

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Schools: Racial Discrimination

**Giles Watling (Conservative)** [228160] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many incidents of racism were reported in schools in (a) England, (b) Essex, (c) Tendring and (d) Clacton constituency in (i) 2017 and (ii) 2018.

**Nick Gibb:** The information requested is not held centrally.

Schools are not required to report centrally on racist incidents or to publish figures. Schools have the freedom to develop their own approaches for monitoring behaviour, including racist incidents, and to exercise their own judgement as to what will work best for their pupils and the communities they serve. They are required to publish a behaviour policy that outlines measures to encourage good behaviour and to prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils, including racist bullying, and are held to account by Ofsted. Where schools feel that an incident might constitute a crime, guidance makes it clear that they should report it to the police.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228160/>

#### Schools: Racial Discrimination

**Giles Watling (Conservative)** [228161] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to encourage anti-racism initiatives in schools.

**Anne Milton:** All schools are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Schools are also required to promote equality and respect for others, with particular regard to the protected characteristics. Promotion of these values is part of Ofsted's inspection framework and the department has published guidance to schools on promoting these important values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

In 2016, the department also launched the Educate Against Hate website which provides resources for teachers and school leaders to support their promotion of

these values. This includes the department's Respectful Schools Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

Additionally, subject to the passage of regulations through parliament, schools will be required to teach relationships education to all primary pupils and relationships and sex education to all secondary pupils from September 2020. The focus is on building positive, respectful relationships, including online, and understanding the impact of harmful stereotypes and bullying.

The department also supports a number of specific initiatives in schools to combat bullying. The department is providing over £2.8 million of funding, between September 2016 and March 2020, to 4 anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying, along with a project to report bullying online. These projects contribute towards the government's Hate Crime Action plan.

Finally, as part of our commitments in the government's Integrated Communities Action Plan, the department has funded an expanded national school linking programme. This seeks to encourage meaningful social mixing between different types of schools and foster understanding of those with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. Last year, the Linking Network worked with over 400 schools leading to 17,635 pupils taking part in activities supporting integration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228161/>

*The Educate Against Hate website, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

*The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at*  
[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)

*The Integrated Communities Action Plan referred to above can be read at*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf)

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## Holocaust

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [227956] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how responsibility for maintaining Victoria Tower Gardens will be divided between Royal Parks and the body responsible for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre once the Memorial and Learning Centre has been built.

**Heather Wheeler:** We are in discussion with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and The Royal Parks about the future maintenance arrangements for Victoria Tower Gardens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/227956/>

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [227957] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of (a) the annual running costs of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre and (b) how much of that cost will be covered by visitor entrance fees and other income.

**Heather Wheeler:** We are considering various operating models to cover the running costs which are estimated at up to £6 million per annum, and will put in place a sustainable long-term plan. While the entrance to the learning centre will be ticketed to avoid queues, no decision has yet been taken on charging policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/227957/>

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [227958] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 18 December 2018 to Question 203298, National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, what is the relevance of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre being located on the banks of the Thames.

**Heather Wheeler:** Victoria Tower Gardens is already home to memorials commemorating past struggles for justice and democratic causes. There is no better place for the Memorial, which will stand as a fitting reminder of the horrors of the past and encourage reflection on their implications for the British government and society, both at the time and subsequently. The view of Parliament from the Memorial will serve as a permanent reminder that political decisions have far-reaching consequences.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/227958/>

*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/>

#### **Germany: British Nationals Abroad**

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP)** [229781] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his counterpart in the German Government on reports of UK residents who allegedly collaborated with the Nazi regime during the second world war receiving pensions under the war victims' legislation of that country.

**Alan Duncan:** None. Pension payments made by the German government are a matter for them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229781/>

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## **Israel**

### **House of Commons Written Answers**

#### **Israel: Trade Agreements**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [228137] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement will exclude Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in line with current European Union differentiation.

