

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Debate

#### Foreign Affairs Committee

*col 980* **Bill Wiggin (Conservative):** I beg to move, That Ian Austin and Mike Gapes be discharged from the Foreign Affairs Committee and Conor McGinn and Catherine West be added. ...

As Chairman of that Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that it operates in accordance with the rules of the House. ...

There is no Standing Order requirement that Select Committees, unlike general Committees, be kept exactly in proportion to the House at large. It is through mutual agreement that membership of Select Committees is appointed in rough proportion to the House. ...

If the Independent Group is treated as a party, it is very over-represented on Select Committees ...

**Ian Austin (Independent):** ... I am not a member of the Independent Group ...

*col 981* I have been very clear about why I left the Labour party. I left after 35 years because I had become absolutely ashamed of the way in which the leader of the Labour party had allowed a culture of extremism, antisemitism and intolerance to develop—and for no other reason. Members have a choice to make this afternoon. They can choose to stand with someone who has campaigned against racism all their life, or stand with the leader of the Labour party in his vindictive attempt to boot people off a Committee simply because they stood up to racism. ...

*col 982* The main reason why I decided to join the Labour party, 35 years ago as a teenager in Dudley, was to fight racism. I really cannot believe that after all this time, I have ended up leaving the Labour party because of racism. ... the truth is that I have become ashamed of the Labour party under its current leadership. I am appalled by the offence and distress that the leader of the Labour party has caused to Jewish people. It is terrible that a culture of extremism, antisemitism and intolerance is driving out not just Members of Parliament, but other members, too—decent people who have dedicated their whole lives to mainstream politics.

It is a matter of great shame that someone such as the hon. Member for Liverpool,

Wavertree (Luciana Berger) has been bullied out of the Labour party by antisemites. It was wrong of the Labour party to threaten the right hon. Member for Barking (Dame Margaret Hodge) and me with disciplinary action when we spoke out on antisemitism. ... The hard truth is that the Labour party under its current leadership is tougher on the people who complain about racism than on the racists.

The current leader and the people around him have turned what was a mainstream political party into something very different. He has spent his entire career working with, defending and supporting all sorts of extremists, and in some cases antisemites and terrorists. ... He has said and done things that are clearly antisemitic, including defending that grotesque racist mural on a wall in east London. We need to ask ourselves what he would be saying if a senior member of the Conservative party had defended a grotesque mural that was racist against any other group of people. He called Jewish people Zionist, and said that they did not understand English irony—as if, somehow, they were different from the rest of us. He also calls Hamas and Hezbollah his friends. ...

col 983 I want to stay on the Committee because I want to speak up for freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. ...

col 985 **Simon Hoare (Conservative):** ... at the kernel of this decision is the discomfort that both hon. Gentlemen subject to this motion have created within the Labour party regarding the Leader of the Opposition's stance on the antisemitism question, and their refusal to be silenced on it. ...

... this is a very vindictive motion, and it speaks to the heart of today's Labour party. Never mind the quantum of expertise; never mind the demonstrable levels of interest; never mind the heights of respect that an individual is met with across the House and within the media—if they do not pass the intellectual purity test, or rather the anti-intellectual purity test; if they do not pass the ideological test; if they do not know in the original Russian all the words of the eighth verse of "I Love the Member for Islington North" and can sing it backwards in the bath, they fail and they are out. ...

col 987 **Mr Deputy Speaker:** The motion is quite simple: it is about the replacement of people on the Foreign Affairs Committee. It is as narrow as that. This is not a witch hunt of certain individuals. ... As tempting as it may be, that is not what the debate is about. There has been a little leeway, and I understand the frustration, but it cannot be about that. It is about the replacement of names. ...

col 988 **Joan Ryan (Independent):** ... We are told by the Library that, at the start of each Parliament, places are allocated to the political parties on departmental Select Committees on the basis of their strength in the House of Commons. There is no Standing Order that governs this process, or which requires that places on Committees be kept in exact proportion to the House at large. That is why there has not been a change every time a Member has been suspended from their Whip, for example, and the Selection Committee is not compelled to act. ...

