



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Islam

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [81894] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to tackle (a) Islamophobia and (b) the number of Islamophobic incidents.

Luke Hall: This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of hate crime. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practising their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to Islamophobia.

We have continued to work closely with Muslim communities, to tackle hate against them, including underlying issues and trends, and continue supporting the work of the cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group which provides valuable advice to Government on challenges faced by Britain's Muslim communities and how to address those challenges. We have also supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8 million between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81894>

Schools: Discrimination

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [81896] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism and Islamophobia in (a) schools and (b) among young people.

Nick Gibb: The Department wants to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe, and equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. That is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory for primary school age pupils, Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for secondary school age pupils and Health Education compulsory for pupils in all state funded schools. The statutory duty to implement the new subjects has now come into force. However, considering the circumstances faced by our schools, the Department is reassuring schools that they have flexibility over when they discharge their duty within the first year of compulsory teaching.

The statutory guidance sets out that as part of Relationships Education, all primary aged pupils will be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. Pupils will also be taught what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.

Schools can also teach about racism and religion in personal, social, health and economic education and citizenship education where pupils can develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect and understanding. All state funded schools are required by legislation or by their funding agreements to teach religious education to all registered pupils aged 5 to 18 years. Teaching religious education is also part of schools' activity to meet their legal duty to promote young people's spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy as well as the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faith and beliefs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81896>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf

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House of Commons Oral Answer

Topical Questions: International Trade

Afzal Khan (Labour): As we speak, Palestinian communities remain at risk of forcible transfer as a result of Israeli annexation. The UK prohibited all trade from Crimea after Russia's illegal occupation and annexation in 2014, and we should follow that precedent when it comes to illegal settlements. Has the International Trade Secretary had discussions with her Israeli counterpart over the illegal annexation, and will she reconsider UK trade deals with settlement territories? [905404]

Elizabeth Truss: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was recently in Israel talking about our close relationship with that important ally.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-03/debates/DDE741DF-A89C-49A0-BAD6-6901B6A7890F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-CD8FF57D-7829-434D-9473-E8CC15EBF03E>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Readout of PM & Foreign Secretary meeting with Jared Kushner

A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said: The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary met with US Senior Advisor to the President, Jared Kushner, to discuss the Middle East Peace Process following Mr Kushner's recent visit to the region. They welcomed the historic Israel-UAE normalisation deal, and discussed wider US efforts to facilitate the normalisation of ties between Israel and Arab States.

The Foreign Secretary updated Mr Kushner on his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied

Palestinian Territories, and his encouragement of a return to cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, as a first step on the road to a renewed Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary were clear about their commitment to a

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/readout-of-pm-foreign-secretary-meeting-with-jared-kushner>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2592>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

Genocide Determination Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2584>

Scottish Parliament

**** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2020/9/3/Hate-Crime-and-Public-Order--Scotland--Bill/SB%2020-54.pdf>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law (closing date 3 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/#weddings-consultation-paper>

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