

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Briefing: Humanist marriage ceremonies

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05864/SN05864.pdf>

Briefing: Relationships and Sex Education in Schools (England)

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06103/SN06103.pdf>

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Israel

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister for Middle East's statement on Israeli settlement construction

Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt, said:

Yesterday's announcement of plans to construct over 1,000 units on the West Bank, and last week's tendering for 1,100 more, continues policies that are rightly condemned internationally. The UK echoes this condemnation today.

Settlements are illegal under international law and remain one of the obstacles to a viable two state solution.

I call on Israel to halt such counterproductive action, and for all parties to commit to further efforts to de-escalate current tensions and create the right environment for a just and lasting peace.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-middle-east-statement-on-israeli-settlement-construction>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Resignation of the Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Vojislav Šuc (Slovenia), was informed yesterday by Professor David Crane that he has decided to resign as chair and member of the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian

Territory due to a personal circumstance that has arisen.

The President has accepted the resignation of Professor Crane, whom he appointed on 25 July this year, and is now considering next steps. The current members of the Commission are Sara Hossain (Bangladesh) and Kaari Betty Murungi (Kenya).

The Commission of Inquiry, established on 18 May this year by Human Rights Council [resolution S-28/1](#), is scheduled to present an oral update to the Council on 24 September 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23470&LanglD=E>

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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 5 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 9 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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