That advice makes us look behind what is going on here and see that there does appear to be a personal element to this, because the only names being removed are those of Members who declared their independence just a few weeks ago. We are very clear who is initiating this. Suffice it to say—you may want to give your advice on this, Mr Deputy Speaker—that I am told that, in something like 35 years, some very experienced Opposition Back Benchers have not known being instructed by their Whip to vote for such a motion of the House. However, they have been told to do so today ...

Is that acceptable? It is certainly very unusual, as we know. ...

col 990 Membership of Select Committees is fundamentally a matter for the House of Commons. It should not become the subject of mean-spirited manoeuvres by party leaderships who do not brook dissent. Labour's move is the latest indication of how its leadership is unable to handle criticism, alternative viewpoints or any dissenting voices ...

col 993 **Tom Tugendhat (Conservative):** ... does [Joan Ryan] not therefore feel it is

slightly odd that the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Frank Field) has not been singled out and the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) has not been singled out, yet the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin), who has spoken very clearly about antisemitism, and the hon. Member for Ilford South (Mike Gapes), who has again shown his courage in this matter, should be the two who are singled out?

*col 994* **Joan Ryan:** That is a powerful point, and what I would say in terms of equality is that I said in my speech when I resigned from the Labour party after 38 years that it was in the main due to the fact that the Labour party was institutionally antisemitic. ...

The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee also mentioned my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) and it remains seriously concerning that Labour has sought names to replace her on the Health and Social Care Committee

*col 995* ... it is concerning that Labour is moving against the hon. Member for Dudley North, whose resignation from Labour over antisemitism was brave and principled. The fact that Labour is responding by seeking to remove him from the Committee shows how the party's leadership still does not understand the seriousness of the issue it faces. ...

... nobody in this place should endorse these mean-minded, petty actions by the Leader of the Opposition. Beyond that, if they do, they will appear to be endorsing the most despicable views that have infected this Labour party around racism against Jewish people—antisemitism—and not just the inability but the refusal of the Labour party to deal with that. The House needs to express its view on what I consider to be institutional antisemitism. This motion should be resisted at all costs. It has far, far greater implications and consequences than perhaps everyone is seeing at first glance. ...

*col 996* **Alec Shelbrooke (Conservative):** ... It sends an appalling message to our fellow countrymen that this motion is effectively about the hon. Member for Dudley North standing up to racism and to antisemitism and calling out an affront to democracy. It breaks my heart that in the 21st century we are discussing issues that should have been put to bed 70 or 80 years ago. I do not know what this country is coming to when politicians elected to this House are on the list of the biggest threats to Jews in the world. ...

*col 998* I know that it was no easy decision for the hon. Gentleman to leave his party. I do not want to embarrass him, but I know it broke his heart because we have had those conversations. He did not want to leave the Labour party. He was forced into that position for standing up for what was right and standing up for the values we should all stand for in this House. ...

What message are we sending to the House with this motion? The motion asks us to replace two Members of this House who have enormous experience. The context is a lack of tolerance in this place. ... What we are actually saying today is, "Stand up for your principles and you're out." ...

*col 1000* **Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat):** ... I feel profoundly uneasy about the motion that has been brought to the House today. The reforms that we implemented as a consequence of the Wright report were long overdue and very hard-fought. For the House to be complicit in somehow rolling them back would be a retrograde step at a time when it is surely more important than ever that the House is prepared to assert its control and primacy over the Executive and the party machinery, which is being challenged. ...

*col 1001* **Angela Smith (Independent):** ... the competence of the motion is not in question, but surely the imposition of a three-line Whip is entirely against the spirit of the reforms that have made this House a better place.

**Alistair Carmichael:** It is not entirely without precedent for parties to whip House business, but it is rare, and it is ill advised. ...

*col 1002* **Kevin Foster (Conservative):** ... Neither the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) nor the hon. Member for Ilford South (Mike Gapes) wishes to be removed from the Foreign Affairs Committee, and neither has done something that makes it necessary for the House to remove them. They have both given exceptional service. ...

*col 1005* **Siobhain McDonagh (Labour):** ... I oppose the removal of my hon. Friends the Members for Ilford South (Mike Gapes) and for Dudley North (Ian Austin) from the membership of the Foreign Affairs Committee. ... This, for me, is about people being removed because they have held their heads up and said that the membership of the party in which they entered this House no longer represents their values and their views. Because I know both those Members, I know how hard and how difficult that was, and I commend them for their bravery. ...

