



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Welsh Assembly Debate

#### Teaching the History of Wales

*col 289 Alun Davies (Labour):* History is not always comfortable and not always convenient and not always easy. We are remembering at the moment the race riots in Cardiff. I spoke to people at home in Tredegar about remembering a century after the anti-Jewish riots in 1911. They didn't want to remember that. They were ashamed of what happened in our town in our name and ashamed of what that had done to us, especially now that we are still fighting anti-Semitism in this country. So, our history is not simply what has happened in the past, it's who we are today, and it is our responsibility as parliamentarians and as leaders of this country to ensure that our history remains in the hearts and minds of our people when we seek to create the future for our people. ...

<http://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/5667#C204810>

### Charity Commission

#### Decision: Chesed Leyisrael Trust

... On 20 September 2013, the Charity Commission ('the Commission') opened a statutory class inquiry, under section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'), into charities in default of their statutory obligations by failing to submit their annual documents for 2 or more years in the last 5 years ...

Despite having been sent a number of reminders from the Commission to submit its annual documents ahead of the deadline for the FYE 31 March 2016, the charity's trustees failed to comply with their statutory obligations for the third consecutive year ...

The inquiry found the trustees had failed to comply with their statutory obligations to submit the charity's annual accounts and financial statements for the FYE 31 March 2016. The trustees were also in breach of the governing document for their failure to submit the charity's annual accounts and financial statements. ...

The inquiry found that the charity does not have in place an adequate and appropriate conflicts of interest policy. The trustee board had three members, who were related to each

other, and are likely to share any conflicts of interest which the charity will be unable to manage effectively. ...

The inquiry found that the trustees failed to conduct formal trustee meetings and keep adequate minutes in accordance with the charity's governing document. ...

Whilst the trustees demonstrated a commitment and willingness to put matters right in respect of the charity's future filing obligations, the inquiry concluded that there was evidence of poor financial management and governance in the charity. The Commission decided the issuing of an Official Warning to the trustees would allow these specific regulatory concerns to be addressed within a clear timescale. ...

**To read the full Decision see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-inquiry-chesed-leyisrael-trust/chesed-leyisrael-trust>

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## Holocaust

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263696] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 29 May to Question 256928, if he will publish a list of the meetings Big Ideas has participated in or organised as part of its public engagement work relating to the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, indicating the target group in each such case.

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263697] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 29 May to Question 256928 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, if he will publish a list the groups referred to in that answer that Big Ideas is reaching in public engagement.

**Heather Wheeler:** Representatives from Big Ideas have visited several community groups in Westminster including mother and toddlers and senior citizens. More widely they have engaged with Holocaust Survivors, young people and faith communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263696/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263697/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-21/256928/>

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263698] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 29 May to Question 256928, if he will place in the Library the parts of the Government's agreement with Big Ideas relating to the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre which set out the work to be done by Big Ideas.

**Heather Wheeler:** The funding agreement includes the following:

- Consult with local Westminster community groups, including housing

associations, over 50's, Mother and Toddler groups, schools, about the proposed Holocaust Memorial.

- Encourage people to write to Westminster City Council with their views.
- Produce short social media videos on the Holocaust Memorial
- Support UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation and the Department on publicity and campaigns around the time Time Capsule
- Create an engagement campaign
- Organise community engagement activity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263698/>

### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263699] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 21 May to Question 253497 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, if he will publish a break down of the additional £25 million allocated to each of the purposes listed in that answer.

**Heather Wheeler:** The VAT incurred on the overall project is around £18 million. The balance of the additional £25 million is for the courtyard security and landscaping.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263699/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253497/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263700] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2019 to Question 229625, on what date the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation decided that none of the almost 50 possible sites identified for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre between 7 September and 30 October 2015 met the criteria.

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263702] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on what date the board of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation first discussed the possible use of Victoria Tower Gardens for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

**Heather Wheeler:** 13 January 2016.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263700/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263702/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229625/>

### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263703] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2019 to Question 229625, whether the almost 50 possible sites identified for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre between 7 September and 30 October 2015 included the

24 sites referred to in the planning statement for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre as having been identified by the CBRE in January 2016; and what reason underlay the difference in numbers.

**Heather Wheeler:** CBRE identified 24 sites in January 2016, the balance of sites were identified by the Government Property Unit and other third parties.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263703/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229625/>

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263707] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what sources of funding the Government is considering for the ongoing maintenance of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in addition to entrance fees.

