

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Muslim Council of Britain

The Muslim Council of Britain Officially Requests Inquiry into Islamophobia in the Tory Party

The Muslim Council of Britain has today written to Conservative Party Chair, Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, requesting an inquiry into Islamophobia within his party, including a full audit to ensure racists and bigots have no place in the party. This comes after the latest in a consistent stream of Islamophobic incidents from Bob Blackman MP was revealed today, without any action being taken.

The letter, written by the Secretary General of the MCB, Harun Khan states, "Upon becoming Chair of the Conservative Party, you admirably launched the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament and local election candidates, which includes the requirement to "encourage and foster respect and tolerance", and you have since called on people to email you if they hear of bigotry within the party.

"Yet no action has been taken against Bob Blackman MP who has now shown a consistent record of endorsing Islamophobia... Mr Blackman is not the only one who has fostered Islamophobia in your party. Just last month, there were more than weekly occurrences of Islamophobia from candidates and representatives of the Conservative Party".

Highlighting nine incidents of Islamophobia from Tory candidates and representatives of the party over the last two months alone, he continued, "Furthermore, the inaction taken

in high-profile cases, sends a signal that Islamophobia is to be tolerated in the Conservative party”.

The MCB urged Mr Lewis to consider four steps, including the launch of a genuine independent inquiry, publishing a list of incidents of Islamophobia within the party where action has been taken, as well as adopting a programme of education and training on Islamophobia. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/the-muslim-council-of-britain-officially-requests-inquiry-into-islamophobia-in-the-tory-party/>

To read the letter see

http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BrandonLewis_ConservativeChair-Islamophobia_30May2018-Email.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Health Services

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [146098] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to help improve healthcare facilities in Palestine.

Alistair Burt: The UK will provide £1.5m humanitarian funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appeal to help improve the capacity of 11 hospitals in Gaza. The UK is working closely with our international partners to monitor the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and ensure a coordinated and effective response to urgent medical needs. UK financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority helps to pay the salaries of vetted health public servants in the West Bank. Last year this support provided up to 3,700 immunisations for children and around 185,000 medical consultations annually. In addition, the UK is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides basic services, including basic healthcare, to over 800,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and 1.3 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146098/>

Israel: Palestinians

Imran Hussain (Labour) [146276] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, for what reason the UK abstained during the recent UN Human Rights Council vote on an independent investigation into violence in Gaza.

Alistair Burt: The UK's Permanent representative in Geneva set out our reasoning at length in an explanation of the vote which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/human-rights-council-special-session-28th>
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146276/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Human Rights

Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated) [HL7813] To ask Her Majesty's Government what

representations they have made to the government of Israel about human rights abuses, including recent killings of civilians in Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We are extremely concerned by the scale of the violence in Gaza and the West Bank. The loss of life and the large number of Palestinians injured, including children, is tragic. Israel has the right to defend its borders. However the use of live fire is deeply troubling, and has led to significant loss of life. We urge Israel to show greater restraint. The Foreign Secretary discussed the use of live ammunition against protestors in Gaza with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 16 May. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa also raised our concerns with his Israeli counterpart on 13 May and with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 17 May.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7813/>

Armed Conflict

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7830] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the causes of war and violent conflict in (1) Israel and Palestine, (2) Syria, (3) Yemen, and (4) Afghanistan; and whether they will place any relevant analysis in the Library of the House.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The causes of conflict in all four regions are complex, deep-rooted, and often controversial. It is not possible to do justice to the issues in a short answer to a parliamentary question. Extensive analysis of the issues is widely available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7830/>

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7867] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the decision of the government of the United States to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, whether they plan to hold discussions with the government of Israel concerning International Atomic Energy Agency inspection of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have regular discussions with the Government of Israel on a wide range of nuclear-related issues. Israel has not declared a nuclear weapons programme.

