

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs  
Israel

Other Relevant Information  
Relevant Legislation  
Consultations

## Home Affairs

### Equality and Human Rights Commission

#### **Investigation opened into The Labour Party following complaints about antisemitism**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is today launching a formal investigation to determine whether The Labour Party has unlawfully discriminated against, harassed or victimised people because they are Jewish.

We are pleased that The Labour Party has committed to co-operate fully with this investigation. We contacted Labour after receiving a number of complaints about allegations of antisemitism in the Party. We have carefully considered the response we received from the Party and have now opened a formal investigation under section 20 of the Equality Act 2006 to further examine the concerns.

The investigation will seek to determine:

- whether unlawful acts have been committed by the Party and/or its employees and/or its agents
- whether the Party has responded to complaints of unlawful acts in a lawful, efficient and effective manner ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/investigation-opened-labour-party-following-complaints-about-antisemitism>

#### **Terms of Reference: Investigation into the Labour Party**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/terms-of-reference-investigation-into-labour-party-28-may-2019.pdf>

### Muslim Council of Britain

#### **Muslim Council of Britain submits formal complaint to EHRC over Conservative party islamophobia**

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) has filed a complaint with the Equality and Human

Rights Commission (EHRC) over Islamophobia within the Conservative Party today. The MCB has made numerous calls for several years now alongside Conservative politicians for an independent inquiry into Islamophobia within the Conservative Party. However, those calls have been largely ignored, while little or no robust action has been taken on perpetrators of Islamophobia within the Conservative Party. ...

Five key pillars embody the basis of the complaint, and these make clear that the problem of Islamophobia runs deep into the Conservative Party, with over 150 examples of Islamophobia cited. ...

Miqdaad Versi, Head of Media Monitoring for the MCB, said: "... It is regrettable that the Conservatives have refused to take our concerns seriously or that of their own Conservative peers. Furthermore, the current Conservative-led government has also decided to reject a definition of Islamophobia as accepted by the MCB and key Muslim stakeholders, which leads us to question, what message do the Conservatives want to send to Muslim communities?" ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/muslim-council-of-britain-submits-formal-complaint-to-ehrc-over-conservative-party-islamophobia/>

TOP

## Israel

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Andrew Murrison:** Starting my visit to Israel at @yadvashem commemorating all those who perished in the Holocaust. We must fight against the scourge of antisemitism in all its forms, wherever it occurs #neverforget

<https://twitter.com/AWMurrison/status/1132949329071792128>

TOP

## Other Relevant Information

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

#### **Press briefing notes anti-semitism**

We condemn the rise in anti-Semitic incidents taking place in a number of European countries and the United States. Just in the past week, after a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents in Germany, the Government official charged with combatting anti-Semitism felt the need to urge Jews in parts of the country where incidents have been taking place, to consider avoiding wearing kippas (skullcaps) on their heads in public, in order not to draw attention to their race and religion.

And in Austria, a number of pictures of Holocaust survivors displayed in a street exhibition entitled "Lest we forget" in central Vienna have been vandalised not once, but three times. Initially, swastikas were painted on the faces of the survivors, and then on Sunday night large sections of the faces on the pictures were cut out.

These events in Germany and Austria cannot, unfortunately, be described as isolated, with other European countries also experiencing increases in acts of vandalism, including of Jewish businesses and gravestones. Most disturbing of all, acts of physical violence against Jews have also increased in a number of countries in recent years, with particularly

sharp rises in violent incidents reported in both Germany and France. However, the worst incidents have taken place in the United States, where 11 people were killed during an attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh last October, and in April a woman was killed and three other worshippers were injured in another attack on a synagogue in Southern California.

The rise in attacks targeting Jews, along with other groups targeted because of their race or religion, is a matter of grave concern, and we urge all governments to redouble their efforts to combat racism and related intolerance in all its forms. Under international law, people are entitled to legal protection from incitement to hatred and violence. When abuse rises to the level of incitement – whether it be on the street or on the Internet – it should be prohibited by law, while respecting freedom of expression, which has permissible restrictions in such cases.

On a more positive note, it was encouraging to learn yesterday that a number of people in Vienna have taken a stand against the acts of anti-Semitism, thereby working to repair the damaged pictures of the Holocaust survivors and joining forces to guard the exhibition from further attacks. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24652&LanglD=E>

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

**Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan** (closing date 28 June 2019)  
<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

**Online Harms White Paper** (closing date 1 July 2019)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

**Opt-out organ donation: organs and tissues excluded from the new system** (closing date 22 July 2019)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/opt-out-organ-donation-organs-and-tissues-excluded-from-the-new-system>

TOP

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