

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Securing of places of worship: funding scheme

S5W-17685 Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether there is any funding scheme in Scotland for the securing of places of worship similar to the scheme recently announced by the UK Government.

Aileen Campbell: We are clear that any form of hate crime or prejudice is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We are taking a range of steps to tackle hate crime as set out in our ambitious Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan, and have established a multi-agency Action Group to drive this work forward.

While there is no specific security funding scheme for places of worship, we are fully committed to working with Police Scotland and others to safeguard all communities and potentially vulnerable people and sites, and would encourage organisations with concerns about their security or the safety of their members to contact Police Scotland.

We are working to build inclusive, resilient and safe communities in Scotland where everyone feels connected, has a sense of belonging and feels valued.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-17685>

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Israel

United Nations

Aid funding for Occupied Palestinian Territories at 'all-time low'

Funding for humanitarian operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is at an "all-time low", threatening the delivery of life-saving aid to people in the West Bank and Gaza, the United Nations warned ...

So far, only 25 per cent of the nearly \$540 million needed this year has been received, the organization's humanitarian affairs office, OCHA, has reported. ...

UNRWA chief Pierre Krähenbühl this week described 2018 as "a year of anguish" for Palestinians, with thousands of young people killed or injured in demonstrations in Gaza

and elsewhere.

At the same time, his agency has faced “its worst crisis ever”, and only has enough money to fund its operations until the end of September. “UNRWA’s current shortfall is US\$ 217 million,” he told its Advisory Commission ...

Overall, two million people in the OPT are in need of “[active protection measures](#)” due to conflict and violence, displacement or restricted access to employment and essential services, according to Jamie McGoldrick, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the region.

He said this has been “particularly evident” in recent weeks following an escalation of hostilities between Palestinian armed groups and the Israeli forces.

“Since 1 July, we have seen the deaths of four Palestinian civilians, including that of a pregnant mother and her toddler child while asleep in their beds in Gaza, and the injury of two Israeli girls by rocket fire in Sderot, among some 100 Palestinian civilians and nearly 30 Israelis injured. In spite of this, the outside world appears numb to the tragedy unfolding,” ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/08/1017332>

UN chief welcomes re-opening of key Gaza border crossing

The decision by Israel to reopen the only functional commercial crossing point into Gaza which has been closed to most deliveries for weeks, has been [welcomed](#) by the United Nations Secretary-General.

UN humanitarians expect some 400 truckloads of goods will now be able to enter Gaza after the Kerem Shalom crossing became operational on Wednesday morning; roughly a month after it was largely closed by Israel in response to attacks by Palestinians in the enclave, which is controlled by Hamas militants, and [deadly mass-protests](#) at the border fence against Israeli policies. ...

Last week, the office said that five key hospitals in Gaza might have to close, if fuel for emergency generators ran out. There was a threat that raw sewage could overflow onto the streets, due to a lack of power for treatment facilities. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/08/1017142>

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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 9 days**

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

(closing date 31 August 2018)

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

**** closes in 13 days**

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/>

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