

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

Gaza: Health Services

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL8332] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusions in the report by Health Cluster, Gaza Strip Joint Health Sector Assessment Report, published in September 2014, that the rebuilding of health services in Gaza will not be possible while Israel maintains the blockade.

Lord Bates: In the long term, rebuilding health services in Gaza requires a durable and just negotiated settlement for all parties, including the Palestinian Authority (PA) resuming administrative control of Gaza. At present, the movement and access restrictions imposed by Israel significantly constrain the health system in Gaza: access to treatment is impeded by the inability to import medical equipment, drug supplies and the level of medical expertise needed. This is compounded by the protracted energy crisis, contaminated food and water, and administrative constraints placed on people seeking medical attention outside Gaza.

Until a political solution is found, the health system in Gaza can be ameliorated by the: expedition of medical permits for those who require treatment outside Gaza; resolution of the energy crisis; and promotion of long term reconciliation between all parties.

The UK continues to urge Israel to use restraint in Gaza, and Minister of State Alistair Burt made this case during his recent visit there.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-04/HL8332/>

The report referred to above can be read at

[http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/Joint Health Sector Assessment Report Gaza Sept 2014-final.pdf](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/Joint_Health_Sector_Assessment_Report_Gaza_Sept_2014-final.pdf)

Israel: Gaza

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL8388] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policy of Israel to create a variable buffer zone within the Gaza strip limiting the land available to those living there.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not made any assessment on this issue as there is not any official policy on the matter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-05/HL8388/>

Israel: Gaza

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL8389] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the killing of an identifiable Palestinian nurse on 1 June during the Gaza demonstration.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The circumstances of Razan al Najjar's death require urgent clarification. Any targeting of medical personnel would be unacceptable. Officials from the British Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this with the relevant Israeli authorities on 1 June. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary expressed concern about the loss of Palestinian lives during the Gaza protests when they met Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in London on 6 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-05/HL8389/>

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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>

Lords consideration of Commons Reasons and Amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-18/debates/38C39823-F992-450D-AD1F-1A7A0FC6E706/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-18/debates/38C39823-F992-450D-AD1F-1A7A0FC6E706/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Lords non-insistence, agreement, amendments in lieu and amendments to amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0229/180229.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>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** Closes in 6 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/>

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