We all know that this measure is a vindictive one. It shames our Whips—I say that as somebody who has been a Government Whip—to be involved in this manoeuvre today. There is no suggestion that either my hon. Friend the Member for Ilford South or my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley North have not done their job well, been regular attenders or argued their point of view. They are not being removed for any disciplinary issue or for not being up to the mark. They are being removed because of their politics—because my party has become intolerant and unwilling to listen to other voices. ...

*col 1008* **Mike Gapes (Independent):** ... There have been times today when I thought I was listening to my own obituary, and it has been quite moving to hear some kind things said about me. But it is not about me, and it is not about my good friend the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) either; it is about the way in which this Parliament works. ...

*col 1009* There has been a trend in this Parliament for the Executive to treat Parliament with contempt. We have even passed motions saying that. I will not deviate from the terms of the motion, but we have seen lots of examples of Parliament having to struggle to assert our authority. It would be very strange if today we start to undermine Parliament's authority in a different way. ...

*col 1012* **Caroline Johnson (Conservative):** ... this essentially is bullying. It is saying to people: "You didn't agree with us, so you can't do this job any more, not because you cannot do it, but because we don't want you to, because we don't agree with you any more." That is wrong. I do not want to be part of a vendetta being waged against individuals for taking a stand, particularly a stand against racism, which is something we should all do. ...

*Resolved, [by 199 votes to 134] That Ian Austin and Mike Gapes be discharged from the Foreign Affairs Committee and Conor McGinn and Catherine West be added.*

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-19/debates/EFAF34C5-D580-4AD2-A9F0-A5AE7579313F/ForeignAffairsCommittee>

## House of Lords Library

**Briefing: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March 2019**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2019-0032/LLN-2019-0032.pdf>

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## Israel

**See also information about the UNHRC debate on “racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance” which is included below under “Other Relevant Information”.**

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Occupied Palestinian Territories: Demonstrations

**Richard Burden (Labour)** [232512] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on the vote at the United Nations Human Rights Council on the report and recommendations of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Alistair Burt:** We do not disclose our voting intentions in advance. In May the UK abstained on the UN Human Rights Council resolution calling for a Commission of Inquiry on the basis that the substance of a resolution must be impartial and balanced. Whilst the UK fully supports the need for an independent and transparent investigation into events, it is regrettable the Commission of Inquiry Report does not look comprehensively at the actions of non-state actors such as Hamas. Nevertheless the UK has serious concerns about the manner in which the Israel Defense Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas, including the use of live ammunition.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232512/>

### Israel: Gaza

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [232606] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations the UK has made to Israel on the effect of that country's blockade on the Gaza Strip on Palestinian refugees in Gaza.

**Alistair Burt:** We regularly raise our concerns about Gaza with the Israeli authorities, urging them to ease movement and access restrictions and work together with the Palestinian Authority and Egypt to see long-term improvements to the situation in Gaza. The UK remains a committed supporter of the UN Refugees and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/232606/>

### UNRWA: Finance

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [232607] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what representations she has made to her counterpart in the US administration on its decision to maintain its reduction to UNRWA funds.

**Alistair Burt:** As the Minister responsible for the Middle East, I raised the US withdrawal of funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with the US President's Middle East Envoy, Jason Greenblatt, on 28 September 2018.

The Secretary of State has not spoken with her counterpart in the US administration about the decision to maintain a withdrawal of funding from UNRWA, but recently discussed this with Nita Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. The Secretary of State raised her concerns about the impact of funding cuts to UNRWA on the delivery of essential services to Palestinian refugees, including to the provision of healthcare and education.

The UK has been clear that we are concerned about the impact of US cuts to UNRWA on regional stability and services to Palestinian refugees. UK officials continue to engage with the US on this matter, and we will continue to work with UNRWA and other donors to help place the Agency on a more secure financial footing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232607/>

### UNRWA: Finance

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [232608] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much funding her Department plans to allocate to UNRWA in response to its emergency appeal for 2019.

