

# Political Affairs Digest

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

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Social Media: Harassment**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [159608] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he had had with social media providers on (a) misogynistic, (b) racist and (c) homophobic or transphobic online abuse; and what steps he is taking to tackle such abuse.

**Margot James:** Ministers and officials have regular meetings and discussions with social media companies on a range of issues including online abuse. Details of ministerial meetings are published quarterly on the Gov.uk website.

The law does not differentiate between criminal offences committed on social media or anywhere else - it is the action that is illegal. What is illegal offline, is illegal online and we have also been clear that we expect social media companies to respond quickly to incidents of abusive behaviour on their networks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-02/159608/>

### Ministry of Housing, Communities, & Local Government

#### **New funding for innovative projects to build stronger communities**

A new £7 million fund to support trailblazing approaches to building more integrated communities in England was launched ... by Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP.

The Integrated Communities Innovation Fund will help drive forward the proposals to tackle the key causes of poor integration set out in the government's [Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#) launched in March 2018.

The Secretary of State launched the fund while giving evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee at Parliament at a session outlining his priorities as the Secretary of State for Communities.

The new Innovation Fund aims to support similar trailblazing projects that will share their learning more widely, allowing other areas to develop proven approaches to tackling the key causes of poor integration. ...

... Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said: Britain is on

the whole a well integrated society, but we have been clear that we need to tackle the persistent challenges of integration in some communities across the country. ...

To support this aim the government is today also announcing support for a new Cohesion and Integration Network. This will bring together organisations and individuals from across national and local government, business, and voluntary and community groups to share their ideas, knowledge and experience.

Professor Ted Cante, a trustee of the new network, said: The Cohesion and Integration Network announced today is a great opportunity to boost integration across the country, and ensure that proven ideas and projects can be easily shared replicated elsewhere and not re-invented or lost altogether.

We will be developing toolkits and guidance and making these resources accessible to everybody and as well as investing in skills and training to build the capacity of communities. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-for-innovative-projects-to-build-stronger-communities>

**Guidance and application forms for the integrated Communities Innovation Fund are available from**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-communities-innovation-fund>

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## Israel

### House of Lords Written Answers

#### **Palestinians: Children**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL8937] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the long-term psychological effects of physical and mental trauma for children living in Gaza and the West Bank.

**Lord Bates:** According to UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs April 2018 estimates, over 1,100 people may have severe mental health problems and some 4,500 may have mild to moderate problems requiring mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in Gaza. In April MHPSS partners identified at least 599 children needing psychosocial support in Gaza. DFID does not currently hold data on psychological needs in the West Bank.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8937/>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL8938] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the bill currently before the Knesset that would impose a five-year prison term for anyone filming or distributing footage on social media that documents confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities but continue to follow closely developments regarding the proposed legislation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8938/>

### Jerusalem: Religious Buildings

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL8939] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take, if any, to ensure that the status of religious properties in the old city of Jerusalem is maintained.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We continue to encourage Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan to do all they can to work together to avoid tensions and continue to uphold the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. We value Jordan's important role as custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8939/>

### Israel: Bedouin

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL8942] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 14 June (HL8327), what action they intend to take to prevent forcible transfers of population.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa reiterated the UK's concerns about the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar, which the UN has said could constitute forcible transfer, when he met the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on Wednesday 20 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8942/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-04/HL8327/>

## United Nations

### **Security Council Seeks to Strengthen Protections for Children in Armed Conflict, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2427 (2018)**

The Security Council, acting unanimously at the outset of a far-ranging open debate today, adopted a resolution aimed at further crystalizing the protection of children in armed conflicts, including by combating their recruitment by non-State armed groups and treating formerly recruited children primarily as victims. ...

Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) ... expressed concern over the fate of Palestinian children in the context of expanding illegal Israeli settlements and cuts in the funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Meanwhile, it is unacceptable to teach children hatred, false histories and distorted facts, he said. ...

Verónica Cordova Soria (Bolivia) condemned the onslaught on schools — especially in the Occupied Palestinian Territory — as well as the detention of children in Israeli prisons and their trials in military courts. ...

Nelly Shiloh (Israel) said ... Palestinian children have been exploited by their leadership. In Gaza, Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization, has used children for terrorism. The portrayal of reality in the Secretary-General's report is misleading as it relied on information provided by DCI-Palestine, which is linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist organization. No such group could be a source of information of a credible United Nations working group. ...

Gholamali Khoshroo (Iran) ... [said] In 2017, a large number of Palestinian children were killed, injured, arrested and detained by Israeli forces. Such acts are carried out with total impunity. Failing to bring perpetrators to justice will only embolden Israel to kill more children. ...

Riyad H. Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, said the children of Palestine have been suffering for decades, and will be deprived of vital support due to

the defunding of UNRWA. The intentional targeting by Israeli occupying forces of peaceful protestors in the Gaza Strip is only the most recent example of a blatant disregard of international humanitarian law. The absence of Israel from the list of parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict deeply affects the credibility of the list. He urged the international community to uphold its responsibilities and enforce international law to bring Israel's violations and occupation to an end. He called on the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to publicly denounce the crimes committed against Palestinian children. ...

