

# 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 Answers

#### Sex and Relationship Education

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [173970] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to his oral statement of 19 July 2018, Official Report, column 615 on Relationships and Sex Education, to which case law he was referring when he said that a right for parents to withdraw their child up to 18 years of age is no longer compatible with English case law or the European convention on human rights.

**Nick Gibb:** With regard to the parental right to withdraw their child from sex education, we have proposed regulations that are compatible with the law as it now stands. The case law in relation to a child's competence to make their own decisions has evolved over time. This is shown, for example, in the 2006 case of *R (Axon) v Secretary of State for Health*.

The draft regulations and associated guidance are currently subject to consultation. They include our proposed approach to the right for children to be withdrawn from sex education. The consultation closes on 7 November, and can be accessed via this link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-12/173970/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-07-19/debates/819EB912-DA9C-48FF-ADEC-E0768DAEF993/RelationshipsAndSexEducation>

*The case referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2006/37.html>

#### Sex and Relationship Education: Homosexuality

**David Drew (Labour Co-op)** [177164] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to his Department's consultation on draft regulations, statutory guidance, and regulatory impact assessment relating to Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, which opened on 19 July 2018, for what reason his Department is providing discretion to schools on whether they teach same sex relationships in the regulations being consulted on.

**Nick Gibb:** The Department is making Relationships Education compulsory in all

primary schools, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory in all secondary schools and Health Education compulsory in all state-funded primary and secondary schools.

A guiding principle of the subjects is that teaching will start from the basis that pupils, at age appropriate points, need to know the laws on relationships and sex to ensure they act appropriately and can be safe. The draft guidance is also clear that there should be an equal opportunity to explore the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships.

As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools will have flexibility over how they deliver this content; and, in the case of schools with a religious character, in accordance with their faith. All schools must comply with the Equality Act.

The Department hopes as many people as possible will contribute to the consultation, which closes on 7 November.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177164/>

*The consultation referred to above can be read at*

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>

## Home Office

### **Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017/18**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748287/hate-crime-1718-hosb2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748287/hate-crime-1718-hosb2018.pdf)

## Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Home Office, and Ministry of Justice

### **Hate crime plan refreshed to protect victims and promote shared values**

... new measures include:

- wide-ranging Law Commission review into hate crime – to explore how to make current legislation more effective and consider if there should be additional protected characteristics, such as misogyny and age
- new nationwide public awareness campaign to launch later this autumn designed to educate on what hate crime is
- extending the Home Office Places of Worship Scheme for a further year to support more religious institutions which are vulnerable to hate attacks
- improving police response by offering call handlers specialist training on how to support hate crime victims and revamping the True Vision reporting website
- over £1.5 million of further funding for groups such as the Anne Frank Trust and Kick It Out, which support young people to challenge prejudice and hatred
- anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim roundtables, hosted by ministers, to discuss responses to these issues ...

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said: Hate crime goes directly against the long-standing British values of unity, tolerance and mutual respect – and I am committed to stamping this sickening behaviour out.

Our refreshed action plan sets out how we will tackle the root causes of prejudice and racism, support hate crime victims and ensure offenders face the full force of the law. ...

Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said: It is completely unacceptable that anyone should live in fear of intimidation and violence because of their beliefs or the colour of their skin. We must challenge prejudice and intolerance, whenever and wherever it appears in our society.

Alongside publishing our refreshed plan to tackle hate crime, I am pleased to announce further funding of over £1.5 million for projects that challenge the attitudes that underpin racially and religiously motivated crime.

Minister for Faith, Lord Bourne added: Britain is a proudly tolerant nation, where everyone has the right to live according to their beliefs. Despite this, in recent years we have seen increased reports of religiously motivated hate crime, intolerance and prejudice. ...

Minister for Countering Extremism, Baroness Williams said: While I am proud that the UK continues to be a tolerant country we know that, sadly, there are pockets of people who attempt to intimidate religious communities through violence and abuse just because of their faith.

The Places of Worship Scheme works to ensure religious freedoms are protected and I am pleased this funding can provide further reassurance to others that this government will support them. ...

