



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Foreign Affairs

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Coronavirus

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [46777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps is taking to support different ethnic and religious communities in the UK who are being targeted with online abuse and hate speech due to the covid-19 outbreak.

Victoria Atkins: The Home Office are working closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), civil society partners and social media platforms to encourage victim reporting of online hate crime during the pandemic. We are also working with the NPCC to ensure that all police forces are providing reassurance to affected communities.

Government continues to work with communities around the country and the police to ensure people of all backgrounds have access to the latest information and are supported through this period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46777/>

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Bambos Chalambous (Labour) [46780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's News story of 19 March 2019 entitled Places of worship to get security funding boost, how much of her Department's £5 million fund to provide security training for places of worship has been awarded; and how much of that funding has been awarded to each organisation.

Kit Malthouse: The Home Office is working with policing and faith representatives to understand the training needs of places of worship and how these are best met. This is to ensure the training made available is suitable and effective for faith institutions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46780/>

The news story referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

Coroners

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [46617] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what additional resources her Department has allocated to coroners to help them to release bodies to next of kin in a timely manner to comply with religious orthodoxy.

Alex Chalk: Coroners services are funded by local authorities. Councils can support their local coronial services using the £1.6bn of funding announced by Government on 18 April, which was made available to support local authorities with costs of responding to Covid-19, including the costs of death management.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46617/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-extra-16-billion-for-councils>

TOP

Israel

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4230] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that settlers are building a road on Palestinian land near Dura in the West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not made representations on these reports, we continue to oppose settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Our policy is clear: settlements are illegal under international law and damaging to renewed efforts to launch peace negotiations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4230/>

Israeli Settlements

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4231] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the viability of a one-state solution if the government of Israel annexes parts of the West Bank, (2) the potential for equal rights of Israelis and Palestinians within any annexed areas, and (3) the impact of any such annexation.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April, we are deeply concerned by reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law. The Government judges that a one-state solution is incompatible with the national aspirations of both peoples and remains committed to a two-state solution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4231/>

TOP

Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Hezbollah: Foreign Relations

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [47215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the accuracy of reports that Hezbollah's Foreign Relations Department is raising funds and operating within the EU.

James Brokenshire: We do not provide comment on our intelligence assessment of terrorist organisations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47215/>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Assisted Dying Bill

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

Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill

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

Education (Assemblies) Bill

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

Genocide Determination Bill

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

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

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

Scottish Parliament

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

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

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations ** new or updated today

Protecting places of worship (closing date 28 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protecting-places-of-worship-consultation>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

Legislative proposals for religion, values and ethics [Wales] (closing date 28 July 2020)

<https://gov.wales/legislative-proposals-religion-values-and-ethics>

[TOP](#)

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