

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 Commons Oral Answer

Topical Questions: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Philip Davies (Conservative): In the interests of consumer choice, will the Secretary of State introduce compulsory labelling of halal and kosher meat? That would benefit both those who particularly want to buy it and those who particularly do not want to buy it.

Michael Gove: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for raising this issue. We are consulting at the moment on how we can improve food labelling to ensure that we can provide consumers with greater choice, but it is also important to bear in mind that freedom of religious worship and practice is a core virtue of the United Kingdom. Although I believe very strongly in improving animal welfare standards, I also believe that we should show appropriate respect towards those individuals, from whatever faith background, who want to ensure that the meat they eat is prepared in accordance with their religious traditions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-26/debates/1C76D7FC-3050-44D3-AEFB-6495BFF65E5F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-21745D31-B683-4F6C-AE83-442F01665437>

House of Commons Written Answer

Teachers: Training

Liz Twist (Labour) [136278] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, for what reasons his Department does not offer a subject knowledge enhancement grant to people training as religious education teachers; and if he will take steps to offer such grants for people wishing to train as teachers in that subject.

Nick Gibb: Religious Education (RE) is important to the Department and is mandatory in all state funded schools.

Funding for subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) training supports universities and schools in recruiting to initial teacher training places in priority subjects. Although funding for SKE does not extend to RE, the Department has protected the bursaries for trainees in RE this year, in recognition of the recruitment challenges faced. Funding is also being continued for schools offering School Direct (salaried) places in RE. Teacher supply modelling, and the financial incentives that support teacher training, are reviewed on an annual basis.

High Court of Justice

Judgment: The Queen on the application of (1) Adath Yisroel Burial Society (2) Mrs Ita Cymerman Claimants - v - HM Senior Coroner for Inner North London and Chief Coroner of England and Wales

Introduction

... In this claim for judicial review the Claimants challenge the lawfulness of a policy, which was adopted by the Defendant, who is the Senior Coroner for Inner North London, on 30 October 2017 to the following effect: “No death will be prioritised in any way over any other because of the religion of the deceased or family, either by the coroner’s officers or coroners.” This has been described at various times by the Defendant as being a “cab rank rule” and “an equality protocol”. ...

The Defendant’s Position

For the purpose of these proceedings the Defendant has said that she intends to maintain a “neutral” stance. She has not been represented before this Court. However, she has filed various documents with the Court, including Detailed Grounds, an Addendum to her Detailed Grounds and a skeleton argument. ...

The Chief Coroner’s Position

The Court has had the benefit of both written and oral submissions by Mr Hough on behalf of the Chief Coroner. The Chief Coroner considers that the Defendant’s policy is unlawful, in that it apparently imposes a fixed rule that a coroner or coroner’s officer may never treat a task in one case as especially urgent in order to satisfy a strongly held and sincere desire of the family of a deceased person to have the person’s body released quickly on religious grounds.

In particular the Chief Coroner submits that:

- (1) The policy is over-rigid and involves the Defendant fettering her discretion to take expedited decisions with regard to the needs and interests of particular families.
- (2) In context, the policy is not capable of rational justification.
- (3) Applied strictly, the policy would infringe Article 9 rights or be discriminatory under Article 14. ...

The impact of the policy

... There is evidence before the Court that the average time between a death and burial or cremation is now some 15 days ...

However, there is plenty of evidence before the Court (which has not been disputed by the Defendant) that for certain faith groups, in particular the Jewish faith and the Muslim faith, it is very important that a funeral should take place as soon as possible, ideally on the day of death itself ... This principle is so important to Jewish people that it is quite common for a close relative, such as a child of the deceased person, to miss the funeral of their parent if, for example, they are abroad when their parent dies ...

It is important to make clear that the Claimants are not seeking in the present proceedings to secure any dispensation from the general law of the land. ...

The evidence before the Court includes a letter from the Chief Rabbi (Ephraim Mirvis) to the Lord Chancellor (David Gauke MP) dated 23 January 2018, which states that, where “the fastest possible burial is denied to a Jewish family, it can cause a great deal of pain at a time when they are already grieving.” ...

The Court also has before it a witness statement by Mr Jonathan Arkush, who is the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. At para. 6 he states:

“I have discussed [the Defendant’s] decision with both lay and religious leaders within the community and have found that her decision has caused widespread concern. Indeed I

can recall few communal issues which have arisen during my nine years as President and Vice President of the Board which have caused such widespread alarm and distress amongst so many within the community. ...

