



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs
Israel

Relevant Legislation
Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Oral Answers

Weddings Sector: Covid-19

Laura Farris (Conservative): What steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to support the wedding sector during the covid-19 outbreak. [903164]

Chris Green (Conservative): What plans he has to reopen places of worship as the covid-19 restrictions are eased. [903177]

Tim Loughton (Conservative): What plans he has to reopen places of worship as the covid-19 restrictions are eased. [903185]

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Robert Jenrick): As Communities Secretary, ensuring that places of worship can open has been one of my priorities. Their contribution to the common good of our country as places of solace, inspiration and provision for the most vulnerable in our society is clear. I am pleased that they can now open for individual prayer. I have worked with faith leaders and representatives to ensure that this can be done safely, including publishing guidance last week and working with the places of worship taskforce, which I established last month. I am told that the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Nichols went this morning to Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral respectively, and I look forward to working with them and others to ensure a broader reopening of places of worship.

Laura Farris: ... We welcome the Government's proposal to set up a taskforce looking at safe weddings, but there are couples in my constituency who are desperate to let their friends and family know whether their weddings can go ahead this summer. Can my right hon. Friend say when a date will be announced for summer weddings?

Robert Jenrick: ... there is a significant effort across Government to allow people to hold weddings—in particular, small ones with appropriate social distancing—as soon as we can, but this must be done safely. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and I are working with faith leaders on this issue ...

Chris Green: Does my right hon. Friend agree that reopening churches and other places of worship is an incredibly important step in the right direction for our spiritual welfare across the country and symbolises the direction of travel, with the country returning to normality?

Robert Jenrick: I fully agree with my hon. Friend. People of faith have shown enormous patience and forbearance in recent weeks, unable to mark Easter, Passover, Vaisakhi and Ramadan with their family, friends and community in the traditional way. As we control the virus, we are able to move forward, and as we reopen our economy, it is right that the importance of faith and places of worship is recognised.

Tim Loughton: I had an interesting Zoom call with my constituency clergy last week, and they are confused. One vicar said to me, “So is it right that I can invite five members of my congregation to the church grounds for a barbecue and some beers, but if we start saying prayers, we’ll get busted?” I suggested that he could advertise his services as a barbecue with a very long grace. We need much clearer guidance if we are to get our churches properly and fully back into use as soon as possible. Frankly, they should never have been put out of use in the first place.

Robert Jenrick: I am grateful for my hon. Friend’s important question. We published guidance last week for places of worship before they reopened for individual prayer. I am grateful to all the volunteers across the country who have worked hard to clean and prepare those places of worship over the last few days. The guidance was worked through by faith leaders in our taskforce. Places of worship can open for funerals, and Public Health England has previously published guidance on how to manage funerals safely. As I said, I very much hope that we can set a date for weddings soon.

Janet Daby (Labour): The Secretary of State has announced the reopening of places of worship for individual prayer despite some faiths only practising communal prayer in their place of worship. This separation has caused confusion, which turned to chaos when the Government only published the nine-page guidance on Friday. Why did the Government not provide clear and timely guidance to all places of worship, regardless of their method of prayer?

Robert Jenrick: ... We have worked for several weeks with leaders across all the faiths on our taskforce to produce guidance that is applicable to all faiths and then to support individual faiths in translating that into the particular practices of their faith. I appreciate and am conscious of the fact that the first step in this process—individual prayer—is much less relevant to some faith than others. In particular, it has limited applicability to Muslims and Jews in our communities, but I hope that they will see this as the logical first step towards a much broader reopening soon.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-15/debates/CC2FB3BB-DB37-4CCF-931F-DEFB5E17F0DF/WeddingsSectorCovid-19>

House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Naz Shah (Labour) [57233] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to maintain the programmes linked to the Hate Crime Action Plan beyond 2020.

Luke Hall: The Government is committed to preventing and tackling hate crime and with the participation of our civil society partners we are considering a range of options to tackle hate crime beyond the current action plan. In the interim we have ensured that key hate crime projects remain funded and we have launched a competitive grant scheme for 2020-21 to support projects related to our hate crime objectives with funds worth up to £2 million.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57233/>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Racial Discrimination

Naz Shah (Labour) [57235] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding his Department allocates from the public purse to tackling racism each year; and what proportion of his Department's resources has been allocated to race equality in 2019-2020.