Further new commitments from across government and partner organisations in the refresh include the following:

- the Crown Prosecution Service to update its hate crime resource pack for schools – to help teachers engage and equip pupils on issues of hostility and intolerance
- Government Equalities Office to provide further funding for anti-bullying interventions in schools from March 2019 to March 2020
- extending government’s engagement with disabled people ...
- taking forward commitments in this summer’s LGBT Action Plan ...
- the Office for Students will provide over £480,000 of funding for 11 new projects to tackle religion-based hate crime and harassment ...
- the government will be supporting projects that encourage reporting, such as True Vision and Stop Hate UK which will tackle online abuse ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hate-crime-plan-refreshed-to-protect-victims-and-promote-shared-values>

**Action Against Hate The UK Government’s plan for tackling hate crime – ‘two years on’**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

## CPS

### **Tougher hate crime sentences at record levels**

... In 2017/18, more than 67% of cases involving hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability which resulted in a conviction had their sentence ‘uplifted’ by the court after applications made by prosecutors. This equates to more than 7,700 cases.

This figure compares with just 2.8% of cases which attracted the uplifted sentence in 2007/08, when the CPS first published its annual Hate Crime Report ...

Chris Long, Chief Crown Prosecutor and CPS Hate Crime Champion, said: “We know being a victim of hate crime is particularly distressing because of the personal nature of the incident and the CPS is committed to robustly prosecuting these cases.

“The continuing increase in the number of offenders who receive increased sentences is a testament to the work of the CPS in building the cases correctly and providing the courts with the information they need to sentence appropriately. ...

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/tougher-hate-crime-sentences-record-levels>

### **Hate Crime Annual Report 2017–18**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/cps-hate-crime-report-2018.pdf>

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# Holocaust

## House of Lords Written Answers

### Genocide

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL10371] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difference between the interim determination of genocide, as made by parliaments, governments or international non-judicial bodies, and the final determination of genocide by a domestic or international court after a full trial.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is the policy of the British Government, that any judgment as to whether war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide have occurred is a matter for judicial decision after consideration of all the available evidence, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. This approach provides a clear, impartial, and independent measure of whether genocide has occurred.

As the majority of mass atrocities occur in and around conflict, the government believes a focus on conflict prevention is the best means to prevent most mass atrocities. Her Majesty's Government (HMG) adopts a whole-of-government effort, using our diplomatic, development, defence and law enforcement capabilities, to help find pathways to peace and stability.

As a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the UK is fully committed to the prevention and punishment of genocide as appropriate under the Convention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-01/HL10371/>

### Genocide

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL10372] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have a generic policy to guide their responses to mass atrocities and the determination of possible genocide; and, if not, what assessment they have made of the risk of inconsistent responses from the UK.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is the policy of the British Government, that any judgment as to whether war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide have occurred is a matter for judicial decision after consideration of all the available evidence, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. This approach provides a clear, impartial, and independent measure of whether genocide has occurred.

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-01/HL10372/>

### Genocide

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL10373] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's duties under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to prevent and punish the crime of genocide; and what steps they take to ensure that the UK meets those duties.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the UK is fully committed to the prevention and punishment of genocide as appropriate under the Convention. This is reflected in the British Government's support for the remit of the International

Criminal Court under the Rome Statute. The British Government has also supported the establishment of evidence gathering mechanisms and fact finding missions such as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria, the Burma collect and preserve mechanism, and the Daesh Investigative Team.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-01/HL10373/>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Privy Council: Hamas and Hezbollah**

**Ian Austin (Labour)** [177211] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has been notified of any meetings between any members of the Privy Council and Hamas or Hezbollah.

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not been notified of any meetings between members of the Privy Council and Hamas or Hezbollah.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177211/>

#### **Privy Council: Hamas and Hezbollah**

**Ian Austin (Labour)** [177212] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what information his Department holds on meetings between members of the Privy Council and (a) Hamas and (b) Hezbollah.

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold any information on any meetings between any members of the Privy Council and Hamas and Hezbollah.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177212/>

#### **Overseas Trade: Israel**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [174724] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he is taking to strengthen the collaboration between UK and Israeli companies in the medical sector.

**Graham Stuart:** The UK and Israel have a strong and important trading relationship, and we are committed to strengthening it. The commercial team in our Embassy in Tel Aviv actively promote UK-Israel trade in the medical sector and are sponsoring a delegation of 6 Israeli importers of medical devices to meet with UK companies at the upcoming Medica Trade Exhibition this year.

There is also extensive bilateral collaborative medical research between the UK and Israel. The UK-Israel Tech Hub, based at the Embassy, helps to create tech and innovation partnerships across several sectors, including healthcare.

Next month, the Embassy is organising a visit by a delegation of senior NHS officials to Tel Aviv to meet with Israeli healthcare companies who are looking to invest in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-13/174724/>

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Updated foreign travel advice: Israel**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

**Updated foreign travel advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

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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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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438