

# 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 Commons Written Answers

#### Hate Crime: Social Media

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [135740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to review hate crime legislation to tackle social media hate speech directed towards ethnic minority groups.

**Victoria Atkins:** The Government is clear that what is illegal offline is illegal online.

The Prime Minister announced on 6 February that Government has commissioned the Law Commission to launch a review of current legislation on offensive online communications to ensure that laws are up to date with technology.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-13/135740/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-next-steps-to-make-the-uk-the-safest-place-to-be-online>

#### Hate Crime: Social Media

**Catherine McKinnell (Labour)** [136264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 March 2018 to Question 133769, what specific steps her Department is taking to encourage social media companies to tackle online hate crime.

**Victoria Atkins:** The 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan set out a number of Home Office and cross-Government actions to tackle online hate crime, including engagement with industry. We will be refreshing the action plan this year.

The Government has already gone further than these actions: in October 2017 the Home Secretary announced funding for a national online hate crime hub that will help the police to manage online cases more effectively and efficiently; we have successfully worked with industry and partners internationally to agree the removal of illegal hate speech within 24 hours through the EU Commission Code of Conduct on Illegal Hate Speech; and we will publish the Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy consultation in the spring which will set out details on a comprehensive new social media code of practice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136264/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-21/133769/>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543679/Action\\_Against\\_Hate\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

The online hate crime hub announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

The EU Code of Conduct referred to above can be read at

[http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/document.cfm?doc\\_id=42985](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/document.cfm?doc_id=42985)

### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [136143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding her Department provided from the Places of worship: security funding scheme to (a) churches, (b) gurdwaras and (c) mosques in the 2017-18 allocation; and whether such funds will be renewed on an annual basis.

**Victoria Atkins:** Thirty-six places of worship were awarded funding in the second year of the Places of Worship funding scheme (2017-18), totalling £416,527.04. The breakdown by faith was as follows:

Type of place of worship	Number awarded funding	Total approved funding
Churches	10	£81,426.14
Gurdwaras	4	£131,726.64
Mosques	19	£179,988.66
Hindu Temples	3	£23,385.60

The Places of Worship Security Fund is a commitment under the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016. The Home Office has committed £2.4m to places of worship over 3 years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136143/>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543679/Action\\_Against\\_Hate\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism

**S5W-15665 Jamie Greene (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of (a) Islamophobia, (b) racism, (c) homophobia and (d) anti-Semitism have been reported to police in each year since 2012.

**Annabelle Ewing:** Not all of the information requested is held centrally. The Scottish Government has previously published statistics on Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, with the most recent release covering the reporting year of 2013-14

(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents> ).

This publication noted the intention to scope out the possibility of replacing this release with a new and broader product on police recorded hate crime. This would include information on other strands of hate crime recorded by the police, in addition to retaining data on hate incidents with a race element. Scottish Government statisticians have been working with Police Scotland as it

develops the data it holds on its existing systems. We anticipate an update on the outcome of this work in the near future, and plans for a new publication. This update will be circulated to users through the ScotStat network

(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>).

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) also publish annual statistics on crimes aggravated by race, religious, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity prejudice (<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>). These figures relate to charges reported to the COPFS and includes information on how those charges were proceeded. Information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim is not included. Statistics for 2017-18 will be published on 15 June 2018.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15665>

### **Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism**

**S5W-15669 Jamie Greene (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been convicted of crimes relating to (a) Islamophobia, (b) racism, (c) homophobia and (d) anti-Semitism in each year since 2012.

**Annabelle Ewing:** Statistics on the number of people convicted for crimes with an aggravator recorded is available in table 12 of the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2016-17 publication. The Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings database does not hold information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15669>

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## **Holocaust**

### **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**S5M-11785: Ross Greer (Green): 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising –**

That the Parliament notes 19 April to 16 May 2018 marks the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which was a collective act of resistance by the last residents of the ghetto against Nazi instructions to surrender and accept deportation to Treblinka extermination camp; acknowledges that the uprising, which was led by 24-year-old, Mordechai Anielewicz, saw 1,000 fighters of the Jewish Combat Organisation and Jewish Military Union, both men and women, fight against the Waffen-SS operation to burn down the ghetto block by block; mourns the 400,000 ghetto residents who were murdered during the Holocaust; acknowledges that the resistance fighters' plan, as noted by the survivors, was not to defeat the overwhelming force surrounding the ghetto and save themselves but rather to fight for the honour of the Jewish people and protest against the world's silence at their extermination, and believes that as the horrors of the Holocaust pass from living memory, every effort must be made to ensure that the collective commitment to never forget is honoured.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11785>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Jim Cunningham (Labour)** [136472] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made representations to the Israeli Government on the killing and wounding of Palestinian citizens during the Great March of Return; and if he will make a statement.

**Alistair Burt:** Both the Minister responsible for Human Rights and I have raised the recent deaths and injuries, suffered during protests in Gaza, with the Israeli authorities. We have urged Israel to show restraint and the Palestinians to ensure that future protests are peaceful. There is an urgent need to establish the facts, including why such a volume of live fire was used and what role Hamas played in the events. We welcome Israel's commitment to investigate the conduct of operations, and urge that the findings of this investigation be made public. If wrongdoing is found, those responsible should be held to account. We remain concerned about an escalation in violence in the lead up to mid-May, and urge all parties to de-escalate the situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136472/>

### UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Jim Shannon (DUP) (1191) 70th anniversary of the formation of the State of Israel –** That this House notes the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the State of Israel and encourages the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to continue to work alongside Israel and to build even stronger ties with Israel which will be mutually beneficial.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1191>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Warwick University

**Counter-terrorism in the NHS: Evaluating prevent duty safeguarding in the NHS**

[https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/researchcentres/irs/counterterrorisminthensh/project\\_report\\_60pp.pdf](https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/researchcentres/irs/counterterrorisminthensh/project_report_60pp.pdf)

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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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-23/debates/5481ABDF-ABEB-49C7-9404-6B4B85E24400/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-23/debates/5481ABDF-ABEB-49C7-9404-6B4B85E24400/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

## **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/>

### **Ecclesiastical exemption and guidance on scheduled monuments** (closing date 13 July 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/ecclesiastical-exemption-and-guidance-scheduled-monuments>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438