



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Hamas: Proscribed Organisations**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [48298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of a potential increase in the activity of Hamas in the UK as a result of the economic downturn during the covid-19 outbreak.

#### **Hezbollah: Proscribed Organisations**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [48299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of a potential increase in the activity of Hezbollah in the UK as a result of the economic downturn during the covid-19 outbreak.

**James Brokenshire:** We do not comment on intelligence matters.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48298/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48299/>

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Minority Groups: Coronavirus**

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns (Conservative)** [HL4377] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support refugees and marginalised religious and belief communities which have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government works to ensure that all aid reaches the most vulnerable, including refugees and those from marginalised religious and belief communities. Vulnerable populations will experience COVID-19 outbreaks differently. COVID-19 is likely to reinforce their marginalised position in society, their experience of discrimination, violence and stigma, and further limit their access to essential support and services. For this reason, guidance has been circulated across DFID highlighting that inclusion must be central to our response

and that the specific needs of refugees and all marginalised religious communities should be taken into account when developing practical programmes to tackle COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-13/HL4377/>

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## Israel

**See also the House of Commons written answers “ *Hamas: Proscribed Organisations*” and “ *Hezbollah: Proscribed Organisations*” included in the Home Affairs section above.**

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Israeli Settlements

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [48599]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the proposed annexation of the West Bank for (a) peace in Israel and the Middle East and (b) the future of a two-state solution.

**James Cleverly:** As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 20 May, we are 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 UK is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We will continue to press Israel and the Palestinians strongly on the need to refrain from taking actions which make peace more difficult.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48599/>

### House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4226]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to decide whether to investigate incidents of Israeli settler violence or incidents involving Israeli forces causing injury, death or other harm to Palestinians in the West Bank.

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL4227]** To ask Her Majesty's Government from which sources they obtain reports of Israeli settler violence or incidents involving Israeli forces causing injury, death or other harm to Palestinians in the West Bank.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** States have the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes within their national jurisdictions, including territory a state has occupied. The UK does not have jurisdiction to do so directly. We monitor events using a wide variety of sources of information, including from local and international NGOs, UN agencies, the Palestinian Authority and official Israeli data. We condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We urge the Israeli authorities to thoroughly investigate every instance to bring those

responsible to justice and end the culture of impunity. We have also stressed to them the importance of the Israel security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4226/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4227/>

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## **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>

#### **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

**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>

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