The Court also has evidence before it about the impact of the policy on members of the Muslim community in this country. That evidence includes a witness statement by Mufti Abdur-Rahman Mangera, in which he states, at paras. 5-6:

“Under Islamic law there is an important principle that a dead body should be buried as quickly as reasonably possible, and ideally on the same day of death. ...

Muslims see this as an important law and people seek to obey it strictly. Where for any reason this cannot be complied with, then the close family with responsibility for ensuring speedy burial will invariably feel very considerable anguish. ...”

Issue (1): Fettering of Discretion

It is a well established principle of public law that a policy should not be so rigid as to amount to a fetter on the discretion of decision-makers. ...

... we have come to the clear conclusion that the policy as promulgated by the Defendant on 30 October 2017 breaches that principle. It does constitute an unlawful fetter on the Coroner’s decisions as to when and how to exercise her various statutory powers and for how long to retain custody of a body. ... As formulated the policy would prevent the Coroner taking into account a relevant consideration, contrary to the above principles of law. ...

Issue (2): Irrationality

The Defendant accepts that some cases must be given priority. She gives the examples of deaths which are the subject of homicide investigations and organ donations ... Accordingly, even on the Defendant’s own express position, the policy which she has adopted is not in truth a “cab rank” policy. ...

The question which then arises is whether the policy is capable of rational justification. On its face, it precludes taking into account representations which have a religious basis and it thereby singles out religious beliefs for exclusion from consideration. There is no good reason for this exclusion. It is discriminatory and incapable of rational justification. ...

Issue (3): Article 9

... For a limitation on a fundamental right such as this to be “necessary”, it must satisfy the principles of proportionality ...

... we have also been assisted by the evidence to which we have referred from three Coroners in other areas in the country. ... From their evidence and from Mr Hough’s submissions it is clear that it is perfectly possible for Coroners to have a practice or policy which does not have the rigid effect of the Defendant’s policy. For example, Mr Rebello (Senior Coroner for Liverpool and the Wirral) states in his witness statement, at para. 24: “We will, where possible, prioritise cases where the family have need for the early release of a body for any reason, be it secular or religious”. ...

This also underlines the point that what Article 9 requires is not that there should be any favouritism, whether in favour of religious belief in general or in favour of any particular religious faith, but that there should be a fair balance struck between the rights and interests of different people in society. The fundamental flaw in the present policy adopted by the Defendant is that it fails to strike any balance at all, let alone a fair balance. ...

Issue (4): Article 14

... Although the principle of equality requires like cases to be treated alike, it is not always sufficiently appreciated that it also requires that different cases should be treated differently. ...

Two possible justifications were mooted at the hearing before us for the Court’s consideration. The first is the need for a “bright line” so that the policy is easy to understand and administer. ...

However, we are not persuaded that this amounts to sufficient justification for the discrimination involved. We bear in mind that, even on the Defendant’s own case, the

policy is not a strictly chronological one, so that some cases will have to be given priority even if they are not first in time, for example if there is a need for an organ donation. We also bear in mind that the evidence before the Court shows that Coroners in other areas do not adopt the strict policy which the Defendant has adopted for her area and this does not seem to cause undue difficulties.

The second possible justification is that the Defendant's resources are limited. ... Limits on resources may explain why it is not possible to help a particular family to achieve expedition (whatever the reason for their request for expedition, whether or not it is based on a religious belief) but they cannot justify discrimination of this kind, which means that certain reasons for a request for expedition (religious ones) are excluded from consideration altogether.

In our view, therefore, the policy violates the principle of equal treatment in Article 14. ...

Issue (5): Indirect Discrimination Under the Equality Act 2010

... Mr Hough submits that the policy is not one that puts or would put persons with whom B shares the characteristic "at a particular disadvantage" when compared with persons with whom B does not share it ...

We do not accept that submission. ...

In our view, the Second Claimant is entitled to compare her position to that of a hypothetical comparator, namely a person who does not have her religious belief (perhaps, for example, because she is a Christian). That person would be able to comply with the strict requirements of her faith in a way which the Second Claimant is not able to do. In our view, that does put B at a "particular disadvantage when compared with persons with whom B does not share" the protected characteristic. ...

We conclude therefore that the Claimants are entitled to rely on the concept of indirect discrimination in section 19 of the Act.

Since the issue of proportionality which arises under section 19(2)(d) is in essence the same issue as arises under Articles 9 and 14 of the Convention, for the reasons we have already given, there is also a breach of section 29 of the Equality Act 2010 in this case. ...

Issue (6): the Public Sector Equality Duty

... The Claimants argue that the Defendant failed, in formulating her policy, to have due regard to the needs of Jewish or Muslim members of the local community, and in this way, she breached the PSED. ...