Israel does have a facility-specific safeguards agreement in place with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The agreement applies to a single facility in Israel, which is the Soreq Nuclear Research Reactor. The facility is inspected by the IAEA to ensure that it is not used for weapons purposes. We continue to call on Israel to upgrade this arrangement to a full scope Comprehensive Safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7867/>

Jerusalem: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7920] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take to protect Palestinians who are living in East Jerusalem from forcible eviction from their homes to make way for Israeli settlers.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government supports Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem facing demolition or eviction through our funding to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) legal aid programme. This helps residents to challenge decisions in the Israeli legal system. Of those cases provided with legal representation through British NRC, 97% have resulted in suspension of demolitions and evictions, allowing Palestinians to remain in their

homes. We regularly make clear our serious concerns about the situation in East Jerusalem to the Israeli authorities and the Municipality of Jerusalem, both bilaterally and in co-operation with EU partners. These concerns include the evictions of Palestinians and demolition of Palestinian property; the construction of illegal Israeli settlements; the removal of residency rights from Palestinians; possible unilateral changes to the municipal borders; and the severe difficulties of access to Jerusalem for Palestinians from the West Bank, or for those residents of Jerusalem who live beyond the Separation Barrier.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-15/HL7920/>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7921] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take to prevent violations of Palestinian holy sites by Israeli forces and settlers in territory occupied by Israel.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel on the implementation of its obligations under international law and regularly and robustly raise our serious concerns on issues related to Israeli actions in the OPTs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-15/HL7921/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Condemning attacks from Gaza into Israel and calling for direct negotiations for two-state solution. Statement by Ambassador Karen Pierce, UK Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on the Middle East.

... I condemn without qualification, in the strongest terms, yesterday's mortar and rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians are unacceptable and they are unjustifiable. Those that risk killing or injuring children are heinous. These attacks can't be ignored by the Council. The UK fully supports Israel's right to self-defense and the right to defend their citizens from such acts of terror. ... The latest attacks follow the deaths of over a hundred Palestinians in recent weeks of protests, and the Council has addressed that previously. Civilians live in fear and in despair.

The situation in Gaza, Madam President, is undeniably dangerous, it is sad and it is complex. The perpetual cycle of violence needs to end and serves no one's interests. The actions of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad represent real and concerning threat to Israeli security. Ultimately, the ongoing decisions of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to embrace violence and reject the Quartet principles lie at the heart of the Gaza situation. We should use this Council session today to demand that Hamas and other terrorist groups cease all violent and provocative actions and cease any and all actions that put civilian lives at risk.

At the same time, we do not ignore the significant contribution that restrictions on movement and access imposed on Gaza have on the dire humanitarian situation that we witness. ...

We stand ready as the United Kingdom to do everything that we can to support these efforts. The people of Gaza are in urgent and they're in desperate need. Yesterday, my government committed to providing a new package of over two million dollars of lifesaving support. The funding will support work by the International Committee of the Red Cross Red Crescent in keeping hospitals open and functioning ...

Every day makes it more critical that both Israelis and Palestinians return to direct

negotiations and urgently prioritise steps to resolve the situation in Gaza. This is the only way that we will be able to achieve a two-state solution: a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. Those who seek to undermine this, including through unjustified acts of violence, deserve the rightful condemnation of this Council, but also the condemnation of the whole world. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/condemning-attacks-from-gaza-into-israel-and-calling-for-direct-negotiations-for-two-state-solution>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-12461 Ross Greer (Green): Gilberto Gil and the Cultural Boycott of Israel –

That the Parliament welcomes the reported decision by the Grammy award-winning Brazilian artist and former government minister, Gilberto Gil, to cancel his planned performance in Israel in protest against the Israeli military's recent killing of Palestinian protesters; understands that this decision has been made as part of the broader campaign, Boycott, Divest, and Sanction, which has called on musicians and other artists to engage in a cultural boycott of Israel until it ceases to occupy the Palestinian territories; welcomes the many artists and groups that have joined the boycott since the reported killing of 60 Palestinian protesters in Gaza on 14 May 2018, including, it understands, the bands, Portishead, Wolf Alice and Slaves; notes that they have joined a cultural boycott movement whose notable participants include Brian Eno, Roger Waters and Ken Loach, and calls on artists and musicians across the world to boycott playing in Israel until the occupation of Palestine is ended.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-12461>

European Parliament Debate

Situation in Gaza Strip and the status of Jerusalem

Note that only speeches in English have been included in this abstract.

... **Johannes Hahn (Member of the Commission, on behalf of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy):** ... Israel has the right to defend its legitimate security interests and its sovereignty. But every response should be proportionate and the High Representative has called on the Israelis to avoid the use of live fire against unarmed protesters unless there is a real and immediate threat to life.

The Palestinians have the full right to protest peacefully. At the same time, we have also stressed that Hamas and those leading demonstrations in Gaza must ensure that they remain strictly non—violent, and they must not exploit the protests for other means. ...