**Heather Wheeler:** The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation will make recommendations to the Government in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263707/>

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [263708] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which parts of the works associated with the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre were included in the calculation that seven per cent of Victoria Tower Gardens would be occupied by the proposed Memorial and Learning Centre; and if he will publish the evidential basis for that calculation.

**Heather Wheeler:** The percentage was arrived at by taking the overall park area (18,848 square metres, excluding the Parliamentary Education Centre, stairs and existing toilet building) and dividing it by the above ground area occupied by the Holocaust Memorial (1,429 square metres, including fins, courtyard, security hedge, entrance). The figure is not seven percent but seven and a half percent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263708/>

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## [Israel](#)

*Also see the Westminster Hall debate “Jewish Refugees from the Middle East and North Africa” in the “Foreign Affairs” section below.*

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**Andrew Murrison:** UK commitment to a just & lasting resolution to the Israel/Palestinian conflict is unwavering. Valuable engagement today with Chief Palestinian Negotiator @ErakatSaeb, including on the importance of a two-state solution

<https://twitter.com/AWMurrison/status/1141349378734604295>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Annexation is a flagrant violation of international law, says UN human rights expert**

Recent statements by senior Israeli political leaders and US diplomats in support of the annexation of parts or all of the occupied West Bank by Israel fly in the face of the absolute prohibition against the annexation of occupied territories, a UN human rights expert said today.

“International law is very clear: annexation and territorial conquest are forbidden by the Charter of the United Nations,” said Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. “The Security Council, beginning with Resolution 242 in November 1967, has expressly affirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war or force on eight occasions, most recently in 2016.” ...

The Special Rapporteur observed that the absolute prohibition against annexation applies whether the occupied territory was acquired through a war of aggression or a defensive war. ...

The Special Rapporteur called upon the international community to state now, clearly and comprehensively, that any further de jure annexations of occupied Palestinian territory by Israel will be condemned and will not be recognized. He also requested the international community to access its menu of international remedies and countermeasures, and to demand accountability from Israel with respect to its settlement enterprise and its current and planned annexation measures.

“International criticism, absent any consequences, can no longer be justified in the current circumstances,” said Lynk “If annexation proceeds, the chances for a genuine and just peace in the foreseeable future will have gone from implausible to unimaginable.”

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24716&LangID=E>

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## Foreign Affairs

### Westminster Hall Debate

#### **Jewish Refugees from the Middle East and North Africa**

**col 157WH Theresa Villiers (Conservative):** ... In 1945, 856,000 Jewish people lived in the middle east, north Africa and the Gulf region. Only about 4,500 remain, almost all of them in Morocco and Tunisia. Jewish people have lived continuously in the middle east and north Africa for over 2,600 years, yet in just a few decades they almost totally disappeared. Thousands were expelled or fled their home countries in fear. Around 850,000 were forced out or felt they had to leave following the United Nations decision to partition Palestine in 1947. Age-old communities, with roots dating back millennia, were gone. It was the largest exodus of non-Muslims from the middle east until the movement of Christians from Iraq after 2003.

Between 1948 and 1972, pogroms and violent attacks were perpetrated in every Arab country against its Jewish residents. ... What happened amounted to the near total extinction of an ancient civilisation. ...

**Stephen Crabb (Conservative):** ... Is she concerned by the assumption that the near total absence of Jews from so many countries across north Africa and the middle east is because there were never Jewish communities in those countries? ...

**Theresa Villiers:** My right hon. Friend makes a good point. That is one reason why this

debate is so important. ...

**Andrew Percy (Conservative):** ... Somebody who asked a question in last night's Tory leadership debate—Abdullah from Bristol—had retweeted a tweet suggesting that Israel should be relocated to the United States. This debate demonstrates why that is so offensive. It feeds into a false narrative that Israel is a creation of Europe or America, and totally whitewashes the history of the Jews in the middle east and the recent living history of Jews in Arab states in the middle east. ...

*col 158WH* **Robert Halfon (Conservative):** ... Why does she think the United Nations has passed 172 resolutions specifically on Palestinian refugees over the past 60 years yet not one on Jewish refugees?

**Theresa Villiers:** That United Nations record is a matter of grave concern. ... it is of course important to recognise the suffering experienced by the Palestinians displaced by the 1948 war, but that should not blind us to the suffering experienced by the Jewish communities about whom we are reflecting today.

