

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Debate

Summer Adjournment

col 1520 **Ivan Lewis (Independent):** ... I want to touch briefly on the issue of antisemitism. It is important to say that this has ruptured the relationship between my former party and large sections of the Jewish community, and the consequence is that the majority—this is not an exaggeration—of Jews in the United Kingdom fear that they would not feel welcome in this country if my former party, under its present leadership, were to win an election. I therefore ask those who are still members of that party in this House to understand the impact of that on people's everyday lives and their duty to send different messages to the Jewish community in this country from those they have been sending in recent times. That is a very serious issue. ...

col 1534 **Jim Fitzpatrick (Labour):** ... As a Labour MP, I want to say that I am embarrassed and ashamed at my party's response to the antisemitism allegations against us. I do not think we will get past this until the Equality and Human Rights Commission inquiry reports. ...

col 1542 **Chris Stephens (SNP):** ... There are a lot of things that the new Prime Minister needs to sort out, and one of the first is the Home Office's visitor visa situation, which ... is ludicrous and unjust. The fact that religious workers and clergymen who are trying to come to the UK are being denied a visitor visa is an absolute disgrace. ...

To read the full debate see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-25/debates/ECFEDC9A-8843-49BD-9294-5741753E0F5D/SummerAdjournment>

House of Commons Written Answer

LGBT People: Religion

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [274440] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she has taken to promote LGBTQ+ rights in the religious community.

Victoria Atkins: The Government will always protect people's legitimate right to free speech, to be themselves and to practise their religion within the law.

These values are fundamental but we will not shy away from challenging cultures and practices that are harmful to individuals or hold them back from making the most of the opportunities of living in modern Britain.

In July 2018, we launched the LGBT Action Plan, setting out comprehensive commitments on LGBT equality. These actions aim to help all LGBT people, of all backgrounds and faiths, reach their full potential.

From our commitment to end conversion therapy to using behavioural insights to tackle deep-seated prejudices, this government is committed to building a society that works for everyone, regardless of faith, sexual orientation or gender identity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/274440/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721367/GEO-LGBT-Action-Plan.pdf

House of Lords Written Answer

Organs: Donors

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL17298] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce legislation to require evidence of the consent of an organ donor before any transplant can take place.

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Human Tissue Act 2004, as amended, sets out the requirements for consent to organ donation.

The Human Tissue Authority is currently consulting on a revised Code of Practice F: Donation of solid organs and tissue for transplantation, to reflect amendments to the Human Tissue Act 2004 from the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019. The revised code will provide clinical advice and guidance for organ and tissue transplant professionals in England on how the new law will affect their practice from spring 2020. It also provides guidance in situations where someone's consent to donate their organs is not clear or when clinical decisions are complex. This consultation asks professionals working in the field of organ donation and transplantation for their views on the draft version, and will run for 12 weeks, closing on 26 September 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-18/HL17298/>

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Israel

House of Commons Debate

Summer Adjournment

col 1506 **Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op):** ... although there are many problems in my constituency, we have a multi-ethnic, multi-faith community that looks not just inwards to what is happening in Preston and in Lancashire but outwards to what is happening elsewhere in the world. There is continued dismay, anger and upset at what is going on in the occupied territories in Palestine.

On Monday, Israeli troops accompanied by bulldozers began ruthlessly demolishing homes in the Palestinian village of Sur Baher, close to the separation wall in the occupied

west bank. Residents of the village's Wadi al-Hummus neighbourhood were shocked to see 16 residential buildings, which hold about 100 apartments, targeted on the pretext of security. Innocent Palestinians were watching as their homes were destroyed in front of their very eyes.

I first visited Palestine and Israel about 12 years ago. Then, there were about 15,000 to 20,000 settlers. Now I think there are around 100,000. This cannot be allowed to continue. The international community needs to take stronger action. In particular, we need stronger action by the United States. Unfortunately, under the current President, that does not seem as though it is going to happen any time soon. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-25/debates/ECFEDC9A-8843-49BD-9294-5741753E0F5D/SummerAdjournment#contribution-6297C02B-C17E-40DB-B28E-AA82CDA41AF8>

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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

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