

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 Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [175964] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op) [176095] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps are being taken by his Department to tackle the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Alistair Burt: The UK remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and is supporting hospitals and patients through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and addressing critical water and sanitation needs for 2 million people through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). We are a consistent top-five donor to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza, including basic health care. We are also supporting humanitarian access and enabling reconstruction efforts in Gaza.

In the longer term, the UK will help to address the underlying causes of humanitarian strife in Gaza by focussing on economic development and helping to lift the overall standard of living by increasing trade and job creation, enabling greater movement and access for people and goods and enhancing the supply of electricity and clean water. Ultimately, a political settlement is the only way to ensure lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/175964/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176095/>

Arms Trade: Israel

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [176570] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment the Government has made of the potential risk of nuclear proliferation arising from the approval of the export of submarine components to Israel.

Graham Stuart: Export licence applications for all countries, including Israel, are

rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of application.

In these cases we assessed that the components in question did not have utility in a nuclear weapons programme and therefore there was no potential risk of nuclear proliferation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176570/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-14291 Sandra White (SNP): University of Glasgow Welcomes Students from Islamic University of Gaza – That the Parliament congratulates the students and staff at both the University of Glasgow (UoG) and the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) on their innovative partnership in learning; understands the UoG was successful in its application to the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 International Credit Mobility project, which aims to facilitate exchange and education links between European and international partners, which has enabled 20 students from the IUG in 2017 alone to study at the UoG; notes that UoG also offers two further opportunities to study in collaboration with IUG through the EAST project, which is a summer programme accommodating overseas engineering students with engineers from Gaza to research ways to solve the engineering problems facing Gaza due to the ongoing blockade, and an online Palestinian Arabic Course written in partnership with the IUG, which offers trained teachers in Gaza the opportunity of employment utilising both video and Skype as learning platforms, and commends the commitment of the staff and students of both UoG and IUG for their efforts to expand learning opportunities, build knowledge and positively contribute to improving the lives of people living in Gaza.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-14291>

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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>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.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

Reform of the legal requirements for divorce (closing date 10 December 2018)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/reform-of-the-legal-requirements-for-divorce/>

The future of civil partnership in Scotland (closing date 21 December 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-scotland/>

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