



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Foreign Affairs

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Huq (Labour) [242904] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the annual budget is for the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group; and whether members of that group receive remuneration.

Rishi Sunak: The Working Group has not had an operational budget since its inception however going forward it will be supported to undertake some of its activities in working with communities. Members do not receive remuneration and undertake their roles on a voluntary basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242904/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Juq (Labour) [242905] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many women have applied to become members of Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group (a) since it was first set up and (b) in the last 12 months.

Rishi Sunak: The AMHWG was set up in 2012. In 2018 we launched the first open recruitment process to appoint members. During this process 24 women applied to be independent members. The Working Group is led by Ms Akeela Ahmed OBE, founder of a civil society platform dedicated to amplifying women's voices, and we have appointed Ms Asma Ali, Data Protection Officer and Solicitor for the Police Service of Scotland. Ms Iman Abou Atta is an ex-officio member, as Director of Tell MAMA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242905/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Huq (Labour) [242906] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether an independent body is involved in the process of appointing new members of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

Rishi Sunak: The process of appointing new members was managed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242906/>

Welsh Government

Update to Survey of Public Attitudes to Organ Donation: Key figures from Wave 16

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-04/public-attitudes-organ-donation-wave-16-key-figures.pdf>

TOP

Holocaust

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Remembering & Rethinking: the international forum on the Kindertransport at 80

Speech by the Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP at the Kindertransport conference.

It is a genuine pleasure, and privilege and honour to join you all today to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

I'm incredibly grateful to the [Association of Jewish Refugees](#) for hosting this really significant, really important conference ...

... the Kindertransport has shaped us as a country. The United Kingdom took in nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish children, from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

It's something we remain very proud of, yes. But equally, we can be proud of the incredible contributions of the Kinder to the life of this country.

And some of it strikes a personal chord for me. My father-in-law was not one of the Kinder, but he escaped Nazi Germany to Britain as a small child with the help of Frank Foley, the MI6 officer based in the British Embassy in Berlin, who did so much to provide the papers and facilitated so many Jewish people to leave Germany and make a better life elsewhere. His father – my children's great-grandfather – was interned in Buchenwald in the aftermath of Kristallnacht. Mercifully, he was reunited with his family.

But I know that so many people, including many people here, were not so lucky.

The Kindertransport is a story of great pride, yes. But it is also marked with deep sadness at every turn. It provokes painful questions. Why only children? What happened to the parents? What became of brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles? ...

And the Holocaust has had a monumental impact on our country's history, our democracy and our values. Even today, it continues to shape us: from people like me, like my family with connections to survivors and refugees, to our society at large as we continue to stand up and challenge the scourge of antisemitism. ...

That is why it is right that we remember the Holocaust, that we apply the lessons of the Holocaust – and have a Memorial here in Britain.

Because the murder of the 6 million Jewish men, women and children must never be forgotten. Nor should the murders of the Roma and other victims of Nazi persecution. Nor still, the subsequent genocides across the world that have scarred the decades since. ...

It is why our new [Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre](#), I think, will be so important for our nation. ...

And I want to reassure our country's Holocaust survivors, Kinder and refugees that this

important Memorial will be delivered, because we remain determined that our country stands together against the hatred, against the ignorance and against the bigotry that led to the Holocaust and other genocides. ...

So, as we gather today to remember and rethink the legacy of the Kindertransport, it is my sincere hope that our Memorial will become a powerful beacon of future learning and remembrance.

Learning and remembrance which I know is at the heart of today's events and why it is so important that we come together, that we remember, and that we apply those lessons for the future. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/remembering-rethinking-the-international-forum-on-the-kindertransport-at-80>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Scottish Secretary Leads Budapest Holocaust March To Commemorate Scottish Missionary

Last weekend [Sunday 14 April] Scottish Secretary David Mundell led thousands of people through the streets of Budapest for the 2019 March of the Living Hungary.

The march by torchlight – attended by upwards of 10,000 people – is an annual event to mark Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day. This year it commemorated the life and work of Scottish missionary Jane Haining, who protected her Hungarian Jewish pupils during WW2, and who died in Auschwitz. ...

