise the matter through our Embassy in Tel Aviv. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa discussed the threat of forcible transfer with the Susiya Bedouin community during his visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories in August 2017 and most recently raised our concerns about plans to demolish the village with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 27 February 2018. I visited the Bedouin community in Abu Nuwar on 10 April, and subsequently raised concerns about their treatment in meetings with Israeli Ministers and senior officials on 11 April.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6668/>

## Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6669] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations are they making to the government of Israel regarding reports that the work permits of over a thousand Palestinians were revoked because those individuals have the same surname as the perpetrator of a stabbing attack.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of one report to this effect but have not raised it with the Israeli government. Our general approach is to urge Israel to ensure that any security measures are proportionate, and to encourage steps which support the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the issuing of work permits. Most recently I raised this during my visit on 11 April to

Israel when I met with Israeli Ministers and senior officials, after having visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6669/>

### **Israeli Settlements: Homicide**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6670] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding reports of insignificant sentences given to Israeli settlers for killing Palestinians.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities, we condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians.

I raised concerns over settlement expansion with Israeli Ministers and senior officials during my visit on 11 April, after having visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6670/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6671] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of Israel in regard to reports that five Palestinian Hares boys were sentenced in 2016 to 15 years in prison despite a lack of any evidence.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not raised this issue with the Israeli Government, we regularly discuss matters concerning the treatment of Palestinian minors in detention with the Israeli authorities. Most recently I raised this issue directly with the Israeli Justice Minister during my visit on 11 April.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6671/>

## **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

### **Minister for Human Rights visits the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel**

Lord Ahmad, Minister for Human Rights, said:

I have just returned from my first official visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) and Israel.

I was pleased to meet Palestinians in East Jerusalem, Hebron, and Abu Nuwar Bedouin Community in Area C of the West Bank. I heard from human rights defenders about the impact of Israel's occupation and saw the assistance that UK aid is providing to some of the most vulnerable in Palestinian society. I had a positive first meeting with Prime Minister Hamdallah to discuss these issues, the situation in Gaza and reaffirm the UK's commitment to strengthening the UK-Palestinian Authority relationship. In my role as Minister for Human Rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief, I met with the Palestinian Minister for Religious Affairs Youssef Ideiss, and hosted an interfaith roundtable.

In Israel, I was humbled to attend the State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem. I had constructive meetings with Israeli ministers Tzachi Hanegbi and Ayelet Shaked, re-affirming the UK's commitment to our bilateral relationship with Israel, and raising our human rights concerns relating to the occupation, including the issue of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention. I also met with Israeli companies working on counter terrorism technologies, to discuss what more we can do together to prevent terrorist use of the internet.

I remain deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza, and in particular by the high

number of Palestinian deaths in recent weeks. With the Palestinian leadership I reaffirmed the right of the Gazan people, as indeed all peoples, to protest peacefully. It is important to understand the role Hamas continues to play in fomenting the violence. The UK recognises that Israel has the right to protect its borders against Hamas and other terrorist groups but as I said to Israeli Ministers, they must show restraint and consider carefully its use of force in response to future protests.

In my engagement with both Israelis and Palestinians I stressed the importance of addressing the underlying causes of the economic and humanitarian situation, and in particular to improve movement and access for people and goods.

My visit illustrated the urgent need for progress towards a two-state solution, so that Israelis and Palestinians can finally live with the peace and dignity they deserve.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-human-rights-visits-the-occupied-palestinian-territories-and-israel>

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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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