

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

Israel: Bedouin

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL10228] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they intend to take to prevent the forced removal of the community and school of Khan al-Ahmar.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains gravely concerned by proposals to demolish the Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar which the UN has said could amount to 'forcible transfer', in violation of International Humanitarian Law. Following the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court on 5 September, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a statement with France, Germany, Spain and Italy reiterating our call to the Israeli Government not to go ahead with its plan to demolish the village – including its school – and displace its residents. We will continue to raise these concerns with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-10/HL10228/>

Ahed Tamimi

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL10229] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the reported banning by Israel of the Tamimi family from travelling abroad.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not made any representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue as immigration policy is a sovereign matter for Israel to determine.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-10/HL10229/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Updated Travel Advice: Israel

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

Updated Travel Advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

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Other Relevant Information

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human Rights Council holds general debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

... Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union was fully committed to the total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia within its borders but also in the world. Fear-based policies were creating a climate of crisis, entrenching divisions and compounding the suffering of the most vulnerable. Countering xenophobia was a priority for all and it required a joint effort. It was the European Union's duty to show political leadership. ...

France was concerned about the rise of nationalist discourse. All States were urged to condemn such discourse and it was the responsibility of States to protect and promote human rights since any person promoting hate speech was committing a human rights violation. France had adopted an action plan to combat racism and anti-Semitism for the period 2018-2020.

State of Palestine said that since its creation, Israel had employed an intricate set of policies and practices with the aim of maintaining a colonial occupation and a Jewish demographic majority by displacing and replacing Palestinians. The latest discriminatory measure taken by Israel was the passing of the Jewish nation State law that aimed to legitimize institutional discrimination against its Arab Palestinian citizens. ...

Syria was concerned about the surge of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, including in regions under foreign occupation. Attempts by Israel, an occupying force, to stop the collective identity of Palestinians was condemned. This went against international law. The Law on the Jewish nation State went against all ideas of freedom and it introduced an apartheid State.

Iran said ... Israel's law on the Jewish nation State was introducing a State of racial discrimination and it had to be stopped by the international community. ...

European Union of Jewish Students lamented that Jewish people had often found themselves in a position where racism had been normalised and institutionalised. The Union expressed particular concern regarding the Labour Party in the United Kingdom, where anti-Semitism had found its new home. Anti-Semitism was a shape shifter, a constantly mutating virus. It called for the Council to uphold its commitment and concern for deliberate racism against Jews such as that in the Labour Party in the United Kingdom. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23629&LangID=E>

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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>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Reform of the legal requirements for divorce (closing date 10 December 2018)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/reform-of-the-legal-requirements-for-divorce/>

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