Jewish people lived in what is now the Arab world for a millennium before Islam was founded, and centuries before the Arab conquest of many of those territories. Until the 17th century, there were more Jewish people in the Arab and wider Muslim world than in Europe. ... Jewish people living under Muslim rule shaped Judaism as we know it today. The Talmud—or the Babylonian Talmud, as it is often called—was written in the pre-Islamic academies of present-day Iraq ...

According to the powerful book “Uprooted” by Lyn Julius ... Jewish people in the Arab world faced two types of oppression. Countries such as Yemen, Syria and post-Suez Egypt drove out their Jewish populations mainly in a single mass expulsion. In other places, such as Lebanon and Morocco, Jews were pushed out gradually over a more protracted period ... Several countries criminalised Zionism, exposing their Jewish minorities to the allegation that they were somehow enemies of the state. ...

*col 159WH* ... Having served their country proudly over centuries, the vast majority of the Jewish community in Iraq had their nationality taken from them in 1951. A crisis point was reached in 1969 with the execution of nine Jewish Iraqis on trumped-up charges of spying. Their bodies were left hanging for days on public display. Following that brutal episode, many of Iraq's remaining Jewish population escaped through Kurdish areas, including the vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, my constituent Edwin Shuker. ...

**Zac Goldsmith (Conservative):** ... The US and Canadian Governments have both passed resolutions formally recognising the plight of Jewish refugees. Would she support a similar measure here in the UK ...?

**Theresa Villiers:** I agree that we need much clearer recognition. One good way to do that would be a resolution in Parliament. ...

I pay tribute to Harif, which provides a powerful voice for Jewish people originally from the middle east and north Africa ... I also thank the Board of Deputies, Conservative Friends of Israel and Dr Stan Urman ...

Many people were given just days to leave, and most lost everything they owned. ...

*col 160WH* The ethnic cleansing of Jewish people from the Arab world has far too often been overlooked ... This is largely an untold story, and it is an unresolved injustice.

Huge amounts of airtime, debate and resources are focused on the Palestinians who were displaced by the 1948 conflict, and it is right to acknowledge their suffering and the importance of safeguarding their interests in a future peace settlement. But the plight of the 850,000 Jewish refugees and the scale of their suffering have never had the recognition they deserve. ... Concentrating only on the Palestinian refugees gives the international community a distorted view of the middle east dispute. A fair settlement needs to take into account the injustice suffered by Jewish refugees as well as the plight of displaced Palestinians. ...

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised this matter in her speech to mark the 100th

anniversary of the Balfour declaration; she referred to the suffering of both Jewish and Palestinian refugees. I ask my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Government's help on some key questions. I appeal to them to back the efforts by UNESCO and other bodies that are pressing for the conservation of historic sites in the middle east that have cultural significance for the Jewish community and, indeed, other minorities. I also appeal for Ministers, when they discuss middle east matters, explicitly to acknowledge that two refugee populations, Palestinians and Jews, emerged from the same conflict, during the same period, and that the rights of both need to be addressed in a fair settlement. ...

*col 161WH* ... a number of the 850,000 displaced Jewish people went to the UK and Europe or to Australia, the USA and Canada. About 650,000 found refuge in Israel. Many faced hardship and adversity, but I want to highlight the optimism, because theirs is a huge success story, as they have become a much-valued part of the social fabric of the countries that welcomed them and took them in. ...

I am deeply worried that history is repeating itself in the middle east. Just as the indigenous Jewish population was forced out 70 years ago, so the Christians are now under ever-increasing pressure. A grave injustice was perpetrated on the Jewish communities in the middle east and north Africa. Let us hope that that is not repeated in relation to the Christians in the region ...

*col 162WH* **Louise Ellman (Labour Co-op):** ... It is truly shocking that since 1947, antisemitism—hostility towards Jewish people—has virtually extinguished Jewish life in the middle east. ... The fate of the Jews of that region was persecution and expulsion, and their assets were confiscated. There is no right of return. ...

The Jewish people have always been part of the middle east. It is a sad reflection on the history of the region that there are now virtually no Jews in the middle east outside of Israel, the world's only Jewish state. ...

**Robert Halfon:** ... Today, Jewish communities all over the middle east and north Africa have been almost entirely erased. The flight of historic Jewish communities has altered the shape and face of the region forever, but that is rarely recognised or spoken about on the international stage. ... It must be noted that Israel, despite being in its infancy as a country and under attack from six Arab states in 1948, did its best to integrate Jewish refugees. In comparison, many Arab countries, with the exception of Jordan and a few others, turned their backs on the displaced Palestinians. ...

