

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 Commons Written Answer

Organs: Donors

Eleanor Smith (Labour) [152835] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken to include differing (a) faith and (b) cultural perspectives in its consultation on opt-out organ donation.

Jackie Doyle-Price: The Department took a number of steps to raise awareness of the consultation on organ and tissue donation consent amongst different communities, which received over 17,000 responses.

- The consultation was publicised across various black and Asian media platforms, through Ministerial interviews on both national and regional black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) radio shows and editorials in prominent BAME publications, through television networks and editorials from faith leaders in popular religious publications;

- I wrote to faith leaders directly to encourage them to promote the consultation; and

- More widely, the consultation was promoted on social media and the Department worked with a number of organ donation-related organisations to highlight the consultation via their respective platforms.

In addition, NHS Blood and Transplant commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct 26 focus groups across England with representatives from a number of BAME groups and faith groups. More recently, on 9 May, I hosted an event with faith leaders to discuss barriers to organ donation and to explore what more can be done to engage with the different communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-12/152835/>

House of Lords Written Answer

Religious Buildings: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL8658] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect data on the number of (1) mosques, and (2) madrassas, in England and Wales; and if so, how many there are.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We estimate that there are around 1500 mosques and prayer halls in England. We do not hold any data on the number of madrassas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-14/HL8658/>

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Holocaust

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (Labour) (1436) That this House pays tribute to Gena Turgel MBE following her sad passing on 7 June 2018; remembers Gena for her determination to educate about her story of surviving the Krakow ghetto, Plaznow concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen, where she was eventually liberated and married one of her liberators, Norman Turgel; recognises her dedication and determination to share her testimony on behalf of the 6 million voiceless Jewish victims murdered during the Holocaust; commends Gena for spending many years speaking in schools across the country and at Holocaust Memorial Day events; and congratulates the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust which has reaffirmed its commitment to sharing Gena's testimony, ensuring that her legacy lives on so that people from every background can learn the lessons of the Holocaust and stand up to hatred, prejudice and antisemitism.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1436>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [146099] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much financial assistance her Department has given to projects in Palestine in each of the last ten years.

Alistair Burt: An error has been identified in the written answer given on 29 May 2018. The correct answer should have been:

DFID's Official Development Assistance directly to West Bank and Gaza Strip 2007 to 2016

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
£26.8m	£74.4m	£81.0m	£85.0m	£103.6m	£82.8m	£82.3m	£111.9m	£75.1m	£43.9m

This includes DFID's bilateral ODA to the West Bank and Gaza Strip including DFID's contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for basic services and protection for Palestine refugees in the region. In the National Statistics "Statistics on International Development" the UNRWA contribution is included in DFID's multilateral ODA total. This is due to the OECD DAC international code rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146099/>

The original answer appeared in Political Affairs Digest of 30 May

<https://www.scojec.org/pad/2018/v/18v30.pdf>

House of Lords Written Answer

Palestinians: Recognition of States

Lord Grocott (Labour) [HL8438] To ask Her Majesty's Government which member states of the United Nations have recognised Palestine as a state.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: 136 UN member states have recognised a Palestinian state. They are: Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Antigua & Barbuda; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belize; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Comoros; Republic of Congo; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Oman; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Sao Tome and Principe; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Sudan; Suriname; Swaziland; Sweden; Syria; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Togo; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Venezuela; Vietnam; Yemen; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Holy See, which is not a member of the United Nations but has permanent observer status, has also recognised a Palestinian state.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-07/HL8438/>

UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN experts say Gaza health care at “breaking point”

UN human rights experts have backed calls for a large-scale international response to the overwhelming health care needs of people living in Gaza.

They also remind Israel, as the occupying power, of its obligation to protect the population of Gaza, ensure its welfare and wellbeing, and to allow and facilitate access to health care to people in need. ...

“We are deeply worried by credible reports that treating, and caring for, the thousands of Gazans wounded by Israeli military fire over the past 12 weeks has strained Gaza’s already overloaded health care system to the breaking point,” said the experts.

