

# Political Affairs Digest

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**

**SCoJeC**

## Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Schools: Religion

**William Wragg (Conservative)** [203925] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will take steps to ensure that all state-funded schools provide pupils with the opportunity to develop specific and age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of religions as part of promoting mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs.

**Nick Gibb:** All schools are required to promote fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith, and this is inspected by Ofsted. The Department has issued guidance on how schools can promote fundamental British values as part of their requirement to teach spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This guidance sets out that schools should enable students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. For many schools, religious education is likely to form part of their approach to promoting these values.

Religious education (RE) is compulsory at all key stages in all state-funded schools to age 18. Therefore schools should already be providing an age-appropriate RE curriculum.

Although the Department does not routinely monitor schools to ensure that they meet their statutory duties, my right Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has a range of powers to ensure that schools comply where he investigates complaints and finds that they have not done so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203925/>

*The guidance referred to above for maintained schools can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380595/SMSC\\_Guidance\\_Maintained\\_Schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)

*The equivalent guidance for independent schools, academies and free schools can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/268826/dept\\_advice\\_template\\_smscadvicenov13.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268826/dept_advice_template_smscadvicenov13.pdf)

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Religious Hatred

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP)** [HL12517] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 5 and 19 December (HL11727 and HL12195), whether they will now answer the question put, namely what support they will give to Nissar Hussein and his family and others who have left the Islamic faith and are facing persecution in the UK.

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Britain has a strong legal framework and police provisions in place to support its values of tolerance, freedom of worship, and the rule of law, and to protect individuals or groups who may be vulnerable. It is therefore only left for the Government to yet again reiterate that anyone facing crime, the threat of crime, or any sort of harassment, for any reason, should report to the police. The Government is committed to ensuring that victims of all crimes have access to the support services they need to help them cope with and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime. In 2017/18 roughly £200 million from multiple pots across government was used to fund a range of both local and national commissioning of support services for victims of crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12517/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-22/HL11727/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-11/HL12195/>

TOP

## Holocaust

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [203794] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the implications were for the cost of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre project of the Government's decision to locate that centre in Victoria Tower Gardens instead of on Millbank.

**Jake Berry:** I refer my Rt Hon Friend to the answer to Question UIN 203298 on 21 December 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203794/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203298/>

*Millbank Tower was considered as a possible site for the Memorial and Learning Centre. The proposal was tied to the development of the wider site: to date, there is no evidence of redevelopment coming forward and occupational office leases have now been extended to 2022. Victoria Tower Gardens was preferred by the UKHMF Board as the outstanding candidate site for the following reasons:*

- *its relevance as a commemorative garden of Britain's national conscience, already containing significant memorial sculptures, marking momentous historic events, with significance for the struggle for human rights, that*

- remain relevant today and will do so in the future;*
- *it provides an iconic location adjoining Parliament, sitting along the riverfront immediately next to the House of Lords;*
  - *it is visually prominent and adjacent to one of the most visited parts of London, within easy reach of a major tube station and many bus routes;*
  - *the resonance of being next to Parliament and on the timeless banks of the Thames is exceptional; and*
  - *under the shadow of Victoria Tower, the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre would question the impacts of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides on our own Parliament.*

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-15264 Richard Lyle (SNP): Remembering the Holocaust** – That the Parliament recognises that 27 January 2019 is Holocaust Memorial Day; believes that the day is an important opportunity to reflect on the tragedy of the Holocaust and the atrocities committed during the times of Nazi rule in Germany; remembers that approximately 17 million people lost their lives during this dark time with 6 million of those being Jews; considers that the pain, suffering and sorrow that was caused comes from views rooted in hatred and prejudice and perpetrated by those with dangerous thoughts of superiority; acknowledges that it has almost been 70 years since the Holocaust; reiterates its condemnation of the actions of those involved, and supports the victims of this and other genocides throughout recent history; commends all service personnel who fought in defence of liberty, freedom and justice, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and reiterates its commitment to condemning any antisemitic action or language present today and defending all ethnic groups that are oppressed and persecuted throughout the world.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15264>

TOP

## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Palestinians: Overseas Aid**

**Ian Austin (Labour)** [203258] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2018 to Question 200567, if she will place in the Library copies of (a) the separate annual MoUs signed by her Department and the Palestinian Authority since March 2016 and (b) copies of all ministerial correspondence with the Palestinian Authority on those agreements.

**Alistair Burt:** Copies of correspondence relating to the extension of that MoU prior to March 2016 have already been laid in the Commons library. Since then there has been no further written ministerial correspondence with the PA on this matter. I will place copies of the annual MoUs from March 2016 to May 2018 in the Commons library, with redactions relating to personal and commercial information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203258/>

The answer referred to above can be read at  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200567/>

The pre 2016 MoU and correspondence referred to above can be read at  
<https://tinyurl.com/y73yluob>  
and

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1181/MoU\\_MC\\_DFID\\_PA\\_2014.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1181/MoU_MC_DFID_PA_2014.pdf)

The 2016 – 2018 MoUs are not yet available online

## United Nations

### **Palestinian students ‘compelled to drop dreams because of financial cuts’**

For students attending schools funded by the UN relief agency for Palestine refugees, (UNRWA), uncertainty over the future has become a constant worry, said the agency’s Director of Operations in Gaza, Matthias Schmale.

UNRWA faced an unprecedented financial crisis during 2018 that threatened the provision of essential services to millions of Palestine refugees, including more than 500,000 school students. Although sufficient funds were provided to reopen classrooms in September, there are no guarantees that 2019 will be any easier. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1029792>

TOP

## 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>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes tomorrow**

**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>

**\*\* closes in 3 days**

**Islamophobia** (closing date 11 January 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/islamophobia-call-for-further-evidence-17-19/>

**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/>

**Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22**

(closing date 15 March 2019)

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

**\*\* Scottish charity law** (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

**TOP**