

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 Written Answer

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [170820] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether it is Departmental practice not to use the term ritual slaughter when discussing shechita and halal slaughtering process.

George Eustice: The Department refers to the term 'slaughtered by religious rite', as this is the terminology used in the relevant legislation. This may be shortened to 'religious slaughter'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170820/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime Campaigns

S5W-18380 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for upcoming hate crime campaigns, and whether it will set out what focus these will have outwith raising awareness.

Aileen Campbell: Within our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan we committed to develop a public awareness campaign and in October 2017 we ran our 'Hate Has No Home in Scotland' campaign. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encourage both victims and witnesses to report it.

Building on the success of this campaign we will launch a further campaign later this year which will aim to encourage witnesses of hate crime to report, and provide reassurance that the police will take action.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18380>

CPS

Victims get clearer guidance on telling courts about impact of crime

Clearer guidance to ensure victims of crime have the chance to speak in court about the impact offending has had on their lives has been published today. ...

The VPS, which is read out in court as part of the sentencing process, allows victims to explain how they have been affected by crime in their own words. And as well as helping victims come to terms with what has happened, the VPS will be taken into account when passing sentence and deciding how much compensation to award.

Gregor McGill from the CPS said: "Too often victims can feel like they are an afterthought in the justice system but the Victim Personal Statement gives them a real chance to explain how they have suffered.

"In their own words they can say how their lives have been turned upside down and it is often the only time a judge, magistrate or offender will hear those details. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/victims-get-clearer-guidance-telling-courts-about-impact-crime>

Joint Agency Guide to the Victim Personal Statement A guide for all criminal justice practitioners

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740196/joint-agency-guide-victim-personal-statement.pdf

Making a Victim Personal Statement

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/264625/victims-vps-guidance.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Schools

Joan Ryan (Labour) [171640] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 13 September 2017 to Question 8642, for what reasons her Department concluded that the IMPACT-SE report on the Palestinian Elementary School Curriculum 2016-17 was not objective in its findings.

Alistair Burt: The UK Government was very concerned at some of the allegations outlined in the IMPACT-SE report. We are therefore working to commission a robust study into the new Palestinian textbooks. Our assessment is that the IMPACT-SE report was not objective in its findings and lacked methodological rigour. For example, some claims were made on the basis of a partial or subjective reading of the text, some findings are presented out of context, and there was limited information available about the sampling approach to select textbooks to analyse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171640/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8642/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<http://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/PA-Curriculum-2017-Revised.pdf>

Palestinians: Schools

Joan Ryan (Labour) [171641] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the Palestinian Authority's school curriculum compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between her

Department and the Palestinian Authority.

Alistair Burt: Our support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which requires the PA to commit to the principle of non-violence and address allegations of incitement to violence. In May 2018, we assessed the PA had adhered to the terms of the MoU. At the same time, we have discussed the issue of incitement in the education system with our counterparts in the Palestinian Authority, and are now working to commission a robust study into the new Palestinian textbooks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171641/>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Economic reality in Occupied Palestinian Territory is bleaker than ever

Sky-high unemployment, declining per capita income, contracting agricultural productivity and worsening socioeconomic conditions characterize a bleak assessment of the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, according to the new UNCTAD annual report on its assistance to the Palestinian people.

The report warns that evaporating donor support, a freeze in the reconstruction of Gaza and unsustainable, credit-financed public and private consumption offer poor growth prospects as the confiscation of land and natural resources by Israel continues. ...

However, Israel has failed to ease restrictions and donor support has declined steeply to one-third of its 2008 level. ...

With the blockade now in its eleventh year, the Gaza Strip has been reduced to a humanitarian case of profound suffering and aid dependency, the report says.

The productive capacity of Gaza has been eviscerated by three major military operations and a crippling air, sea and land blockade.

The 2008–2009 Israeli military operation erased more than 60% of Gaza's total stock of productive capital, and the 2014 strike destroyed 85% of what was left. ...

Israeli restrictions on Palestinian trade include the dual-use list, which does not allow Palestinians to import a wide range of civilian goods that might have a potential military application ...

This ban imposes heavy economic costs and exacerbates conflict and political instability by undermining the employment, wages and the livelihood of the Palestinian people. ...

Effectively, the Occupied Palestinian Territory is isolated from the more competitive global markets, which in turn fosters an extremely high level of a trade diversion towards Israel, the report says. ...

To break the cycle of dispossession and de-development, the UNCTAD report recommends replacing the outdated customs union by a new framework that guarantees the Palestinian National Authority full control over its customs territory, borders and trade and industrial policies. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1846>

Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tdb65_2_d3_en.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

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>

Online Forums Bill

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

**** Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill**

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

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-12/debates/e930f2bd-06ef-4352-961e-05159c7ba37a/OrganDonation\(DeemedConsent\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-12/debates/e930f2bd-06ef-4352-961e-05159c7ba37a/OrganDonation(DeemedConsent)Bill)

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes tomorrow**

20 years of the Human Rights Act (closing date 14 September 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/20-years-human-rights-act-launch-17-19/>

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