We heard different versions of the facts and different narratives about what was happening from Israelis and Palestinians. Our judgment should always be defined by facts, not emotions. That is why we have said since the beginning that an independent and transparent investigation is needed to shed light on events and possible violations by all parties. ...

Israel has to do its part. Real progress requires progress on movement and access and the possibility of trading. Removing Israeli restrictions would be more helpful than any increase in aid. ... The Palestinian Authority must also play its part and fully live up to its responsibilities for the people in Gaza. This means working actively for reconciliation, under Egyptian auspices, to reunite Gaza and the West Bank under one legitimate Palestinian authority. ...

No one can deny the historic ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem, and the same is true

for the ties of the Palestinian people to the city. Precisely because of Jerusalem's unique history, its status can only be solved through negotiations between the parties. ...

Geoffrey Van Orden (on behalf of the ECR Group): ... Israel, of course, has the right to defend its borders but, particularly in the face of deliberate provocation, it must show restraint. Apart from the loss of life involved, the international reputation of Israel has again been damaged. This, of course, was precisely the intention of those that set these tragic events in train. ...

... in Gaza there is no democracy and no regard for human rights. The only demonstrations allowed are those under Hamas direction. ...

It was the Palestine Authority that imposed sanctions on Hamas-ruled Gaza in 2017 ... The Palestine Authority, Madame President, needs to take full control of Gaza and return to the negotiating table. ...

Keith Taylor (on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group): ... I observed the living conditions of Gazans and the repressive nature of the Israeli blockades with their far-reaching effects on employment, infrastructure and any semblance of normal life. I met with Palestinian politicians who are losing faith with the two-state solution and Israel's obvious lack of good faith in seeking that outcome. ... This – and so much more – is the reality of the repressive, disproportionate and illegal acts of the Israeli state ...

I would like to see our Vice-President flex our economic muscles and review the EU-Israel Association Agreement, because it is not unreasonable for us to expect the people that we trade with to act responsibly, proportionately and within the law. ...

Gunnar Hökmark (PPE): ... let's be very clear about one thing. Those who are advocating hate, those who are advocating terrorism, must always bear the responsibility for the acts of terrorism and hate. Hamas, Hezbollah, Daesh, the Syrian Government, Iran: they are responsible for the atrocities done in their name and in the name of the anti-Semitism we face. We have reasons to criticise Israel when they use military force in a disproportionate manner, but we must recognise their right to defend their borders and blame those who are advocating violence. ...

Branislav Škripek (ECR): ... it is the Palestinian Authority that has for years been consciously abusing the people of Gaza for their despicable political gain. The latest incident where almost 60 Palestinians died is another proof of that. The death of each one of them is a tragedy, of course, but it has to be said that Hamas planned the violent events way in advance. ... A Hamas official, Salah Al-Bardawil, admitted in an interview to a local TV station that 50 out of the 62 Palestinians killed were Hamas terrorists. ...

Laima Liucija Andrikiienė (PPE): ... just this morning, militants fired rounds of heavy mortar from Gaza into southern Israel, alarming the Israeli air and land defences and, in the end, strongly jeopardising any chances of improving the situation in the region. ...

After these weeks of protests at the Israeli border what, if anything, has been accomplished? Hamas has gained more publicity in the international press and Israel was condemned for disproportionate use of force against mostly unarmed protesters. ...

Julie Ward (S&D): ... the blockade of Gaza continues to create an unbearable situation for the people living there, and Europe's indifference is both shameful and unacceptable. Meanwhile, President Trump's disrespect for human dignity grows more and more appalling. His condoning of Israel's policies towards the Palestinians is extremely worrying. I fear that the violence in Gaza will continue as long as the blockade exists. Palestinians will continue to protest their fundamental rights, and it is likely that the Israeli army will continue to use lethal violence against them. ...

The only viable scenario for peace is for the EU to step in and take a strong leadership role in the Middle East. The High Representative and the Member States should condemn, in the strongest terms, Israel's hostile policy towards the Palestinians alongside the condemnation of Hamas. ...

Johannes Hahn (Member of the Commission, on behalf of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy): ... From this debate, I have concluded that we all share a common interest in using EU diplomatic power and EU instruments to their full potential in support of the Middle East peace process and with the objective of a negotiated two-state solution. Our priority at the moment is for all sides to avoid any actions that could lead to further violence or loss of life. Further escalation of an already tense and complex situation would only cause more suffering and will make the prospects for peace and security even more remote. ...