Further, the Claimants contend (and in this respect they are supported by the Chief Coroner) that if the policy is itself found to be discriminatory against members of those communities, it must follow that the Defendant has failed to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination ...

... it is very clear from the various materials submitted by the Defendant that she was acutely aware of the impact her policy might have on certain minority religious communities within her area, even if she did not recognise that impact as discriminatory as a matter of law. ...

We conclude that the Defendant did have "due regard" to her public sector equality duty. This ground of challenge therefore fails. ...

Conclusion

For the reasons we have given this claim for judicial review succeeds on all grounds apart from that based on the public sector equality duty.

We will (i) grant a declaration that the current policy is unlawful; and (ii) issue a quashing order to set aside the current policy.

To read the full judgment see

<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/aybs-v-hmcoroner-judgment.pdf>

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House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Richard Burden (Labour) [137118] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 16 April to Question 134885, on Israel: Palestinians, which local civil society organisations her officials consulted.

Harriett Baldwin: We held conversations directly with a number of organisations and indirectly via trusted donors and NGO groupings to draw on their experience and knowledge of the sector. Publishing the names of these organisations could harm their ability to do effective people-to-people work in the region due to the inherent sensitivities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/137118/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134885/>

UNRWA

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [137402] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans her Department has to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in maintaining its operation after the recent reduction in funding provided by the US.

Alistair Burt: The UK is unequivocally committed to supporting Palestinian refugees across the region. Over the course of the 2017/18 financial year, the UK provided around £50 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), assisting in their provision of essential services including basic education to around 500,000 children, health services for around 3 million Palestinian refugees and supporting Palestinian refugees from Syria. The UK will deliver its next round of financial support earlier than originally planned, to help meet the growing needs of Palestinian refugees across the region. We are also working with the international community and UNRWA to explore how best to ensure the continuity of essential services to Palestinian refugees at this time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137402/>

Gaza: Visits abroad

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [137403] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on what dates officials of his Department visited Gaza to inspect (a) hospitals and (b) other other medical facilities.since 30 March 2018.

Alistair Burt: Officials from our Consulate-General in Jerusalem have visited Gaza twice since 30 March, on 8 and 22 April. Neither of these visits included a visit to either a hospital or medical facility.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137403/>

Israel: Palestinians

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [137404] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations has he has made to his Israeli counterpart on the use of live fire against Palestinian demonstrators since 30 March 2018.

Alistair Burt: I raised the use and volume of live fire agianst the Palestinian demonstrators with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 19 April. Our Ambassador to Israel discussed this issue with the Head of Israel's Coordinator of Government

Activities in the Territories on 24 April. The Minister for Human Rights also raised this issue during his visit to Israel on 11 April with the Israeli Minister for Regional Co-operation and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137404/>

Gaza: Health Services

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [137405] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to representatives of the Egyptian government on the granting of permits to residents in Gaza who need medical treatment that can only be provided outside of Gaza.

Alistair Burt: We regularly raise the humanitarian situation in Gaza with the Egyptian authorities. This includes the impact of the closure of the Egypt-Gaza border on the population of Gaza. Our Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Cairo raised this with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 April. We encourage Egypt to be as flexible as possible with regard to access to the Rafah border crossing, including for Palestinians in need of medical treatment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137405/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Urgent need for renewed negotiations to help end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict Statement by Ambassador Karen Pierce, UK Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East and the peace process.

I think it's obvious, Mr President, that the ongoing violence on Gaza's borders have made the past weeks especially challenging for all those of us who are committed to pursuing a revived Middle East Peace Process. For the United Kingdom, we are deeply concerned by the recent increase in violence and by the resulting high number of Palestinians killed and injured. And we would continue to strongly urge Israel to show restraint in their response to the protest, but for all actors to abide by their obligations under international law. ...

That said, it is crystal clear that Hamas and their operatives have been exploiting these protests for their own benefit. Israel has the right to secure itself against Hamas and other terrorist groups.

Given the importance of accountability, we are supportive of an independent and transparent investigation. We therefore welcome Israel's commitment to investigate the conduct of operations. We would urge that its findings be made public and if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account.

The immediate concern, Mr President, has to be preventing further violence. We urge all parties to show maximum restraint and to do whatever they can to prevent further escalation and the loss of life. In particular, we urge Israelis to reconsider the use of live fire, and we urge the Palestinian leadership to maintain their calls for non-violent protests. Palestinians have a fundamental right to protest peacefully, but those with influence over Hamas must make clear that the use of violence and aggressive tactics is unacceptable and it will do nothing to further the Palestinian cause.