Luke Hall: All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable and tackling racially motivated hate crime remains a priority for this government.

MHCLG paid approximately £219,00 to projects specifically to target racism in the financial year 19/20. These include Show Racism the Red Card and the Anne Frank Trust who work with young people across the country to challenge prejudice and discrimination. We are also supporting Kick It Out to tackle racism in sport and have confirmed funding for the Kingston Race Equality Council to improve support for victims of racially motivated hatred nationally.

In addition to this, 2019 saw the first provision of an annual £500,000 grant to support Windrush Day celebrations. This annual grant will be providing £500,000 to a further 49 projects this year. Government has also committed to spending a total of £1 million on the Windrush monument, which will be placed in London Waterloo Station.

We are committed to continue promoting shared values among people of all backgrounds through sustainable social integration and meaningful civic participation, whilst tackling and preventing religiously and racially discriminatory behaviour. To support this, we have launched a competitive grant scheme for 2020-21 to support projects in this space, with a budget of up to £2 million.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57235/>

Schools: Community Relations

Naz Shah (Labour) [57232] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the recommendations made in the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper published by his Department on 14 March 2018 on social mixing for children from different backgrounds, what steps he is taking to improve social mixing between pupils of different ethnicities in schools in line with those recommendations.

Luke Hall: We set out an ambitious programme of actions in our Integrated Communities Action Plan to support the education sector to drive forward integration, as part of a cross-government commitment to building strong integrated communities.

We recognise the important role that young people play in this agenda and the significance of forging meaningful connections and relationships with people from different backgrounds. As part of this, we committed to working with the National Citizen Service Trust and DCMS to support social mixing opportunities for young people in areas of high segregation. We are also continuing to work with DfE to support the National Schools Linking Programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57232/>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf

Integrated Communities Innovation Fund

Naz Shah (Labour) [57234] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he has plans to extend the Integrated Communities Innovation Fund beyond 2020.

Luke Hall: We know that the causes of poor integration are complex and we have to admit that it will take generational change to truly deliver the well-integrated communities that we want to see. But first we need to know what works.

The Integrated Communities Innovation Fund (2019/20) supported 16 projects to test innovative approaches to integration and generate important learning on how to bridge divides and bring communities together.

The purpose of the Innovation Fund was to trial new approaches and address this evidence gap. In order to understand which interventions have been effective, we now need to review the findings. A national evaluator will compile this evidence, which will be shared widely and used to inform future policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57234/>

House of Lords Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Baroness Mone (Conservative) [HL5044] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with faith leaders about piloting the opening of places of worship in advance of step 3 of their plan to lift restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic being in place.

Baroness Mone (Conservative) [HL5045] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with faith leaders about the provision of all services and events in places of worship once those places are reopened.

Baroness Mone (Conservative) [HL5046] To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the publication of Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy on 11 May, what discussions they have had with faith leaders about the number of people who will be permitted to gather in places of worship for services and events.

Lord Greenhalgh: Following publication on 11 May of "Our Plan to Rebuild", which outlined the steps we would be taking to ease the lockdown restrictions, the Government launched a Places of Worship Taskforce to look at how places of worship can reopen and operate safely. The Secretary of State and I have held a series of meetings with the Taskforce as well as holding faith-specific roundtables to hear the views of our faith leaders on how our places of worship can reopen. This is to ensure that those who visit and those who work there are protected as far as possible. The Government is working with the Taskforce as we develop guidance for our faith communities on the safe reopening of our places of worship. This will include guidance on individual prayer, and services and ceremonies such as weddings. This will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5044/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5045/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5046/>

“Our Plan to Rebuild”, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [55108] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what scientific advice he has received on the safe reopening of places of worship, and if he will publish that advice.

Luke Hall: The Government is working to publish evidence documents and studies, including from Public Health England, which have formed the basis of SAGE’s discussions and advice to Ministers, regularly, and will publish more evidence in the coming weeks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55108/>

Home Office

Places of Worship Protective Security Fund open for applications

The Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, now in its 5th year, allows places of worship such as churches, mosques, gurdwaras, temples and associated faith community centres to receive government funding to improve physical security. This can include more secure gates, locks, alarms and CCTV in order to deter and prevent hate crime attacks. ...

