

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Holocaust

Relevant Legislation
Consultations

Holocaust

House of Lords Library

Letter from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park to Lords regarding issues raised at committee stage of the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill: the Holocaust Memorial ...

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0839/Letter from Leader HoL to All Peers Parliamentary Buildings RR Bill.pdf>

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Remembering the forgotten Holocaust

The Nazis persecuted, detained and executed hundreds of thousands of Roma. But the Roma genocide during the Holocaust was not formally recognised until the 1980s. Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August is a time to remember their suffering and to call for an end to the longstanding antigypsyism that Roma communities still endure today.

The Nazis murdered an estimated 500,000 Roma during the Holocaust. No Roma man, woman or child survived the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. And of the 25,000 sent to camps in Transnistria in the Soviet Union, only 11,000 survived.

This largely forgotten side of the Holocaust has only been marked since 2009. ...

Even though Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority, antigypsyism, hate crime, as well as hate-motivated harassment and discrimination still plague many Roma across the EU.

A FRA survey of Roma across nine EU Member States indicates that 36% were victims of hate-motivated harassment and 41% of discrimination in the five years before the survey. ... The past should be a constant reminder of the dangers of allowing hatred to go unpunished. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/remembering-forgotten-holocaust>

United Nations & Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Education is key to avoiding the mistakes of the past, say OSCE and UN human rights representatives on Roma Genocide Remembrance Day

In order to acknowledge the suffering of victims and work towards greater tolerance, more efforts are needed to educate young people about the horror of the Roma genocide that took place during the Second World War, said the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the United Nations Human Rights Office for Europe in a joint statement on Roma Genocide Remembrance Day. ...

Governments have the responsibility to remember the Roma and Sinti Genocide, but also to ensure that school curricula and other educational initiatives engage with young people to discuss the potentially dangerous consequences of racist ideologies. ...

"We need to tell the truth about historical injustices and recognize the contribution of the Roma to Europe," said Birgit Van Hout, head of the UN Human Rights Office for Europe.

"To rebuild trust between Roma and non-Roma, Roma inclusion strategies should also address antigypsyism, bias and prejudice by the majority population."

Seventy-five years after the liquidation of the so-called *Gypsy family camp* in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Roma and Sinti continue to suffer from intolerance, systemic racism and discrimination, and remain victims of racially motivated violence and hate crime. Up to 500,000 Roma and Sinti perished under the Nazi regime, with some 20,000 murdered in the notorious Auschwitz-Birkenau camp alone.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/427052>

TOP

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>

TOP

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>

Human rights: Freedom of religion and belief, and human rights defenders inquiry
(closing date 31 August 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/inquiries1/parliament-2017/freedom-of-religion-and-belief-inquiry-17-19/>

TOP

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