*col 163WH* **Ivan Lewis (Independent):** ... Too often, the debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is dominated by a narrative that demonises Israel and delegitimises the rights of Jews to self-determination in their own state.

In the aftermath of the creation of the state of Israel, as the right hon. Lady said, a minimum of 850,000 Jews were forced from their homes. From Iraq to Egypt, Syria, Libya and Yemen, state-sanctioned pogroms descended on Jewish neighbourhoods, killing innocents and destroying ancient synagogues and Jewish cemeteries. New draconian laws prevented Jews from public worship, forced them to carry Jewish identity cards, and seized billions of dollars of their property and assets. Any future peace plan must tackle that issue. ...

It is also time to question the need for Palestinians to live in United Nations-run refugee camps. Surely, they should be encouraged and supported to live in better conditions in Arab countries in the region. That need not in any way compromise or prejudice their rights in any future peace agreement. Refugees, especially children, should not be used as political pawns in the frontline of a public relations campaign. ...

*col 164WH* The Leader of the Opposition and many of his supporters support the campaigns of every minority around the world who demand the right to self-determination. Why are Jews the only exception? It is to be hoped that the Equality and Human Rights Commission inquiry will shine a light on the Leader of the Opposition's and his inner circle's failure to act against their allies who are found to promote antisemitic rhetoric and

imagery. ...

**Matthew Offord (Conservative):** ... Some 850,000 people were forced from their homes, yet no pressure group or organisation ever talks about it. ... the UN has passed 172 resolutions on Palestinian refugees and not a single one on Jewish refugees. ...

Some 60,000 square miles of land was taken from Jewish refugees, which would be four times the size of Israel. These people are not seeking any kind of restitution; they are seeking recognition of their plight. ...

*col 165WH* **Jim Shannon (DUP):** ... What can we do? First, the media bias against Israel and her people is exactly that: bias. For example, when the BBC attempts to set a narrative that does not equate to what is actually taking place on the ground—such as reporting retaliatory missiles launched by Israel in such a way that it seems like an offensive attack ...

Secondly, we must fulfil our obligations to do what the Balfour Declaration began—allowing Israel back to her home and having equality and safety for all in the middle east. Thirdly, there is significant linkage between those two refugee populations, which underscores the need to deal with both simultaneously. ...

*col 166WH* What steps will the British Government take to recognise the injustice that was suffered by some 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries and to ensure that, in the Government's stance on the middle east peace process, they recognise their tragedy alongside that of the Palestinian refugees? ...

*col 167WH* **Andrew Percy (Conservative):** ... there is a false narrative that has been created that Israel is a European and western creation, and that it is anathema in the middle east. However, we absolutely know—not only because of the thousands of years of history and heritage of the Jewish people in the middle east and north Africa, but because of recent history, as has been outlined during this debate—that the Jewish presence in the middle east is a living history that goes back to before the creation of the state of Israel, and there are many in the Jewish community who doubtless would have liked to continue to live their lives in north Africa and other parts of the middle east but are prevented from doing so today.

The lack of understanding of the history of Jewish refugees from elsewhere in the middle east and north Africa is perhaps part of the reason why so many people who pronounce on the issue of Israel are so ignorant in making the offensive comments and statements they make ...

*col 168WH* **Peter Grant (SNP):** ... too many people who speak very forcefully about what should happen to solve the problems in the middle east are either unaware of its history or—perhaps even worse—only aware of part of that history.

When we look at the recent history of Israel and of the Jewish people, it is very easy to be overwhelmed by the scale and the horror of what happened in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, and to lose sight of the fact that at any other time what was happening to Jews in other parts of the world would have been seen as a catastrophe on a global scale. That is because 850,000 people were forced out of the only homes they had ever known—homes that they could demonstrate their families had lived in for hundreds, and possibly even thousands, of years. An unknown number of people were killed—certainly hundreds, but probably thousands. By today's standards, that was ethnic cleansing. Indeed, I would argue that by today's standards that was a genocide and it deserves to be recognised as such. And those people who fled for their lives to try to escape from that genocide should be recognised as refugees, just as those people who are currently fleeing from Yemen, Syria and other conflict areas should be recognised, and looked after, as refugees. ...

When we allow hatred and persecution of any minority in a society to become normalised, that hatred and persecution very quickly spreads to a different minority, whether that minority is based on religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other characteristic. ...