**Alistair Burt:** UNRWA has two 2019 emergency appeals for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Regional Syria Crisis. The UK Government has multi-year commitments to support UNRWA's Regional Syria Emergency Appeal and UNRWA's core programme budget. We plan to provide £13m to the Regional Syria Emergency Appeal in 2019 and we also intend to provide £33.5m to UNRWA's core programme budget next financial year. The UK is a leading donor to UNRWA and I am proud to confirm that we plan to provide up to £80m to UNRWA overall over the next two years.

As one example of the impact UK Aid will have, our support to UNRWA's Regional Syria Appeal will help provide life-saving assistance for the 438,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria, 95% of whom need sustained humanitarian assistance, and 17,700 Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria seeking shelter in Jordan.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232608/>

### UNRWA: Finance

**Julie Cooper (Labour)** [232595] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of UNRWA funding as a result of the decision by the US Government to reduce its funding to that agency.

**Alistair Burt:** Following US cuts in 2018, the international community was able to step up and meet the shortfall, allowing UNRWA to continue to provide essential basic services to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. However, we recognise that these refugee populations need UNRWA be on a more secure financial footing. To that end, the UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to ensure its sustainability. This includes finding further cost savings reforms, diversifying donor income, and encouraging multi-year funding commitments. The UK is a leading donor to UNRWA and I am proud to confirm that we plan to provide up to £80m to UNRWA over the next two years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232595/>

## House of Lords Written Answers

### Israel: Arms Trade

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14277] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 25 February (HL13675), whether attacks from drones on Palestinian lands are exempt under the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria; and if so, why.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We do not exempt either the end user or the proposed end use from any assessment against the Consolidated Criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14277/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-12/HL13675/>

### **Israel: Riot Control Weapons**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14278] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether a chemical analysis has been conducted of the tear gas used by Israeli forces; and if so, by whom.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made any assessment on this issue. We recognise the Israeli authorities' legitimate need to deploy security measures in some circumstances, but we have encouraged them to avoid excessive use of force and to act in a way which minimises tensions. When there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have urged the Israeli authorities to conduct swift and transparent investigations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14278/>

### **Israeli Settlements: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14279] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to protect Palestinian shepherds from being attacked by settlers protected by Israeli soldiers.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinian shepherds. We welcome the efforts of the Israeli authorities to address settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance and bring those responsible to justice. Under international law, Israel, as the occupying power, has an obligation to take all measures in its power to protect the Palestinian population from all acts of violence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14279/>

### **Jerusalem: Religious Buildings**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14280] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel about the arrest of Sheikh Abdel-Azeem Salhab and Sheikh Najeh Bkeirat for allowing Palestinian worshippers into the Temple Mount building.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not raised the specific case in question, the UK is committed to working with all parties to maintain calm, avoid provocation and uphold the status quo to ensure the safety and the security of the Al Haram Al Sharif/Temple Mount and all who worship there.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14280/>

### **Hebron: Demonstrations**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14281] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following reports that a non-violent procession in the Old City of Hebron was attacked by Israeli soldiers.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the Israel Defense Forces police non-violent protests. We have been clear that Palestinians have the right to peaceful protest. We will continue to make such representations to the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14281/>

### **Israel: West Bank**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL14282] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of tear gas and concussion grenades by Israeli

forces against unarmed civilian populations in the West Bank including premises containing young children; whether they intend to take action in response; if so, what; and if not, why not.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made any assessment on this issue. While we recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures, we encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension and use appropriate force. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14282/>

## House of Lords European Union Committee Report

### Scrutiny of international agreements Treaties considered on 19 March 2019

... We draw special attention to two agreements on the grounds that they are politically important and give rise to issues of public policy that the House may wish to debate prior to ratification. The two agreements drawn to the special attention of the House are:

- Trade and Partnership Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the State of Israel [CP 59] ...

The Government has also laid before Parliament an Interim Political, Trade and Partnership Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The United Kingdom does not recognise Palestine as a State, and the Agreement is not therefore a 'treaty', under the terms of the CRAG Act; nor is it subject to the statutory scrutiny process described in section 20 of CRAG. But as the Government has stated its desire that Parliament should have the opportunity to scrutinise this Agreement, we have done so, and report it for information ...

**To read the full report see**

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldeucom/321/321.pdf>

## Department for International Development

### UK government has successfully pushed for a review into Palestinian textbooks

After calls by the UK government for international action on education materials, a group of international partners, including the UK will lead a review into the books included in the Palestinian Authority's current curriculum for primary and secondary school children.

