



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 Parliament Written Answers

#### IHRA definition of antisemitism

**S5W-26539 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-26373 by Aileen Campbell on 25 November 2019, on what dates and by what methods the (a) Community Security Trust and (b) Scottish Council of Jewish Communities requested that it adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

**Aileen Campbell:** At a meeting on 16 May 2017 SCOJEC and CST agreed that the adoption of the definition by the Scottish Government would be helpful in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26539>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26373>

#### IHRA definition of antisemitism

**S5W-26540 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-26373 by Aileen Campbell on 25 November 2019, whether it will provide the information requested regarding the names of all of the organisations that made informal requests for it to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the Member to the answer to question S5W-26373 on 25 November 2019, S5W-26539 on 12 December 2019, S5W-25837 on 12 November 2019 and S5W-25533 on 8 October 2019. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26540>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26373>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26539>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25837>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25533>

### **Meetings with the Community Security Trust**

**S5W-26541 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government on how many occasions in each of the last five years it has met the Community Security Trust, and what issues were discussed.

**Aileen Campbell:** Officials from our Connected Communities team met with the Community Security Trust twice in 2017; once in 2018; and twice in 2019. Our most recent meeting was on 7 November 2019. On each occasion a range of matters related to tackling hate crime and building connected communities were discussed. We are unable to provide details of all of wider Scottish Government's engagements with the Community Security Trust or specific details of all that has been discussed with this organisation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26541>

### **Meetings with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**

**S5W-26542 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government on how many occasions in each of the last five years it has met the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, and what issues were discussed.

**Aileen Campbell:** The First Minister met with SCOJEC in June 2015 and August 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment met them in November 2015. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities met with the organisation in November 2016 and August 2017. Officials from our Connected Communities team also met with SCOJEC twice in 2017; once in 2018; and twice in 2019. Our most recent meeting was on 7 November 2019. On each occasion a range of matters related to tackling hate crime and building connected communities were discussed. We are unable to provide details of all of wider Scottish Government's engagements with SCOJEC or specific details of all that has been discussed with this organisation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-26542>

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## **Israel**

### **United Nations**

#### **Decolonization, Middle East Matters in Focus as General Assembly Adopts 38 Draft Resolutions, Decisions upon Recommendation of Fourth Committee**

... The Assembly ... began by adopting ... a draft resolution titled "Assistance to Palestine refugees" ... By that text, the General Assembly decides to extend UNRWA's mandate

until 30 June 2023 ... expresses concern about the negative implications of the Agency's severe financial crisis and regarding the difficult situation of Palestine refugees under occupation, underlining the importance of assistance and the urgent need for reconstruction. ...

... the Assembly then adopted the draft "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities" ... By the terms of that text, the Assembly reaffirms the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence. ...

The Assembly then [adopted] a draft titled "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" ... By that text, the Assembly expresses deep concern about UNRWA's critical financial situation ...

The Assembly went on to adopt a draft titled "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues" ... By that text, the Assembly requests that the Secretary-General take all appropriate steps to protect Arab properties, assets and property rights in Israel. ... Moreover, the Assembly urges both the Palestinian and Israeli sides to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of final-status peace negotiations.

The Assembly then [narrowly adopted] a report on Israel's practices in occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories ... "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories" ...

By that text, the Assembly demands that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee and requests that the latter continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially its violations of the Geneva Convention. Moreover, it requests that the Special Committee continue to investigate the treatment and status of thousands of prisoners and detainees — including children, women and elected representatives — held in Israeli prisons and detention centres within the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Further, the Assembly requests that the Secretary-General provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Assembly went on to adopt the draft resolution "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan" ... According to that text, the Assembly condemns Israel's settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It also deplores, by other terms, Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan, which aims to connect illegal settlements and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem. The Assembly further deplores plans to demolish the Palestinian village of Khan al-Ahmar, in contravention of international law, which would have serious consequences in terms of the displacement of village residents and severely threaten the viability of a two-State solution, given that area's sensitive location.

Further by that text, the Assembly condemns Israel's demolition of Palestinian buildings in the neighbourhood of Wadi al-Hummus, in the village of Sur Bahir, south of occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, it reiterates its demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, calling in that regard for full implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

[The Assembly adopted] a draft titled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" ...

By that resolution, the Assembly urges the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem. It also condemns all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and especially any use of force by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, in

violation of international law. In particular, the Assembly condemns violence in the Gaza Strip, including against journalists, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel. It also demands that Israel cease all measures contravening international law, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The Assembly went on to adopt the draft "The occupied Syrian Golan" ... By that text the General Assembly calls upon Israel to comply with the relevant resolutions and to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and in particular to desist from establishing settlements. Further, the Assembly calls upon Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and identity cards upon Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12228.doc.htm>

### **Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/C.4/74/L.12)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.12>

### **Assistance to Palestine refugees (A/C.4/74/L.10)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.10>

### **Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/74/410)**

<https://undocs.org/A/74/410>

### **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/74/409)**

<https://undocs.org/A/74/409>

### **Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities (A/C.4/74/L.11)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.11>

### **Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues (A/C.4/74/L.13)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.13>

### **Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.4/74/L.15)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.15>

### **Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/C.4/74/L.16)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.16>

### **Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/C.4/74/L.14)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.14>

### **The occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.4/74/L.17)**

<https://undocs.org/A/C.4/74/L.17>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination publishes findings on Cambodia, Colombia, Ireland, Israel and Uzbekistan

... The above countries are among the [182 States parties](#) to the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), and are required to undergo regular reviews by the Committee of [18 independent international experts](#). The findings, officially termed concluding observations, contain positive aspects of the respective State's implementation of the Convention, as well as main matters of concern and recommendations. ...

**Israel:** The Committee is worried about existing discriminatory legislation, the segregation of Israeli society into Jewish and non-Jewish sectors, and the tide of racist public hate speech targeting Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinians residing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and migrants and asylum-seekers of African origin. It also raised questions about the recently adopted *Basic Law Israel – the National State of the Jewish people*, which it found particularly concerning due to its discriminatory effect on minority groups. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25429&LanglD=E>

### Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention Seventeenth to nineteenth periodic reports of States parties due in 2016: Israel

<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsoedJ0JgbAvx1268MgR6ZECupUOuvbocVrIEC1V3EYwChfzHjgM0RfB5eoVyscVqzhKLdBASmNyL7V30108qpG75be1eDGDYAyTo10Ct%2b>

### State of Israel Ministry of Justice: Annex No. I - Attached to the 17-19<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report by the State of Israel before The Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/ISR/INT\\_CERD\\_ADR\\_ISR\\_26778\\_E.docx](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/ISR/INT_CERD_ADR_ISR_26778_E.docx)

### State of Israel Ministry of Justice: Annex No. II - Attached to the 17-19<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report by the State of Israel before The Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/ISR/INT\\_CERD\\_ADR\\_ISR\\_26779\\_E.docx](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/ISR/INT_CERD_ADR_ISR_26779_E.docx)

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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

### **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