Ensuring humanitarian access to Gaza is also urgent in order to avoid the number of casualties rising further. Certainly, there is a need for an independent and transparent investigation into the incidents, not least focused on the use of live ammunition, so that we can understand what has happened and why.

Finally, it remains essential to restore a political horizon and hope for people on the ground. ... The Union is ready to play its role and fully supports the resumption of a meaningful peace process, together with regional and international partners.

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20180529+ITEM-013+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

United Nations

Special Coordinator Urges Security Council to Intensify Pressure on Israelis, Palestinians amid Most Serious Escalation of Violence Since 2014

... Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, described events unfolding in and around Gaza as the most serious escalation since the 2014 conflict between Hamas and Israel. Citing the Israel Defense Forces, he said that, between 28 and 30 May, projectiles, including rockets and mortar shells, had been fired from Gaza towards Israel, 77 of which had hit the Eshkol, Sha'ar Hanegev and Sdot Negev regions. While most had been intercepted by the Iron Dome system, one had hit a kindergarten yard. In response, Israel had carried out air strikes on 65 Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in Gaza, destroying a tunnel near the Kerem Shalom crossing.

He said that, on 29 May, Hamas' Qassam Brigades and the Islamic Jihad's Saraya al-Quds had claimed joint responsibility for the attacks, blaming Israel for targeting their fighters in the preceding 48 hours. "Such attacks are completely unacceptable," he emphasized, urging the international community to join the United Nations in condemning them unequivocally. ...

On 27 May, he continued, the Israel Defense Forces, responding to an improvised explosive device found near the fence, had targeted an Islamic Jihad observation post, killing three members of the group, after which it had vowed to retaliate. The Israeli military's subsequent shelling of another observation post had killed a member of the Hamas military wing. ...

Stressing that no one had the right to play with the lives of 2 million Gazans who had lived through hell over the last decade, he said that, despite the violence, Gaza's civilian infrastructure had not sustained significant damage. The Rafah crossing into Egypt was continuing operations for the nineteenth consecutive day, while the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings into Israel had experienced only minor delays. However, fire from Gaza had damaged electricity installations on Israel's side, resulting in a 30 per cent reduction in supply into Gaza ...

... the United Nations would immediately enhance its ability to facilitate project implementation in Gaza, he said. The Organization would also improve its coordination with Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority to overcome political, administrative and logistical blockages. That plan was the only way to ensure that "we do not allow Gaza to become a pawn in someone else's plans". ...

Nikki R. Haley (United States) said that her delegation had called today's meeting to

discuss the destructive activities of the terrorist organization Hamas in the Gaza Strip. It had also proposed a Council statement condemning Hamas for its recent rocket attacks against Israel, she added, noting that, while “this should have been a no brainer”, the statement had nevertheless been blocked. The United States had then called for a meeting under the agenda item “threats to international peace and security”, but that had also been blocked because some delegations felt that rocket attacks did not qualify as terrorism. The United States strongly rejected that assessment ...

Hamas had proudly claimed responsibility for the attack, she continued, noting that the action had demonstrated once again the group’s stated purpose — the destruction of Israel. The people of Gaza did not require protection from any external force, but from Hamas itself, she emphasized, asking: “Who among us would accept 70 rockets launched into your country?” ...

François Delattre (France) ... said that, at the same time, the situation was “sadly predicable” ... Condemning the rockets attacks from Gaza that deliberately targeted civilians, he reiterated France’s commitment to Israel’s security while urging all parties to exercise restraint. ...

Vassily A. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) expressed regret that the border between Israel and Gaza had again become an area of armed activity, describing civilians in Israel and Palestine as its “hostages”. ... Condemning the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, as well as the firing of rockets into Israel, he called for easing the difficult humanitarian situation in Gaza, pointing out that despair was a fertile breeding ground for radicalism. ...

Riyad H. Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, urged the Security Council to act immediately to de-escalate the dangerous situation, deter the descent into more violence and chaos, and prevent the occupying Power from further terrorizing and endangering the Palestinian civilian population. He called upon the Council to protect the defenceless, and to stand firmly on the side of international law with a steady moral compass, and not fall prey to the cynical narrative that was constantly dragging both sides to the brink of war, thwarting all efforts to find a just solution. ...

It was time to stop making excuses about why it was not the right time to act, continually absolving Israel of its crimes and facilitating its evasion of accountability ... “We have been brought here today precisely because of the constant mistake of detaching developments from the root causes and the reality of the existence of the Israeli occupation, dispossession and colonization of the Palestinian people. ...

