

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Gaza: Hamas

**Ian Paisley (DUP)** [4317] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of Hamas rule in Gaza on regional stability.

**Andrew Murrison:** The UK remains very concerned about the situation in Gaza and any actions by Hamas which increase instability. We utterly condemn rocket fire by Hamas and other militants in Gaza; Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live in safety and peace. We encourage the Palestinian Authority, Israel, regional and international actors to put forward long-term sustainable proposals, to resolve the threat posed to Israel's security by Hamas, and see the Palestinian Authority's return to government functions in Gaza. This will help to improve the dire humanitarian and economic situation in the region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4317/>

### British Embassy in Tel Aviv and the UK Science & Innovation Network in Israel

#### £2.8 million awarded to fund projects by British and Israeli scientists

The British Council and the British Embassy, Israel, have given the go-ahead to seven, new, three-year bilateral scientific projects in the field of research on ageing. The work will be carried out by top institutions in the UK and Israel.

The projects will be awarded nearly £2.8 million in total from [BIRAX](#), a £10 million programme to support cutting edge UK-Israeli research. ...

British Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Neil Wigan said: I am excited that seven new projects have been selected for the first call of BIRAX Ageing, the latest phase of our flagship science research programme. These cutting-edge research collaborations not only position the UK and Israel at the forefront of ageing research world-wide, but also reaffirm the close connection between British and Israeli academic communities and

establishments. Through these meaningful and sustainable collaborations, we can together tackle universal ongoing challenges. ...

BIRAX was initiated 8 years ago by the British Council, British Embassy in Israel and the UK Science and Innovation Network in collaboration with the Pears Foundation as a founding partner. So far, BIRAX has funded 19 research projects tackling some of the world's most challenging health conditions and diseases by employing pioneering regenerative medicine and stem cell therapies and using the most advanced and cutting-edge technologies. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/28-million-awarded-to-fund-projects-by-british-and-israeli-scientists>

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## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/divorcedissolutionandseparation.html>

#### **Domestic Abuse Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/domesticabuse.html>

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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## **Consultations** \*\* new or updated today

#### **Welsh Government Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-24** (closing date 19 November 2019)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-09/strategic-equality-objectives-2020-2024-consultation.pdf>

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