Minister for Countering Extremism, Baroness Williams said: During this global pandemic, personal faith has been a source of comfort and strength for many.

I would urge all places of worship who feel they are vulnerable to hate crime to apply for the fund, and as a government we will do all we can to make your congregations feel safe and protected.

Groups have until 9 August to make an application. ...

In addition to the Places of Worship Scheme, the Home Office [opened a consultation on 15 March](#) to review what else can be done to protect faith institutions, while ensuring a balance is struck between worshipping openly without fear and providing adequate security measures to protect worshippers. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-protective-security-fund-open-for-applications>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Overseas Trade: Israel

James Murray (Labour Co-op) [56192] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether compliance with the technical arrangements of the EU-Israel Association Agreement is replicated in the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement which will enter into force at the end of the transition period.

Ranil Jayawardena: All committee decisions made within the framework of the European Union-Israel Association Agreement were carried across into the United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement, which will enter into force after the end of the Transition Period on 1st January 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56192/>

The Trade and Partnership Agreement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781440/CS_Israel_1.2019_Trade.pdf

The following six questions all received the same answer

Occupied Territories: Coronavirus

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [57226] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent steps her Department has taken to help support the Occupied Palestinian Territories' response to the covid-19 pandemic.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [57229] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent steps her Department has taken to help prevent the spread of covid-19 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [57195] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to support the covid-19 response in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Gaza: Health Services

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [57227] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the capacity of Gaza's health system to respond effectively to the covid-19 pandemic.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [57341] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department has taken to support (a) healthcare services and (b) disease prevention in Gaza since the covid-19 outbreak.

Gaza: Coronavirus

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [57228] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the availability of (a) testing kits, (b) personal protective equipment and (c) hygiene supplies necessary to contain the covid-19 pandemic in Gaza.

James Cleverly: The UN assesses that although the current number of detected cases remains relatively low in Gaza and the West Bank, the capacity of the Palestinian health system to cope with an increase in COVID-19 cases is poor, including the low availability of PPE and ventilators. The situation is particularly severe in Gaza, where the health system has shortages in specialised staff, drugs and equipment.

The UK has pledged £764 million to support the global humanitarian response to COVID-19. We have delivered additional vital support in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by providing funding to the World Health Organization and UNICEF to purchase and co-ordinate the delivery of medical equipment, treat critical care patients, train frontline public health personnel and scale up laboratory testing capacity. I also recently announced £20 million in new funding, which will help the Palestinian Authority support its health workers who have been on the frontline battling coronavirus.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57226/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57229/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57195/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57227/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57341/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57228/>

Israel: Palestinians

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [55144] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the Middle East peace process.

James Cleverly: We continue to work closely with international partners strongly advocating a two state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations between both parties. I have continued to encourage the Palestinians to offer their own detailed proposals for a settlement, and to find a means of restarting discussions with the US. I did so with Palestinian Prime Minister Shtayyeh on 3 May and in a virtual meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee with Israel, the Palestinians, and the international community on 2 June. As well as, most recently, on 4 June when I met with Shtayyeh and Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki during my virtual visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Foreign Secretary discussed the Middle East peace process and our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during calls with Alternate Israeli Prime Minister Gantz on 20 May, Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry on 21 May, Jordanian Foreign Minister Safadi on 28 May and Israeli Foreign Minister Ashkenazi on 2 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55144/>

British Consulate-General Jerusalem

New COVID-19 funding to assist the vulnerable elderly in the OPTs

The British Consulate in Jerusalem ... has a small amount of programme funding to support an NGO in providing assistance to vulnerable elderly people in the OPTs. ... Proposals should focus on providing targeted support for the most vulnerable elderly people in the Palestinian society. This may include strengthening support systems in elderly care, providing psychosocial support to older persons who have experienced loss or giving assistance to promote and safeguard elderly caregivers, volunteers or community leaders. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-covid-19-funding-to-assist-the-vulnerable-elderly--2>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Israeli annexation of parts of the Palestinian West Bank would break international law – UN experts call on the international community to ensure accountability
... *Forty-seven of the independent Special Procedures mandates appointed by the Human Rights Council issued the following statement:*

“The annexation of occupied territory is a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions, and contrary to the fundamental rule affirmed many times by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly that the acquisition of territory by war or force is inadmissible. The international community has prohibited annexation precisely because it incites wars, economic devastation, political instability, systematic human rights abuses and widespread human suffering.

