

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Gaza: Hamas**

**Andrew Percy (Conservative)** [272812] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on Hamas's rule in Gaza.

**Andrew Murrison:** We regularly discuss Gaza with international counterparts, and in the UN Security Council. Our position on Hamas has not changed: Hamas must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements. We call on those in the region with influence over Hamas to encourage Hamas to take these steps. Hamas's ongoing decision to embrace violence and reject the Quartet Principles lies at the heart of the Gazan tragedy. We need a durable agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and transforms the situation in Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272812/>

#### **Gaza: Armed Conflict**

**Andrew Percy (Conservative)** [272813] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on reports set out in the BBC documentary, One day in Gaza, that Hamas transported Gazan civilians to violent areas on the border with Israel last year.

**Andrew Murrison:** The British Government has regular discussions with international counterparts about the situation in Gaza. Whilst Palestinians have the right to peaceful protest, we have been clear that Hamas exploited the border protests for their own benefit. Their incitement of violence is unacceptable. When I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in May, I pressed the importance of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and international partners working together to ensure a durable solution for Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272813/>

*The programme referred to above can be watched at*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00052gc/one-day-in-gaza>

## **Palestinians: Politics and Government**

**Douglas Ross (Conservative)** [272916] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the implications of fighting between Hamas and Fatah for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

**Andrew Murrison:** The UK views the Palestinian Authority (PA) as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. We are supportive of Fatah-Hamas reconciliation attempts, and of the PA returning to resume government functions in Gaza. The UK will continue to urge the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution and to take the necessary practical steps towards a two-state solution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272916/>

## **Israel: Gaza**

**Jonathan Djanogly (Conservative)** [273340] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the threat posed to Israel by cross-border tunnels dug by Hamas.

**Andrew Murrison:** We remain deeply concerned by Hamas's attempts to re-arm and rebuild militant infrastructure, including the tunnel network, in Gaza. Such actions undermine efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and harm the prospects for peace. During my visit to Israel at the end of May, I witnessed first-hand the impact of Hamas tunnels and rockets on the Israeli communities close to Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273340/>

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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>

#### **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**

**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>

**Civil Partnerships: Next Steps Conversion** (closing date 20 August 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-partnerships-next-steps-and-consultation-on-conversion>

**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>

**Islamophobia in Scotland** (closing date 26 August 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