*col 170WH* **Fabian Hamilton (Labour):** ... Over successive waves of persecution in the

20th century since 1948, up to 850,000 Jews—some estimates are close to 1 million—were expelled from mainly Arab countries. Most of those Mizrahi, as they are called in Israel, took their refuge in that country; their descendants comprise approximately half of all Israeli Jews. To many Israelis, the issue of refugees remains one of the outstanding obstacles to peace that must be resolved in any final status negotiations. The plight of Palestinian refugees, as we have heard, is well known, but Israelis rightly believe that less attention is given to former Jewish refugees.

As it happens, just before I came to this debate, I had a meeting with Dr Saeb Erekat from the Palestine Liberation Organisation. I told him about this debate and that we would be discussing Jewish refugees in the middle east, and asked him what he would do about that. He asked me to say quite openly that the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian Authority believe that just as Palestinians should have their rights to return with full compensation, so should all Jewish refugees. ...

**The Minister for the Middle East (Andrew Murrison):** ... I also met with Dr Erekat today, and we shared a number of reflections on the current situation. He is a very wise man with a great deal of experience in these matters, and the remarks that he made to the hon. Gentleman do not surprise me in the least. ...

*col 171WH* We have heard from a lot of right hon. and hon. Members about the failure of the international community to properly understand the extent of Jewish refugee status. We talk a great deal about Palestinians—they are always in the news, and they are extremely important—but we also need to consider refugees in the round. ...

It is particularly timely for me to be talking about this today, because three weeks ago I paid my first visit to the middle east in my new capacity, and I visited Yad Vashem. My belief is that a person will not fully understand the state of Israel unless they visit Yad Vashem. It had a profound impact on me. Yad Vashem gives us the story; it tells us why it is that a people who have been bashed, bullied and messed around over generations and centuries have said, “Enough! This is our home. This is ours, and we are going to defend it.” I am very pleased that the Government are four-square behind their right to self-determination and safety in the state of Israel. ...

I make it clear that we have to have a two-state solution based on the '67 borders, with agreed land swaps and Jerusalem as a shared capital. ... We are clear that we will not have peace in the middle east unless we have a shared future between the Jewish and Palestinian people, and that means a two-state solution. ...

I saw the desperate conditions in which the people of Gaza are living, and I visited Khan al-Ahmar, whose inhabitants are apparently safe for now, but who still expect to be made homeless by Israeli demolitions. The UN has said that could constitute a forcible transfer. The experience of all these people—the victims and survivors of the holocaust, the Israelis who live in fear of Palestinian rockets, and the Palestinians who live a precarious existence in Gaza or the west bank—illustrates the complexity of the issues still to be resolved by the middle east peace process. ...

*col 172WH* The history of Jewish migration and displacement in the region is highly complex. We have touched on a great deal of that today. Some have estimated that the figures could be as high as 1 million displaced people over that period. For those whose homes and property were seized or who were forcibly expelled, the experience was hugely traumatic and hugely distressing. Some continue to live with all that distress today and rightly seek some sort of recognition of the trauma they have suffered. We deeply sympathise with that suffering, just as we sympathise with the many Palestinians who have been forced from their homes over the same period and, indeed, the more than 15 million people of many faiths and nationalities who are currently displaced in the region.

We understand that there were a range of motivations for Jews who decided to leave Arab countries. Many of them were certainly forced out, one way or another—either directly or by the general bullying behaviour that they experienced over years. Many left because they were driven by the desire to forge a new homeland for the Jewish people in the new

state of Israel. ...

The Government continue to believe that the way forward is through substantive peace talks between the parties leading to a two-state solution with Jerusalem as the shared capital. We would also like to use every opportunity to call out any instances of antisemitism, wherever it occurs. ...

*col 174WH Theresa Villiers:* ... Andrew Percy made a powerful point when he said that ignorance about the long history of the Jewish communities across the Arab world and the middle east is used as an excuse to fuel the entirely false narrative that Israel is somehow an artificial European construct and a colonial outpost. That is a false narrative, and I hope that the Minister and all right hon. and hon. Members present today will help me in taking forward the process and in ensuring that more people know what really happened 70 years ago, so that we can see some genuine justice in the middle east for the dispossessed Jewish communities of the Arab world. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-19/debates/F75D29CB-C4C8-447D-A028-1FA05CD3594D/JewishRefugeesFromTheMiddleEastAndNorthAfrica>

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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>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8594/CBP-8594.pdf>

#### **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>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 8 days**

**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