

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Muslim Brotherhood

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [259079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the operations of the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK of the decision by the US Government to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group; and if he will make a statement.

Ben Wallace: The Government concluded a comprehensive review of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2015. The review concluded the movement is a secretive organisation and that parts of it – globally – have a highly ambiguous relationship with violent extremism.

The Government remains committed to keeping under review the views promoted and activities undertaken by the Muslim Brotherhood's associates in the UK, in accordance with the five commitments included in the former Prime Minister's statement to Parliament.

We will continue to consider any new evidence on the Muslim Brotherhood's activities against the UK's legal thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259079/>

Muslim Brotherhood

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [259080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will proscribe the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group; and if he will make a statement.

Ben Wallace: Whilst we keep the list of proscribed groups under review, we do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not under consideration for proscription.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259080/>

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House of Commons Oral Answers

UK-Israel Medical Research and Development

4. **Michael Fabricant (Conservative):** What steps he is taking to strengthen UK trading relations with Israel in medical research and development; and if he will make a statement. [911190]

The Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Dr Liam Fox): ... Our dedicated team at the UK embassy in Tel Aviv actively promotes UK-Israel trade, and there is extensive collaboration on medical research between the UK and Israel. The UK-Israel Tech Hub, which is based at the embassy, helps to create tech and innovation partnerships across several sectors, including healthcare.

Michael Fabricant: That is very good to hear. My right hon. Friend knows the state of Israeli technology—for example, all our chips, including the Intel fifth, sixth and seventh core chips, are developed in Israel for Intel in America. Magen David Adom, the equivalent of the Israeli Red Cross, has an app that provides live streaming, medical history and the location of people who use it, and that sort of innovation could be of great benefit to the UK. When we leave the European Union, what will be the advantages of doing business with Israel for both our nations?

Liam Fox: There are huge advantages to our collaboration in or outside the European Union. To enable us to shine a light on the excellence that my hon. Friend mentions, on my recent trip to Israel I agreed with Prime Minister Netanyahu that we will jointly sponsor a Government high-level trade and investment conference that will enable us to show the world the best of what both countries have to offer in the sector mentioned by my hon. Friend.

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op): ... The Secretary of State is right to say that global trade can take place only in conditions of peace. Will he back the small group of MPs from across the House who are trying to create close relationships between university research in the UK and university research in Israel?

Liam Fox: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his kind words. He is right—where we are able to take advantage of the innovation coming out of universities, we should make every attempt to do so. One reason that international investors give for putting money into the United Kingdom is the access to high-quality innovation that comes from the collaboration between industry and academia. Where we can take full advantage of that, including with bilateral relations elsewhere, we should do so.

John Howell (Conservative): The Secretary of State has already mentioned the UK-Israel Tech Hub, which is the first of its kind and has already generated business of £85 million. How does he see that developing over the coming years?

Liam Fox: I see it going from strength to strength, and as greater investment goes into both economies we will be able to scale up the innovation and creativity that is clearly shown in the tech sector. That will be of benefit not only to our two countries, but to the wider global economy.

Judith Cummins (Labour): ... What assessment has the Secretary of State made of Israel's participation in the agreement on pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation on the trade in medical products between the UK and the EU? What progress have the Government made in replicating other agreements between the EU and Israel, including the 2013 EU-Israel agreement on conformity assessment and acceptance of industrial products?

Liam Fox: As the hon. Lady is aware, we reached a continuity agreement with Israel on 19 February, which will come into effect as we leave the European Union. The conformity assessment element of that is very important because of the number of generic prescriptions that the NHS takes advantage of that are produced

by Israeli pharmaceutical companies. We will want to see as much continuity in all those arrangements as possible.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-06/debates/C1E2F3F4-6D78-4E98-948F-81D2CCA8E061/UK-IsraelMedicalResearchAndDevelopment>

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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>

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>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2019/6/5/Human-Tissue--Authorisation---Scotland--Bill--as-amended-at-Stage-2/DPLRS052019R32.pdf>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20\(Authorisation\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill32AENS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20(Authorisation)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill32AENS052019.pdf)

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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>

Regulation of pre-paid funeral plans (closing date 25 August 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulation-of-pre-paid-funeral-plans-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal>

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