**George Hollingbery:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to Question [226022]

on [5] March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228137/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226022/>

*The UK and Israel have a strong and important trading relationship. However, we do not recognise the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the settlements, as part of Israel. We sought to ensure continuity in our trading relationship, not to renegotiate terms. The OPTs are not covered by the current EU-Israel Trade Agreements, nor by the UK-Israel Agreement.*

*On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019, we also signed an agreement with the Palestinian Authority, which transitions the current EU Interim Association Agreement.*

*The agreements have now been laid in Parliament and published on gov.uk, alongside a full report.*

The trade agreement with Israel, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781440/CS\\_Israel\\_1.2019\\_Trade.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781440/CS_Israel_1.2019_Trade.pdf)

with an Explanatory Memorandum at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781559/EM\\_CS\\_Israel\\_1.2019.odt](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781559/EM_CS_Israel_1.2019.odt)

The trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781389/MS\\_14.2019\\_IPTP\\_PLO.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781389/MS_14.2019_IPTP_PLO.pdf)

with an Explanatory Memorandum at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781563/EM\\_MS\\_14.2019\\_PLO.odt](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781563/EM_MS_14.2019_PLO.odt)

The report relating to Israel referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781446/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-israel.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781446/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-israel.pdf)

The report relating to the Palestinian Authority referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781450/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-the-palestinian-authority.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781450/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-the-palestinian-authority.pdf)

### **Jerusalem: Palestinians**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [228140] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the (a) eviction of the Abu Assab family and (b) potential eviction of a further 200 Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem.

**Alistair Burt:** We continue to be gravely concerned by the impact of demolitions and evictions on ordinary Palestinians and the impact this has on the viability of a future Palestinian state. Our Ambassador to Israel raised our concerns about evictions in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem with the Israeli authorities on 29 January. Demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but the most exceptional of cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We fund a number of projects to monitor and report on settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and to protect vulnerable Palestinian communities from the effects of settlement expansion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228140/>

### **Occupied Territories: Economic Situation**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [228145] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of Israel's decision to withhold \$138 million in taxes from the Palestinian authorities on the economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Alistair Burt:** The UK is concerned about the impact of Israel's decision to withhold tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Israeli decision will have significant consequences for stability and security, and will impact the humanitarian and economic situation for ordinary Palestinians. We expect economic and fiscal agreements between Israel and the PA to continue to be fully implemented, including Israel's obligations under the Oslo Accords and Paris Protocol. The UK raised our concerns about Israel's decision with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 February. We also remain concerned about the Palestinian system of payments to prisoners and lobby the PA on this issue. But this is not a justification for withholding agreed tax revenues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228145/>

## **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**S5M-16320 Pauline McNeill (Labour): Israeli Authorities Block Firefighter Vehicles into Hebron** – That the Parliament condemns the reported decision by the Israeli authorities to block the passage of firefighter vehicles through two different checkpoints as they responded to a fire breaking out in the old town of Hebron; believes that some of the firefighters involved were trained by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; understands with deep regret that two under-two-year-olds died unnecessarily due to this delay; believes that this is the reality of life under Israel's illegal occupation; considers that Israel should withdraw from the Occupied Territories in line with the UN resolution, and calls on it to join with over 130 other countries in recognising the independent state of Palestine.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16320>

## **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Human Rights Council begins general debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

... Romania ... was also deeply concerned about the recent escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory and in Israel. ...

Denmark ... voiced concern ... about the advancement of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. ...

Iceland expressed concern about the use of lethal force against Palestinian civilians, including children. ...

Spain remained concerned about the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, and condemned the building of illegal settlements. Spain acknowledged the legitimate right of Israel to defend itself and criticized Hamas' actions, calling on all sides to return to dialogue. ... Israel stated that the Human Rights Council continued to sabotage Israel's right to defend its territory and

citizens, while it ignored Hamas' terrorism. Hezbollah had dug tunnels compromising, Israel's territorial integrity. The Council was losing credibility as an unbiased body, as it only served to delegitimize the Jewish State of Israel. ...

New Zealand ... condemned the violence in Gaza in the occupied Palestinian territory. ... Ireland also drew attention to the continued expansion of Israeli settlements into the occupied Palestinian territory, and called on Israel to extend the same rights to both its Palestinian and Israeli citizens. ...

The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd reminded that dozens of Palestinian refugees who had fled Syria to Thailand were being threatened with forced return as they overstayed their visas while waiting for their cases to be processed by the United Nations' Refugee Agency. They were treated as criminals rather than refugees. Serious steps were needed to save one of the world's most vulnerable refugee populations. ...

Iran ... said that many absurd claims had been made by the United Kingdom, European Union and Israel, including Israel preaching about human rights. All reports by the United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner testified to the massacre occurring in the occupied territories of Palestine, including shooting at protesters. ...

Lebanon, speaking in a right of reply, said Israel accused any political party in the region which dared to oppose its policy as being a terrorist. Israel had recently threatened to send Lebanon back to the stone age and there was documentation that it funded terrorist organizations in Syria. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24317&LangID=E>

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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>

#### **International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill**

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

**\*\* closes in 2 days**

### 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>

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