**To read the full press release and the full text of the resolution see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13412.doc.htm>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) discusses with civil society organizations the situation of women in New Zealand, Turkmenistan, and State of Palestine**

... The State of Palestine had failed to introduce an integrated legal system to reduce gender-based discrimination and eliminate all violence against women and girls, or to adopt policies to change traditional attitudes and modify social and cultural patterns. Personal status law continued to discriminate against women, including in divorce, inheritance, and child custody. Child marriage remained a significant problem, especially in the West Bank where girls aged 14.5 and boys aged 15.5 were allowed to marry. Discrimination against women must not be tackled with only one piece of legislation, such as the family law, but this required the harmonization of all laws to ensure equality, and this must be enshrined in the Constitution. ...

CEDAW Women Coalition, composed of 43 Palestinian organizations [said] women were politically underrepresented at all levels, thus the Government must adopt a law of 30 per cent quotas for the political participation of women, and must also urgently adopt a national action plan on women, peace and security. ...

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling and Human Rights Watch noted that the State of Palestine had ratified the Convention without any reservations, however, it was maintaining personal status laws which discriminated against women ...

NGO's Forum to Combat Violence against Women (Al-Muntada) said that violence against women in the Palestinian society reflected the outcome of imbalance in power relationships between women and men. The State of Palestine had failed to introduce an integrated legal system that could reduce gender-based discrimination to eliminate all violence against women and girls. ... Such gender-based discrimination was expressed through high rates of domestic violence by intimate partners, and increasing rates of femicide, many of which were so-called "honour" killings which had an important place in the society, also as a pretext to deprive women of their legal rights. Marital rape was not penalized, while in case of incest, the law viewed both parties to the sexual act as guilty Without Taking Into Account Power Relations And Male Domination Within The Family. ...

Khadija Zahran, Director of Policies and Legislation Department, Independent Commission for Human Rights of Palestine, said that ... The fact that the coalition Government established in 2013 did not control the Gaza Strip impeded the implementation of laws, decisions and international treaties that the State of Palestine was a party to. The same applied to the West Bank, which was under Israeli occupation. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23349&LangID=E>

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## Foreign Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Trade Agreements

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL8888] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether trade deals in which the UK is partner are conditional on other signatories ensuring the rights of minorities in their countries; and if not, why not.

**Baroness Fairhead:** The UK has long supported the promotion of our values globally.

The EU has included provisions protecting human rights within their trade and political agreements with partner countries. EU Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with developed countries since the EU-South Korea FTA have also included references to the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions which provide for the elimination of discrimination at work.

Additionally, the EU's GSP+ scheme provides enhanced tariff preferences to economically vulnerable developing countries which are effectively implementing 27 international conventions, including on racial and gender discrimination.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8888/>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Court of Justice of the European Union

**A religious community, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, is a controller, jointly with its members who engage in preaching, for the processing of personal data carried out by the latter in the context of door-to-door preaching**

... The members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Community take notes in the course of their door-to-door preaching about visits to persons who are unknown to themselves or that Community. The data collected may consist of the name and addresses of persons contacted, together with information on their religious beliefs and their family circumstances. Those data are collected as a memory aid and in order to be retrieved for any subsequent visit without the knowledge or consent of the persons concerned. ... Furthermore, the congregations of the Jehovah's Witnesses Community maintain a list of persons who have requested not to receive visits from preachers and the personal data on that list are used by members of that community. ...

In today's judgment, the Court of Justice considers, first of all, that door-to-door preaching by members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Community is not covered by the exceptions laid down by EU Law on the protection of personal data. In particular, that activity is not a purely personal or household activity to which that law does not apply. The fact that door-to-door preaching is protected by the fundamental right of freedom of conscience and religion enshrined in Article 10(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, does not confer an exclusively personal or household character on that activity ...

Next, the Court states, however, that the rules of EU Law on the protection of personal data apply to the manual processing of personal data only where the data processed form part of a filing system or are intended to form part of a filing system. In the present case, since the processing of personal data is carried out otherwise than by automatic means, the question arises as to whether the data processed form part of, or are intended to form part of, such a filing system. In that regard, the Court finds that the

concept of a 'filing system' covers a set of personal data collected in the course of door-to-door preaching, consisting of the names and addresses and other information concerning the persons contacted, if those data are structured according to specific criteria which, in practice, enable them to be easily retrieved for subsequent use. In order for such a set of data to fall within that concept, it is not necessary that they include data sheets, specific lists or other search methods. ...

As regards the question as to who may be regarded as a controller of the processing of personal data, the Court states that the concept of 'controller of the processing of personal data' may concern several actors taking part in that processing, with each of them then being subject to the rules of EU law on the protection of personal data. Those actors may be involved at different stages of that processing of personal data and to different degrees ...

Furthermore, the joint responsibility of several actors for the same processing, under that provision, does not require each of them to have access to the personal data concerned. ...

The Court concludes that EU law on the protection of personal data supports a finding that a religious community is a controller, jointly with its members who engage in preaching, of the processing of personal data carried out by the latter in the context of door-to-door preaching organised, coordinated and encouraged by that community, without it being necessary that the community has access to those data, or to establish that that community has given its members written guidelines or instructions in relation to the data processing.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-07/cp180103en.pdf>

**To read the full judgement see**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybdn6ngn>

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## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **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 3 days**

**Ecclesiastical exemption and guidance on scheduled monuments** (closing date 13 July 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/ecclesiastical-exemption-and-guidance-scheduled-monuments>

**Financial Memorandum of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

(closing date 31 August 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/109042.aspx>

**Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 4 September 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/108999.aspx>

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

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

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