The violence has sadly put added strain on the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. ... We look to Israel to lift its movement and access restrictions on people and goods including urgently granting medical permits. ... And Hamas needs to decide whether it is prepared to work for the good of the Gazan people and join efforts in peace, or whether it will continue to use terror and neglect the basic needs of Gaza's population. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/urgent-need-for-renewed-negotiations-that-can-end-the-palestinian-israeli-conflict-and-deliver-peace>

Alistair Burt: I was deeply saddened to hear of the deaths of young people in Israel and the OPTs due to flash flooding. My thoughts are with the families and loved ones of the victims. A tragedy like this brings us all together.

<https://twitter.com/AlistairBurtUK/status/989900358771249159>

United Nations

Amid Rising Tensions, Potentially Explosive Miscalculations, Everyone in Middle East Must ‘Step Away from the Brink’, Regional Coordinator Tells Security Council

Amid escalating tensions, outside interference and growing risks of potentially explosive miscalculations, from Gaza to Syria to Yemen, everyone in the region must “step away from the brink”, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process told the Security Council ...

“I firmly believe there is a way out,” he said. “These challenges are political, man-made and, thus, resolvable if all sides firmly commit to supporting practical solutions in Gaza that can be implemented quickly, effectively and sustainably. But, Gaza is only part of the story. We must also step up our efforts to support parties in advancing a sustainable Israeli-Palestinian peace on the basis of the two-State solution.” ...

Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, said Mr. Mladenov’s statement must be viewed in the context of the constant harassment and intimidation to which the United Nations and its representatives were exposed each time they risked taking a public, principled stand on the question of Palestine. Israel, the occupying Power, continued to bully States into artificial, “balanced” positions, despite the absolute lack of symmetry in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. ...

Emphasizing that the protesters had been demanding their rights — including return to their land and to self-determination — he said they were also calling for an end to the Israeli blockade that had long served as a collective punishment. “Exercising their right to peaceful assembly, these men, women and youth are protesting an oppression that cannot be endured any longer, pleading for their voices to be heard,” he said, emphasizing that the Palestinians were living through the longest military occupation and the most protracted refugee crisis in modern history. Against such a backdrop, “restraint should be seen as extraordinary” and protests must be viewed as a natural response to the illegal, cruel Israeli occupation. ...

“The truth, however, is that Israel does not want peace,” he said. Israel must not continue to receive support from — and even be rewarded by — the Council, a body it had never respected and even mocked and undermined. ...

Danny Danon (Israel) said that, for the past few weeks, Hamas had orchestrated a series of provocations and confrontations along the security fence between Israel and Gaza. “There is nothing peaceful about terrorists firing over the fence at our positions,” he added. Hamas continued to use innocent Palestinian women and children as human shields, while they cowered behind in safety. Israel had an obligation to protect its citizens and do so while minimizing civilian casualties. Like any law-abiding country, Israel had always ensured that, when necessary, incidents would be investigated by proper authorities. In the same vein, however, he said: “Israel will never apologize for defending our country.”

Israel cared deeply about innocent lives but Palestinian leaders continued to exploit every innocent death for their shameless public relations campaign, he said. “And it is Hamas that is fully responsible for every Palestinian injury and death,” he said. Just two weeks ago, Israel’s security forces uncovered the longest and deepest Hamas terror

tunnel discovered to date ...

Urging Member States to ask themselves a simple question, Mr. Danon wondered: How would you react if armed terrorists were marching on the border of Kuwait? What would you do to protect the people of Sweden, or Bolivia, if a violent mob threatened to infiltrate? The answer, he said, was simple: "You would defend yourselves. We will do the same." ...

Nikki Haley (United States) said the Council's monthly debate on the Middle East should shed light on the many different conflicts in the region. On the use of women, children and men as human shields, she recalled that the European Union had recently condemned Hamas for that practice. ...

Karen Pierce (United Kingdom), emphasizing that all actors must abide by their obligations to international law, said an immediate concern was to prevent further violence. Those having influence over Hamas were making that perfectly clear and Israel must exercise restraint. Meanwhile, border crossing restrictions must be lifted. The international community had an important role to play, including lending support to UNRWA. The situation in Gaza would be vastly improved with the restoration of the Palestinian Authority, she said, pledging her delegation's commitment to support the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in his ongoing efforts. ...

François Delattre (France) ... said investigations must identify perpetrators and all parties must respect international humanitarian law and human rights. Israel was a democracy and must uphold the rules of engagement and stop using lethal weapons against civilians. Hamas must stop using ongoing protests in Gaza as a means to threaten Israel's security. ...