The results of the review will be used to identify the steps necessary to ensure such books promote peace and tolerance. Work on this topic will begin immediately, with results from the review available to the Palestinian Authority and partners by September 2019. The Palestinian Authority have agreed to engage constructively with the findings of the review. The UK will play a central role in the review process, and intends to commission the Georg Eckert Institute to produce an initial scoping report to expedite the production of the full review.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said: The UK is rightly at the forefront of the international community on this issue. We are working closely with the Palestinian Authority to ensure that all Palestinian children receive a decent education and are able to fulfil their potential.

UK aid is helping to provide quality education for children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including through paying the salaries of specially vetted teachers in the West Bank. UK aid does not fund the writing or provision of textbooks by the Palestinian

Authority, and all UK aid to the Palestinian Authority is subject to rigorous safeguards to ensure aid is used for its intended purpose. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-has-successfully-pushed-for-a-review-into-palestinian-textbooks>

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## Other Relevant Information

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

#### **Human Rights Council holds general debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance**

... speakers expressed their deep condolences and disturbance over the terrorist act in New Zealand, which unfortunately was one example of a series of successive racist incidents. Populist leadership in many countries were vilifying religious communities, demonizing migrants and physically assaulting ethnic minorities. ... Together, the international community had to tackle structural causes of racism and to highlight best practices in combatting racism in order to remedy all forms of xenophobia. ...

Israel quoted Macron who publicly recognized that “anti-Zionism is one of the modern forms of anti-Semitism” and called on the Council to also recognize this and act decisively. Israel said that governments needed to do more to educate people and children about the values of respect, non-discrimination and peace. ...

Russian Federation said that combatting racism was one of the most important areas of the work of the United Nations. Unfortunately, there was a resurrection of historical revisionism. In many countries, immunity to such ideologies had weakened and there was acquiescence to extremism, even sometimes encouragement of radicals. ...

Sikh Human Rights Group said that barriers still existed for Sikh communities to enjoy their full human rights, particularly in France which continued to apply a very basic unreformed version of “secularism”. ...

The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd recalled the recent passing of a law in Israel’s Knesset, making the State of Israel a Jewish State and relegating the Arabic language to a secondary status. The National State Law declared that illegal Israeli settlements were a national value, in clear violation of international law and in exercise of apartheid practices. Palestinians faced increasing displacement and house demolitions.

World Jewish Congress said that racism against Jews dated back several millennia. The Jews of Persia had been forced to defend themselves from a royal decree to destroy the Jewish race. Hamas posed an even greater danger to the Jewish people. Anti-Jewish racism was rampant across the world and it was only getting worse. Actions like those of Hamas would never lead to peace and the Human Rights Council had to condemn that genocidal practice.

International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists expressed concern about the rise of anti-Semitism across the world through hate speech on social media, and attacks on synagogues and Jewish property. The rise of populist nationalism enabled the rise of anti-Semitism. The Association urged States to adopt a definition of anti-Semitism and urged the Special Rapporteur on racism to incorporate such a definition of anti-Semitism, and to monitor and provide recommendations in that regard. Anti-Semitism was never just about Jews, but it also generally influenced an increase in intolerance. ...

United Nations Watch said a University of Essex Zionist group had been prevented from being formed after opposition from students and staff. Furthermore, a branch of Amnesty

International at Essex University had also opposed the creation of the group. Additionally, on the previous day, when the delegate had sought to list names of countries that had spoken in the debate against Israel, he had been shut down. He asked where was the freedom of speech and the non-discrimination. ...

Union of Arab Jurists called attention to the rise in hate speech around the world, especially by politicians. Xenophobia could lead to the denial of the most basic human rights, but also to hate crimes, such as the recent attacks in New Zealand. Hate speech had to be condemned in all circumstances and the organization thus appealed to all nations and individuals to fight against the tide of racism and xenophobia, and to enact laws criminalizing hate speech. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24364&LanglD=E>

**Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief**

<http://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/44>

**Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on its sixteenth session**

<http://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/75>

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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>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0311/19311.pdf>

#### **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>

#### **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

### 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