



Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Antisemitism

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [285111]** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding has been allocated to help increase the reporting of hate crimes by the Jewish community in each of the last five years.

**Luke Hall:** We have allocated £250,000 in total over 2016/17 and 2018/19 to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). £150,000 of this was to support work encouraging reporting from groups who are less likely to report hate crime. These groups included EU citizens and faith groups. These projects, alongside the Cross-Government Working Group on Tackling Antisemitism, are important partners in helping us to understand how to improve rates of reporting within the Jewish community. To supply the information outside of these funding streams for the previous five years would involve a disproportionate cost to my Department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/285111/>

#### Hate Crime: Sikhs

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [285404]** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 23 July 2019 to Question 277247 on Hate Crime: Sikhs, what funding the Government has allocated to help increase the reporting of hate crimes by the Sikh community in each of the last five years.

**Luke Hall:** I refer the Honourable Member to the previous answer I gave to the question UIN 282566 on 3 September 2019:

Pursuant to the Answer of 23 July 2019 to Question 277247, my Department has allocated £250,000 in total over 2016/17 and 2018/19 to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). £150,000 of this was to support work encouraging reporting from groups who are less likely to report hate crime. These groups included EU citizens, Hindus, Christians, and the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, as well as Sikhs. In February, my Department organised a hate crime workshop for representatives from the Sikh community with contributions from across government, the police and criminal justice system. Outcomes included further engagement between the Sikh

community and organisations including the NPCC, Crown Prosecution Service, Metropolitan Police and Department for Education

My Department and the NPCC continue to work with the Sikh community and other groups who are less likely to report to raise awareness of hate crime and encourage reporting. This work forms part of our commitment to tackling faith and race based hate crime made in the refreshed Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/285404/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277247/>

*The 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)

### **Hate Crime: Muslims**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [285405] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding has been allocated to help increase the reporting of hate crimes by the Muslim community in each of the last five years.

**Luke Hall:** We have allocated £250,000 in total over 2016/17 and 2018/19 to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). £150,000 of this was to support encouraging reporting from groups who are less likely to report hate crime. These groups included EU citizens and faith groups. Home Office data from 2017/18 shows that 52 per cent of religiously motivated hate crime was perpetrated against Muslims. In addition to the NPCC funding, the government is providing over £2.5 million to Tell MAMA, a hate crime reporting and victim support organisation. Whilst Tell MAMA predominantly supports Muslims or those targeted for being perceived to be Muslim, for example Sikhs, all communities are able to report hate crimes to Tell MAMA. To supply the information outside of these funding streams for the previous five years would involve a disproportionate cost to my Department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/285405/>

### **Religious Hatred: Islam**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [282392] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if the Government will take steps to adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

**Luke Hall:** The Government is committed to defining and tackling anti-Muslim hatred. We have appointed Imam Qari Asim MBE, Deputy Chair of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, to lead a process for establishing a definition jointly with further advisers to be confirmed in due course.

This new work will draw on a wide range of opinions and work in collaboration with the cross-government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, to ensure that it commands broad support within Muslim communities and wider society.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-25/282392/>

*The definition referred to above can be read at*

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2feb1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Marriage: Humanism**

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [284963] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for his policies of the All-Party Parliamentary Humanist Group's report, Any lawful impediment?, published in May 2018.

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [284966] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies on the granting of legal recognition for humanist marriages in England and Wales of the recent ruling by the Belfast Court of Appeal which stated that there is a human right to humanist marriages.

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [285287] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to grant legal recognition for humanist marriages in England and Wales; and what assessment he has made of the potential barriers to granting such legal recognition.

**Wendy Morton:** The Law Commission review that the Government announced this June is a fundamental review of the law on how and where people can legally marry in England and Wales. As part of that review, the Government invited the Law Commission to make recommendations about how marriage by humanist and other non-religious belief organisations could be incorporated into a revised or new scheme for all marriages that is simple, fair and consistent. The Government will consider the Law Commission's recommendations.

Assessment of the potential merits of provision for non-religious belief marriages can be found in the consultation paper and response published by a previous Government in 2014 and available at [justice.gov.uk](http://justice.gov.uk). The Government has subsequently taken the All-Party Parliamentary Humanist Group's report into consideration.

The law in England and Wales presents different issues for Government consideration from the law of many other jurisdictions, including Northern Ireland, in being based on where a marriage can take place rather than on who can conduct it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/284963/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/284966/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/285287/>

*The APPG report referred to above can be read at*

<https://humanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/APPHG-report-on-humanist-marriage.pdf>

*Information about the Appeal Court ruling referred to above can be read at*

<https://judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary/files/decisions/Summary%20of%20judgment%20-%20In%20re%20Laura%20Smyth.pdf>

*Information about the Law Commission Review referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-begins-work-on-weddings-reform/>

*The consultation referred to above can be read at*

[https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/marriages-by-non-religious-belief-organisations/supporting\\_documents/beliefmarriagesconsultation.pdf](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/marriages-by-non-religious-belief-organisations/supporting_documents/beliefmarriagesconsultation.pdf)

*The Government response to the consultation referred to above can be read at*

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/marriages-by-non-religious-belief-organisations/results/marriages-by-non-religious-belief-organisations.pdf>

## Organs: Donors

**Paul Girvan (DUP)** [286852] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate his Department has made of the trends in the level of organ transplants as a result of the roll-out of opt-out only organ donations.

**Caroline Dinenage:** The Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019 will be introducing a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation in England, from spring 2020, to help increase the rate of deceased donation. The resulting increase in deceased donors is expected to come in gradually and reach full effect in 2022/23. Based on the available evidence and the expected time for it to take full effect, the Government estimates that the change in legislation will result in approximately 700 additional transplants a year in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-04/286852/>

## National Records of Scotland

### Scotland's Census 2021 Ethnic Group and Religion Update

*pp12-14 and pp33-35 relate to the collection of data about the Jewish community*

[https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/census2021/Scotlands\\_Census\\_2021\\_-\\_Question\\_Governance\\_Documentation\\_-\\_Topic\\_Reports\\_-\\_Ethnic\\_Group\\_and\\_Religion\\_Update\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/census2021/Scotlands_Census_2021_-_Question_Governance_Documentation_-_Topic_Reports_-_Ethnic_Group_and_Religion_Update_PDF.pdf)

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## Relevant Legislation

\*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/divorcedissolutionandseparation.html>

#### Domestic Abuse Bill

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

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

**Islamophobia in Scotland** (closing date 30 September 2019)

<https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=13027>

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