

# 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 Lords Written Answer

#### Hate Crime: Females

**Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Independent Labour)** [HL11479] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to classify misogyny as a hate crime; and if so, whether they intend also to classify misandry as a hate crime.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime provisions, to ensure the criminal law is working effectively. This includes consideration of whether there should be additional protected characteristics such as gender. Once the Law Commission review is complete, the recommendations will be looked at in the usual way.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11479/>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [192908] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the effect of Israel's Regional Tracks for Peace project on the viability of a future Palestinian state.

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not made any assessment of Israel's Regional Tracks for Peace project, the UK is strongly supportive of a regional approach to peace. The changing regional context, the Arab Peace Initiative, and converging Arab and Israeli interests presents an opening to develop Arab-Israeli relations and create the conditions for serious Israeli-Palestinian talks to resume

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192908/>

#### Israel: Hamas

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [192909] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to support the ceasefire agreed between the Israeli Government and Hamas on Tuesday 13 November 2018.

**Alistair Burt:** We urge restraint from all parties and welcome the return to calm in recent days. We strongly support the mediation efforts of the international community led by Egypt and the UN and urge continued talks aimed at finding an enduring peace in Gaza. In order to protect civilians it is crucial a ceasefire is agreed and maintained as part of a political process that sees the Palestinian Authority return to Gaza and the lifting of restrictions on the Gazan people and economy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192909/>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11480] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel about the demolition of Palestinian homes in the night before families have removed their possessions.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not raised this specific issue, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa last raised demolitions with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 11 October. In all but the most exceptional circumstances, demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11480/>

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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>

#### **Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

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

**2021 Census: Outputs Strategy Consultation for Northern Ireland** (closing date 9 January 2019)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dfp/2021-census-outputs-strategy-consultation-for-northern-ireland-document.pdf>

**Extremism in England and Wales** (closing date 31 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extremism-in-england-and-wales-call-for-evidence>

**Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools** [Wales only] (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

**One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here** (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

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