

# Political Affairs Digest

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

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## Israel

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-12461.1 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): Gilberto Gil and the Cultural Boycott of Israel** – As an amendment to motion S5M-12461 in the name of Ross Greer (Gilberto Gil and the Cultural Boycott of Israel), leave out from first "welcomes" to end and insert "believes that the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign actively seeks to delegitimise the democratic state of Israel through demonisation, as opposed to criticism; understands that even the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, has publicly stated his opposition to boycotts of Israel; believes that the BDS campaign has very little interest in peace, having formally rejected a two-state solution; considers that its support for a cultural boycott runs contrary to the positive work of organisations such as The Peres Center for Peace, which, among other positions, advocates utilising sport to bring Palestinian and Israeli youth together to create a proper environment for peace, and ultimately believes that only with the support for academic, cultural and trade links between Israel and the Palestinian Authority can an environment for peace be achieved."  
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-12461.1>

*The Motion to which the above is an amendment can be read at*

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

### UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**UN experts decry Israel plan to demolish Bedouin homes near Jerusalem**  
 UN human rights experts have expressed grave concerns about an Israeli court's decision on 24 May to uphold a plan by the Government of Israel to demolish the entire Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar Ab al Helu in the West Bank east of Jerusalem.

"This ruling paves the way for the eviction of 181 inhabitants and constitutes an involuntary move that would likely amount to forcible transfer," said the experts.

The individual or mass forced transfer of protected persons within an occupied territory is a grave breach of Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Forcible transfer also constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute, that may lead to individual criminal responsibility. The experts also said that forced eviction is a gross violation of international human rights law. ...

“Despite the arguments made by the Khan al-Ahmar community, the High Court did not appear to give any weight to the strict prohibitions under international humanitarian law against the demolition of property and against forcible transfer belonging to the protected people in its decision,” the experts said.

The residents of Khan al-Ahmar are the descendants of Bedouins who were expelled from the Negev by Israel after 1948, and who were relocated to the West Bank.

In recent years, the residents had petitioned the Israeli military for a master plan and building permits for the lands that they had inhabited for decades. These petitions were denied. ...

“We are concerned not only for the future of the residents of Khan al-Ahmar, but also for the fate of dozens of other Palestinian Bedouin and herder communities across Area C who live a traditional lifestyle on the land,” the experts said. ...

The UN experts called upon Israel, as the occupying power, to respect the rights of the Khan al-Ahmar residents to remain on their lands and to have their community status regularised. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23161&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>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0212/amend/eu\\_rm\\_ccla\\_0531v2.1-7.html](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0212/amend/eu_rm_ccla_0531v2.1-7.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 4 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](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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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438