He went on to underline that the double standard over the Palestinian question was not new and was being reinforced by today’s meeting. Perhaps some had already forgotten the 14 May slaughter of unarmed Palestinian civilians, including innocent children. Israel’s suffocating blockade had depleted the coping capacities of the Palestinian people and intensified their despair ...

Danny Danon (Israel) called on the Council to condemn Hamas for its war crimes against both Israelis and Palestinians, and to designate the organization as a terrorist group ... Recalling that Hamas and Islamic Jihad had fired nearly 200 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel over the past 24 hours, he said the former had also incited and paid mobs to breach the border fence in recent weeks, opening fire upon Israeli soldiers and detonating explosives. ... adding that Iranian money had been used to pay rioters and Iranian rockets fired into Israel. “We have here a situation that is black and white,” he said, stressing that while Israel had disengaged from Gaza in 2005 Hamas had done nothing but terrorize his country and prolong the suffering of Gaza’s population. ...

“The idea that Hamas’ violence is being rewarded by a resolution condemning Israel is absurd,” he stressed, urging the Council to take action by designating Hamas as a terrorist organization — a move that would allow it to sanction the group’s leaders, members and every person, entity or country with which it was associated. “Let me be clear: if Israeli children are not allowed to sleep quietly at night, then the terrorists of Gaza will feel the might of the [Israel Defense Forces]” ...

To read the full press release see

Other Relevant Information

Court of Justice of the European Union

According to Advocate General Wathelet, the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion precludes a Catholic doctor who is Head of Department at a Catholic hospital from being dismissed because of his divorce and remarriage

From 2000 to 2009, JQ, of the Roman Catholic faith, was Head of the Internal Medicine Department of a Catholic hospital located in Düsseldorf, Germany. That hospital is managed by IR, a limited liability company established under German law and subject to the supervision of the Catholic Archbishop of Cologne. When IR learned that JQ had remarried in a civil ceremony, after a divorce from his first wife was granted in accordance with German civil law, but without his first marriage, which had been concluded according to the Romanic Catholic rite, having been annulled, it terminated his contract of employment. ...

In today's Opinion, Advocate General Melchior Wathelet observes, first of all, that JQ's dismissal would be manifestly unlawful, representing direct discrimination based on religion, if churches and organisations the ethos of which is based on religion did not benefit from a special legal system both under German constitutional law and under the directive.

In that connection, the Bundesarbeitsgericht will, first, need to determine whether IR is indeed a private organisation the ethos of which is based on religion. The mere fact that IR is subject to supervision by the Catholic Archbishop of Cologne and that its company object is the implementation of the missions of Caritas is not sufficient in that regard. ...

Next, the Advocate General notes that, according to the directive, a difference of treatment based on a person's religion or belief does not constitute discrimination where, by reason of the nature of the activities or of the context in which they are carried out, a person's religion or belief constitute a genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement, having regard to the organisation's ethos. ...

The Advocate General states that in the present case, the requirement in question is not membership of a particular religion, but rather the professing of a particular belief of the Catholic Church, namely the concept of marriage defined by the doctrine and canon law of the Catholic Church ...

The Advocate General considers that it is clear that such a profession of belief does not constitute, in this case, an occupational requirement, much less one that is genuine and justified. ...

First of all, that requirement is in no way linked to the occupational activities of IR and JQ, namely the provision of healthcare services and patient care. ...

Moreover, respect for the concept of marriage according to the doctrine and canon law of the Catholic Church is not a genuine occupational requirement since it does not appear necessary because of the importance of IR's occupational activity, namely the provision of healthcare services, for the manifestation of IR's ethos or the exercise by IR of its right of autonomy. ...

... if it is not possible for the Bundesarbeitsgericht to interpret the applicable national law in conformity with the directive, that court would be obliged to ensure within its jurisdiction the judicial protection deriving for individuals from the general principle of non-discrimination on grounds of religion and to guarantee the full effectiveness of that principle by disapplying, if need be, any contrary provision of national law. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-05/cp180073en.pdf>

To read the full Opinion see

<https://tinyurl.com/yd3xg8ha>

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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

**** closes in 5 days**

Integrated Communities Strategy green paper (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

Measures to further improve the effectiveness of the fight against illegal content online
(closing date 25 June 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-measures-further-improve-effectiveness-fight-against-illegal-content-online_en

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>

Antisemitism: Survey of European Jews (closing date not stated)

<http://www.eurojews.eu/>

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