



Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

**Scottish Labour is currently the only party in Scotland to have published a General Election manifesto.**

### **UK Conservative Party Manifesto**

[https://assets-global.website-files.com/5da42e2cae7ebd3f8bde353c/5dda924905da587992a064ba\\_Conservative%202019%20Manifesto.pdf](https://assets-global.website-files.com/5da42e2cae7ebd3f8bde353c/5dda924905da587992a064ba_Conservative%202019%20Manifesto.pdf)

### **UK Labour Party Manifesto**

<https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Real-Change-Labour-Manifesto-2019.pdf>

### **Scottish Labour Party Manifesto**

<https://scottishlabour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Scottish-Labour-Manifesto-2019.pdf>

### **UK LibDem Party Manifesto**

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/57307/attachments/original/1574267252/Stop\\_Brexit\\_and\\_Build\\_a\\_Brighter\\_Future.pdf?1574267252](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/57307/attachments/original/1574267252/Stop_Brexit_and_Build_a_Brighter_Future.pdf?1574267252)

### **UK Green Party Manifesto**

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Elections/Green%20Party%20Manifesto%202019.pdf>

### **Brexit Party Manifesto**

<https://www.thebrexitparty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Contract-With-The-People.pdf>

### **Plaid Cymru Manifesto**

[https://www.partyof.wales/full\\_manifesto](https://www.partyof.wales/full_manifesto)

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### UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

#### **UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to review Cambodia, Colombia, Ireland, Israel, and Uzbekistan**

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will meet in Geneva from 25 November to 13 December 2019 to review Cambodia, Colombia, Ireland, Israel, and Uzbekistan. The above are among the [182 States parties](#) to the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), and thus are required to undergo regular reviews on how they are implementing the Convention as well as the Committee's previous recommendations. ...

The Committee is scheduled to publish its findings on the respective States, known as concluding observations, on 13 December 2019 ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25337&LangID=E>

### UN Women

#### **The men who are standing tall against early marriages in the Gaza Strip**

When two men arrived at Freeh Abu T'ema's family home in Abasan Alkabeerah, a village located in the south of the Gaza Strip, he didn't know that his life, as well as his daughter's, would change forever.

"My 16-year-old daughter's wedding was approaching," Abu T'ema recalled. ... She was preparing to drop out of school because her then-future husband did not want her to pursue her education. ...

The visitors were Mossa Abu Taema and Wael Abu Ismael, who came to Abu T'ema's home to stop his daughter's marriage. Abasan Alkabeerah is one of the most conservative villages in eastern Khan Younis, a border town in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. Early and child marriages are common here. According to the 2017 census by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, [21 per cent](#) of registered marriages of 2017 in the Gaza Strip involved girls under 18 years of age. ... They had undergone a training delivered by a community-based organization, the Future Brilliant Society, in Khan Younis, as part of UN Women's Regional Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme ... The programme focuses on engaging men and boys as change makers to promote gender equality. ...

Abu T'ema listened closely, and, by the end of the conversation, he was convinced. He called off the wedding and his daughter returned to school the next day. ...

"Many fathers in Khan Younis do not have jobs, so they tend to marry their daughters at an early age to reduce the number of mouths to feed," explained Abu Ismael. "However, rather than reducing the burden, early marriages typically double it. ...

The ambassadors have prevented early marriages in 50 families and counting. ...

"Working with men from the targeted communities to become change-makers themselves has been immensely successful, especially because it engaged respected and influential men to talk to other men in their own communities about the devastating consequences of child marriage, supported by facts and evidence," said Hadeel Abdo, Project Coordinator of the Men and Women for Gender Equality programme at UN Women. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/feature-men-standing-tall-against-early-marriages-in-gaza-strip>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Church of England

#### **Church of England teaching document calls for repentance over role of Christians in centuries of antisemitism**

Christian theology played a part in the stereotyping and persecution of Jewish people which ultimately led to the Holocaust, a new reflection on Christian-Jewish relations issued by the Church of England acknowledges.

The teaching document, entitled *God's Unfailing Word*, is the first authoritative statement on the subject from the Church of England. It speaks of attitudes towards Judaism over many centuries as providing a "fertile seed-bed for murderous antisemitism".

It urges Anglicans and other Christians not only to repent of the "sins of the past" towards their Jewish neighbours but to be alert to and actively challenge such attitudes or stereotypes.

The document, published by the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, encourages Christians to rediscover the relationship of "unique significance" between the two faiths, worshipping one God, with scriptures shared in common.

The Christian-Jewish relationship should be viewed as a "gift of God to the Church" to be received with care, respect and gratitude, it makes clear.

Christians should, therefore, be mindful of the difficult history of the two faiths and apply sensitivity in the use of some passages of scripture and liturgy, hymns and art as well as in sharing their faith with Jewish people and in discussions about Israel.

The document includes an honest and challenging afterword by the Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, in which he speaks of "profound friendship" but also a "substantial misgiving" on the question of evangelism.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, responds in a foreword, describing the Chief Rabbi's reflection as doing Anglicans a "great service" and making clear that Christians sharing their faith must do so with "gentleness and grace" and recognising the "weight of that history".

The Bishop of Coventry, Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Chair of the Faith and Order Commission, said: "Assumptions about Judaism and Jewish people, past and present, colour Christian approaches to preaching, teaching, evangelism, catechesis, worship, devotion and art, whether or not Christian communities are conscious of their Jewish neighbours, near and far; teasing out those assumptions and exploring them theologically is therefore a challenge that pertains to the whole Church.

"That challenge is also, however, a precious opportunity. As the first 'principle' underpinning this report states, we are convinced that 'the Christian-Jewish relationship is a gift of God to the Church, which is to be received with care, respect and gratitude, so that we may learn more fully about God's purposes for us and all the world'."

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-teaching-document-calls-repentance-over-role-christians>

#### **God's Unfailing Word Theological and Practical Perspectives on Christian-Jewish Relations**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/godsunfailingwordweb.pdf>

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

### **Scottish Parliament**

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

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

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

#### **Draft content of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type A Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations** (closing date 11 December 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/human-tissue-regulations-2019/>

#### **\*\* Equality Act 2010: Commencing the socio-economic duty (Welsh Government)**

(closing date 17 January 2020)

<https://gov.wales/equality-act-2010-commencing-socio-economic-duty>

#### **Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 31 January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113449.aspx>

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