

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

Hezbollah

John Spellar (Labour) [198175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to review his policy on proscribing all parts of the Hezbollah organisation.

Ben Wallace: It is Government policy not to comment on whether an organisation is or is not under consideration for proscription. A decision to proscribe an organisation must be based on a belief that it is concerned in terrorism as defined in the Terrorism Act 2000, and it must be proportionate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-03/198175/>

Hate Crime: Social Media

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [198757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the monitoring of videos of potential (a) hate crimes and (b) incitements of hate published by young people on social media.

Victoria Atkins: Home Office Ministers have regular meetings as part of the process of policy development and delivery, including on activities taking place on social media which are relevant to hate crime. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. Online hate content is being considered as part of the development of the Online Harms White Paper to be published this Winter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-04/198757/>

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Israel

See also the House of Commons written answer relating to "Hezbollah" which appears in the "Home Affairs" section above.

House of Commons Written Answer

Palestinians: Schools

Joan Ryan (Labour) [200063] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2018 to Question 171641 on Palestinians: Schools, whether her Department has commissioned the study into the new Palestinian textbooks.

Alistair Burt: The UK government is deeply concerned about the findings of the IMPACT-se report into the Palestinian Authority's (PA) new curriculum and it remains a priority for the Development for International Development (DFID) to commission an independent review of the PA's textbooks. We are also continuing to raise our concerns about incitement, which the Minister did himself at a meeting with the Palestinian Education Minister earlier this year. Last week, on 4th December, DFID officials met the PA Minister for Education and raised UK concerns over specific examples in the IMPACT-SE report.

Our timeline for the textbook review remains unchanged. We will complete the review by September 2019. The UK has been convening discussions with potential international partners on commissioning the review together, in order to increase the impact of the study. We will commission the review in the new year once we have concluded these discussions. We will publish further information once the assessment has been commissioned.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200063/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171641/>

The report referred to above can be read at

http://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/The-New-PA-2018-Curriculum_Grades-1-12.pdf

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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>

Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 8 days**

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>

**** Connected communities – Tackling loneliness and social isolation (Wales)**

(closing date 15 January 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Extremism in England and Wales (closing date 31 January 2019)

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

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

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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