

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Emily Thornberry (Labour)** [228599] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether it remains his Department's policy to convene a summit of European and Arab foreign ministers to discuss the US Administration's proposed peace plan for that region.

**Alistair Burt:** We have no plans to convene a summit to discuss the Middle East Peace Process. We continue to encourage the US Administration to bring forward detailed proposals for a viable Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that addresses the legitimate concerns of both parties. We are also in regular conversations with partners about the best way to advance prospects for peace.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228599/>

#### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Emily Thornberry (Labour)** [228600] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the US Administration has provided his Department with the Administration's draft proposals for a Middle East peace plan.

**Alistair Burt:** We continue to discuss US Middle East peace efforts with the US Administration, including the Foreign Secretary with Jared Kushner on 13 February. We have encouraged the US Administration to bring forward detailed proposals for a viable Israel-Palestinian peace agreement that addresses the legitimate concerns of both parties. We continue to believe the best way to achieve this is through substantive peace talks between the parties leading to a two-state solution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228600/>

#### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Emily Thornberry (Labour)** [228601] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he considers it (a) accurate and (b) acceptable that the United States administration has still not shared the draft proposals in its Middle East Peace Plan with the governments of (a) France and (b) Germany.

**Alistair Burt:** We welcome the further information provided by the US at the Warsaw Summit, held on 13-14 February, on the timing for its plan, and hope this will set out detailed proposals for a viable Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that addresses the legitimate concerns of both parties. We look forward to seeing and discussing the details with the US and other partners in due course, and welcome the emphasis the US has rightly put on wanting to take a genuinely collaborative approach with key partners.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228601/>

### **Iran: Demonstrations**

**Dan Poulter (Conservative) [229659]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Iranian counterpart on reports that crowds chanted death to Theresa May and called for the destruction of Israel and America during a rally to mark the 40th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

**Alistair Burt:** Such rhetoric during public rallies is unhelpful, as I said during the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Oral Questions on 26 February 2019. However, it is not the business of the FCO to interfere in the public debate in other countries and no such representations have been made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229659/>

*The comments referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-26/debates/7810EB80-899B-497A-909D-3A3F504057BC/Iran%E2%80%99S%20Ballistic%20Missile%20Programme#contribution-3833C37C-AB71-4CD2-A85B-618FBFECC866>

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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 tomorrow**

### **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