

Political Affairs Digest

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

Contents

Home Affairs
Israel

Relevant Legislation
Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Universities: Freedom of Expression

Mike Penning (Conservative) [151116] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure (a) freedom of speech and (b) open debate in universities; and if he will make a statement.

Sam Gyimah: Free speech within the law is an essential precondition of thriving universities. Free speech underpins diversity of thought, allows students to develop the ability to think critically, and exposes them to new ideas. I held a free speech summit on 3 May 2018. At the summit, university leaders and regulators agreed to develop a single piece of guidance to help the higher education sector promote free speech and open debate. The guidance is expected to be published in the autumn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-07/151116/>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Mike Penning (Conservative) [151114] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made an assessment of the role of terrorist organisations in the recent Israeli-Palestinian border conflict; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt: Hamas have stated that 50 of those killed during protests in Gaza were their operatives, and Hamas leaders have also called for violence against Israelis. While we support the fundamental right of Palestinians to peaceful protest, there have been multiple attempts to place Improvised Explosive Devices at the Gaza border, and it is clear that extremist elements have been exploiting these protests for their own ends. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have also claimed responsibility for the recent rocket attacks from Gaza towards Israel. Israel has the right to protect itself against all militant groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-07/151114/>

Israel: Courts Martial

Chris Elmore (Labour) [151443] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2018 to Question 132493 on Israel: Courts Martial, if he will take steps to find out if (a) British or (b) British-Israeli citizens are serving as judges in accordance with the UK's legal obligations under Article 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Alistair Burt: The British Government does not plan on taking steps to find out if British or British-Israeli citizens are serving as judges in Israel's military courts.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-08/151443/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132493/>

Israel: Palestinians

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [152634] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 149909, if he will raise with the Government of Israel whether weapons or defence equipment exported from the UK have been used against unarmed protesters in Gaza in the recent violence.

Alistair Burt: We have no information to suggest that UK supplied equipment has been used against protesters in Gaza. We therefore have no plans to raise this issue with the Israeli authorities at this time. We continue to assess export licence applications on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated Criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-12/152634/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-05/149909/>

TOP

Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

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

Briefing: Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2018-0067/LLN-2018-0067.pdf>

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>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

**** Closes in 8 days**

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/>

TOP

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