

Political Affairs Digest

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

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UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Mike Penning (Conservative) (1527) Pre-stunning and animal slaughter – That this House recognises that there is public concern about meat slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs and thus not been pre-stunned, being sold or served to consumers who do not require their meat to be prepared in this way; further recognises that there are calls for such meat to be labelled as pre-stunned before slaughter; recognises that there are no specific requirements for meat to be labelled as pre-stunned at present and such labelling is voluntary; and calls on the Government to prepare for the introduction of a specific mark to identify meat that has been pre-stunned before slaughter to be introduced as a legal requirement so that the public can make a choice when they buy their meat.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1527>

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Israel

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9165] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how long Ms Khalida Jarrar, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, has been in detention in Israel; and whether they have made, or intend to make, any representations to the government of Israel on behalf of her and other legislators held without charge or trial.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We understand that Ms Jarrar has been detained since July 2017. While we have not raised this particular case, we remain concerned about Israel's extensive use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary rather than as routine practice, and as a preventive rather than a punitive measure. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law, to refrain from the use of administrative detention and either charge or release detainees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-03/HL9165/>

Educational Exchanges: Oldham

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL9253] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend eligibility for British Council Professional Partnerships and Connecting Classrooms funding to primary schools in Oldham which have established links with the bilingual and binational school in Israel, Oasis for Peace.

Lord Bates: Connecting Classrooms Professional Partnerships are funded through Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), so only ODA-eligible countries can apply. Given that Israel is a development assistance donor, rather than recipient, it is not eligible for this funding. However, schools in Israel can still access online resources and support through the British Council's Schools Online service, and participate in online collaborative projects with other schools from around the world.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-04/HL9253/>

Syria: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9358] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance will they provide for Palestinian refugees who have fled from or remain in Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria.

Lord Bates: Despite the regime takeover, humanitarian access to Yarmouk remains restricted. Where and when access permits, DFID is supporting the UN, NGOs and other partners to deliver life-saving assistance to those who remain in Yarmouk and those who were displaced following the siege, by providing food, healthcare, water and other life-saving relief.

With our international partners, the UK continues to use our position in the UN Security Council and the International Syria Support Group to advocate for the protection of civilians, and calls on all parties to allow humanitarian agencies unfettered access to deliver aid to those most in need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-09/HL9358/>

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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

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>

20 years of the Human Rights Act (closing date 14 September 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/20-years-human-rights-act-launch-17-19/>

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

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

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