According to the Ministry of Health, almost 8,000 Gazan protesters have been admitted to hospital, with more than 3,900 wounded by live ammunition. Many have sustained permanent injuries, including limb amputations. “It is unacceptable that many of those requiring care, which is not currently available in Gaza, have been denied exit permits to access healthcare outside of Gaza,” the experts said.

Out of the 93 applications submitted by Gazans to the Israeli authorities to access health care in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, only 24 were approved. Forty-nine were denied and 20 are still pending. “Denial of access to urgent health care to seriously wounded Gazans outside the strip is a violation of the right to health,” said the experts. ...

Gaza is suffering from a long-term health crisis. The Israeli blockade, three devastating wars, a harmful split in Palestinian unity and poorly paid health workers has meant that the availability of medical services and hospitals beds are seriously inadequate to service the many health needs of the two million Gazans. A meager electrical power supply, a badly-depleted water aquifer, the inability to treat sewage and the world's highest unemployment rates have only intensified the social-health crisis.

"We endorse the call of the UN Secretary-General for Israel to end its unlawful blockade and to be an active partner to enabling Gaza to rebuild its economy and resuscitate its health care sector," said the human rights experts. "The short-term responses to Gaza's current health crisis must go hand-in-hand with decisive steps to change Gaza's future for the better.

"In addition to its obligations under International Humanitarian Law as the occupying power, Israel has the obligation to respect and ensure the respect of the human rights of the people in Gaza, including their right to health. The Palestinian authorities also bear human rights obligations towards the population of Gaza." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23236&LangID=E>

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Other Relevant Information

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Better records to help support hate crime victims

Better recording of hate crime across the EU will help Member States continue to fight this persistent problem. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' latest report provides compelling evidence of what Member States are already doing with tips on how they can improve.

"Any hate crime system is only as good as the information it gets," says FRA Director Michael O'Flaherty. *"To send a strong and clear message that hate will not be tolerated in Europe, Member States need to be even smarter in their approach to measuring hate crime. This helpful report is a key resource to guide those efforts."*

Victimisation surveys, such as the ones conducted by FRA, continue to underline how hate crime and hate-motivated harassment towards many groups – migrants, LGBTI people and minorities - persist across the EU. However, official statistics rarely tell the same story undermining societal trust in the systems that are there to protect them. ...

The report's overview of practices across all 28 Member States builds on the activities of FRA's [subgroup on methodologies for recording and collecting hate crime data](#) and the [online compendium of practices](#). Drawing on these practices, it suggests how Member States could improve:

- They should collect detailed data on the various biases behind hate crime. Only 15 currently break down their hate crime data. Such details would allow the police to monitor how effective their responses are and can help rebuild trust among communities.
- They should conduct regular victimisation surveys to get a better insight into the national situation. Only nine Member States do such surveys with questions specifically on hate crime.
- They should capitalise on civil society know-how by strengthening cooperation between police forces and civil society in areas such as training and outreach.
- Police forces should ensure a more tolerant culture pervades all levels of their service to instil a wider respect and understanding towards potential hate crime victims.

- Police officers should always have to assess if crimes are motivated by hate to ensure the crimes can be properly prosecuted. 15 Member States already provide their officers with some guidance; others should do so.

To read the full press release see

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2018/better-records-help-support-hate-crime-victims>

Hate crime recording and data collection practice across the EU

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-hate-crime-recording_en.pdf

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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>

Commons consideration of Lords message

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-20/debates/FCDD227C-ED84-49AA-A2D0-C444AEC51DCA/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-20/debates/FCDD227C-ED84-49AA-A2D0-C444AEC51DCA/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Commons agreement and amendments to amendment

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0112/18112.pdf>

Lords consideration of Commons amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-20/debates/45BF3EFF-097D-47D3-AC4A-9597562AF967/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-20/debates/45BF3EFF-097D-47D3-AC4A-9597562AF967/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

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 4 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