Mr Mundell said: It was a huge honour, and a great privilege, to lead the March of the Living to mark Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day. I was very proud that the 2019 march remembered Scottish missionary Jane Haining.

An extraordinary, brave and selfless woman, Jane Haining sacrificed herself to protect Jewish schoolgirls in Budapest during the Second World War. Her unwavering devotion saw her lose her life in Auschwitz 75 years ago, aged just 47. She is a hero of which all of Scotland, Hungary and the world can be proud.

The Holocaust was undoubtedly one of the darkest times in human history, but the courage and personal sacrifice of individuals like Jane Haining give us hope for the future.

While in Budapest Mr Mundell also visited the Dohány Street Synagogue, and joined worshippers at the St Columba's Church of Scotland (next door to the former site of the Scottish Mission school where Jane Haining worked).

The Rev Aaron Stevens, Minister of St Columba's Church of Scotland in Budapest, said: Jane Haining's service and sacrifice shows that caring for people from different backgrounds in no way compromises our faith. In fact, it just might be the fullest expression of it. ...

Jane Haining (6 June 1897 – 17 July 1944) was a Church of Scotland missionary. She worked in Budapest from June 1932 as matron of the Scottish Mission School, a boarding house for Jewish and Christian girls run by the Scottish Mission to the Jews. After World War II broke out the Church of Scotland advised Haining to return to the UK, but she decided to stay in Hungary to look after her Jewish pupils who were facing persecution. ...

Ms Haining was arrested by the Gestapo in April 1944 on a number of charges, including that "she had wept" when sewing the yellow stars on the clothes of her Jewish pupils, as required by law. She died in Auschwitz-Birkenau a few months later.

Ms Haining was recognized in 1997 by Yad Vashem (the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Israel) as 'Righteous Among the Nations' ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-leads-budapest-holocaust-march-to-commemorate-scottish-missionary>

British hero Jane Haining, who sacrificed her life to save Jewish children from Nazi concentration camps, has been honoured at the March of the Living on Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day.

This is her story. <https://youtu.be/iy5haeVVZ3Q>

<https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/1117811499693740032>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Palestinians

Emily Thornberry (Labour) [242755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 5 visas have been issued for Medical Training Initiative applicants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories in each month since January 2018.

Emily Thornberry (Labour) [242756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 5 visas have been refused for Medical Training Initiative applicants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories in each month since January 2018.

Caroline Nokes: Home Office does not hold the information requested. The information available related to total Tier 5 visa grants and refusals, published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q, latest edition at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/list-of-tables>

Information on whether an individual is a Medical Training Initiative applicant is not required as part of entry clearance visa applications and not included in centrally collated statistical databases used to produce published statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242755/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242756/>

House of Lords Written Answers

UNRWA

Lord Polak (Conservative) [HL14970] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees about its working definition of a refugee.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is clear that the status of Palestinian refugees is a final status issue, and must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Accordingly the UK has not made representations to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) regarding its working definition of a Palestinian refugee. The UK remains a firmly committed supporter of UNRWA, and Palestinian refugees across the Middle East, and we will do everything we can to maintain continuity of essential services at this time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-01/HL14970/>

UNRWA

Lord Polak (Conservative) [HL14972] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the sustainability of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' working definition of a Palestinian refugee.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK recognises the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) unique mandate from the UN General Assembly, to protect and provide essential services to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK is clear that the status of Palestinian refugees is a final status issue, and must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Accordingly the UK has not made an assessment of the sustainability of the UNRWA's working definition of a Palestinian refugee.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-01/HL14972/>

TOP

Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps

John Lamont (Conservative) [243542] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the involvement of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in terrorist activity in the region.

Mark Field: The Government is deeply concerned by Iran's destabilising involvement in regional conflicts, including in Syria and Yemen, through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and IRGC Qods Force, and by reported financial and military support to militant and proscribed groups, such as Hizballah and the Houthis. The Foreign Secretary raised these concerns directly during his visit to Iran last November.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243542/>

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>

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>

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

Online Harms White Paper (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

TOP

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