João Pedro Vale De Almeida, European Union, said that its objective remained to restore a political horizon and an appropriate framework for political progress, together with regional and international partners, starting with the Middle East Quartet. It was important to avoid any steps eroding the viability of the two-State solution, in particular continued Israeli settlement activity. ... Regarding recent protests and violence at the Gaza border fence, he said it raised serious questions about the proportionate use of force. ...

He went on to say that the European Union had made important efforts in recent months to improve the situation in Gaza and support the return of the legitimate Palestinian Authority to the enclave. It had convened an extraordinary ministerial-level session of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on 31 January, and a regular meeting of that body on 20 March. In Brussels, it had co-chaired a donor conference for the Gaza desalination plant, receiving pledges of €456 million, €77 million of which had come from the Union. ...

The representative of Israel ... taking the floor for a second time, said the Palestinian representative had declared the protests had been peaceful, but facts had clearly demonstrated that was not the case. ... Turning to other concerns, she said Hizbullah was indeed a recognized terrorist group and its master, Iran, was a leading State sponsor of terror. Iran's activities violated multiple Council resolutions and its rhetoric continued to threaten to destroy Israel while undermining international peace and security.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13318.doc.htm>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Gaza deaths: Israel must address excessive use of force, Zeid says

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Friday called on Israel to ensure that its security forces do not resort to the use of excessive force, following the many deaths and injuries sustained by Palestinians, including children, in

Gaza over the past month. He also called for those responsible to be held accountable. During the past four weeks, 42 Palestinians have been killed and over 5,500 injured – 1,739 by live ammunition fired by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) – along the fence in Gaza. Thirty-five of those killed were taking part in demonstrations as part of the “Great March of Return”. Most of them appear to have been unarmed or not presenting an imminent threat to the ISF at the time of their killing or injury. No Israeli casualties have been reported.

“Every week, we witness instances of use of lethal force against unarmed demonstrators,” said the High Commissioner. “Warnings by the United Nations and others have seemingly gone unheeded, as the approach of the security forces from week to week does not seem to have changed.”

Under international law, Palestinians have the right to peaceful assembly and expression. Israeli security forces, in policing the Gaza fence, must use only necessary and proportionate means to discharge their duties. Exceptionally, they may resort to lethal force in cases of extreme necessity, as a last resort in response to an imminent threat of death or risk of serious injury. It is difficult to see how tire-burning or stone-throwing, or even Molotov-cocktails thrown from a significant distance at heavily protected security forces in defensive positions can be seen to constitute such threat. ...

The impact on children is of great concern. Since 30 March 2018, four children have been shot dead by Israeli forces, three of them by a bullet to the head or neck. A further 233 children have been injured by live ammunition, with some sustaining injuries that will result in lifelong disabilities, including through the amputation of limbs.

“The use of excessive force against any demonstrator is reprehensible, but children enjoy additional protection under international law,” said Zeid. “It is difficult to see how children, even those throwing stones, can present a threat of imminent death or serious injury to heavily protected security force personnel.” ...

“These trends call into question to what extent the ISF’s rules of engagement, which are not public, are in line with international law, or at least to what degree the ISF abides by its own rules,” said Zeid. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22995&LangID=E>

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Other Relevant Information

Council of Europe

Guide for the implementation of the principle of prohibition of financial gain with respect to the human body and its parts from living or deceased donors

<https://rm.coe.int/guide-financial-gain/16807bfc9a>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN human rights experts says deaths in custody reinforce concerns about ‘structural racism’ in UK

UN human rights experts have expressed serious concerns over the deaths of a disproportionate number of people of African descent and of ethnic minorities in the United Kingdom as a result of excessive force by State security.

“The deaths reinforce the experiences of structural racism, over-policing and criminalisation of people of African descent and other minorities in the UK,” ...

Data disclosed by the Metropolitan Police in August 2017 found that people of African

descent and of ethnic minority background, in particular young African and Caribbean men, subject to deadly use of force by restraint and restraint equipment, were twice as likely to die after the use of force by police officers and the subsequent lack or insufficiency of access to appropriate healthcare. ...

“Failure to properly investigate and prosecute such deaths results in a lack of accountability for those individuals and State agencies responsible, as well as in the denial of adequate remedies and reparation for the families of the victims.” ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22997&LangID=E>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/CTEERC/2018/4/25/Holocaust--Return-of-Cultural-Objects---Amendment--LCM/CTEERS052018R2.pdf>

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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