

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answer

Racial Discrimination

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL17521] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review legislation on racism; and what action they intend to take to eliminate racist attacks in the UK.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The United Kingdom has one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry. We believe that no-one's opportunities in life should be determined by their ethnicity or religion.

The Government takes racist attacks very seriously, which is why we published the Hate Crime Action Plan in 2016. This was refreshed in 2018, when we committed up to £1.5 million for projects to tackle racially and religiously motivated hatred. We continue to work with the police and third party services such as the Community Security Trust, Tell MAMA and GATE Herts to encourage reporting and support victims of racially motivated hatred.

We have also asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of hate crime legislation and, last year, launched a national hate crime public awareness campaign.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-25/HL17521/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

UK Government s Plan to Tackle Hate Crime 2016.pdf

The refreshed Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

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Holocaust

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Committee on Racial Discrimination Examines Report of Poland

... Miroslaw Broilo, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations Office at Geneva [said] ... There were numerous memorials in Warsaw ... and cited the celebrations of the 19 April Jewish Ghetto Uprising, which were organized by the Jewish Museum, amongst others. ...

... the delegation said ... Every fifth Polish citizen had lost their lives in the Holocaust, the delegation recalled and said that for Polish people, the Holocaust was not a textbook case. The murders of Jews in Poland during the Second World War were a disaster and many monuments paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. Poland was the first country in the world to declare 2 August as the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day which was commemorated like the Holocaust of the Jews. Furthermore, Poland was one of the few countries in the world where the Holocaust and the extermination of Jews and prosecution of Roma by the Nazi Germany were included in the curriculum and school text books. Such education was obligatory. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24876&LanglD=E>

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Israel

Department for International Trade

Summary of the UK-Israel trade and partnership agreement

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summary-of-the-uk-israel-trade-and-partnership-agreement>

Summary of the UK-Palestinian Authority political, trade and partnership agreement

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summary-of-the-uk-palestinian-authority-political-trade-and-partnership-agreement>

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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>

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/>

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