Israel’s stated plans for annexation would extend sovereignty over most of the Jordan Valley and all of the more than 235 illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. This would amount to approximately 30 percent of the West Bank. ...

The United Nations has stated on many occasions that the 53-year-old Israeli occupation is the source of profound human rights violations against the Palestinian people. These violations include land confiscation, settler violence, discriminatory planning laws, the confiscation of natural resources, home demolitions, forcible population transfer, excessive use of force and torture, labour exploitation, extensive infringements of privacy rights, restrictions on the media and freedom of expression, the targeting of women activists and journalists, the detention of children, poisoning by exposure to toxic wastes, forced evictions and displacement, economic deprivation and extreme poverty, arbitrary detention, lack of freedom of movement, food insecurity, discriminatory law enforcement and the imposition of a two-tier system of disparate political, legal, social, cultural and economic rights based on ethnicity and nationality. Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders, who peacefully bring public attention to these violations, are slandered, criminalised or labeled as terrorists. Above all, the Israeli occupation has meant the denial of the right of Palestinian self-determination.

These human rights violations would only intensify after annexation. What would be left of the West Bank would be a Palestinian Bantustan, islands of disconnected land completely surrounded by Israel and with no territorial connection to the outside world. Israel has recently promised that it will maintain permanent security control between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. Thus, the morning after annexation would be the crystallisation of an already unjust reality: two peoples living in the same space, ruled by the same state, but with profoundly unequal rights. This is a vision of a 21st century apartheid.

Twice before, Israel has annexed occupied land – East Jerusalem in 1980 and the Syrian Golan Heights in 1981. On both occasions, the UN Security Council immediately condemned the annexations as unlawful but took no meaningful countermeasures to oppose Israel’s actions.

Similarly, the Security Council has repeatedly criticised the Israeli settlements as a flagrant violation under international law. Yet, Israel’s defiance of these resolutions and its ongoing entrenchment of the settlements has gone unanswered by the international community.

This time must be different. The international community has solemn legal and political responsibilities to defend a rules-based international order, to oppose violations of human rights and fundamental principles of international law and to give effect to its many resolutions critical of Israel’s conduct of this protracted occupation. In particular, states have a duty not to recognise, aid or assist another state in any form of illegal activity, such as annexation or the creation of civilian settlements in occupied territory. The lessons from the past are clear: Criticism without consequences will neither forestall annexation nor end the occupation.

Accountability and an end to impunity must become an immediate priority for the

international community. Available to it is a broad menu of accountability measures that have been widely and successfully applied by the UN Security Council in other international crises over the past 60 years. The accountability measures that are selected must be taken in full conformity with international law, be proportionate, effective, subject to regular review, consistent with human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and designed to undo the annexations and bring the occupation and the conflict to a just and durable conclusion. Palestinians and Israelis deserve no less. ...”

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25960&LangID=E>

Human Rights Council begins General Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories

... Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented four reports [see below] ... concerning the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories [including] an overview of recurring violations of international humanitarian law by Israel as well as by Palestinian armed groups; and violations of international human rights law by all three duty-bearers, namely Israel, the State of Palestine and the de facto authorities in Gaza ... [and] settlement expansion in the West Bank ...

... Ms. Bachelet stated that they showed the persistence of human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan. She expressed serious concern regarding the excessive force used by Israeli Security Forces and the heavy burden placed on the already impoverished community and overstretched health facilities and social services in Gaza. She concluded by emphasizing the concern regarding the shrinking space for civil society throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

Israel was not present in the room to take the floor as a concerned country.

State of Palestine ... was pleased that the report on the database of companies had been presented, despite the delay, and despite the fact that many companies operating in the occupied Palestinian territories were not on the list, which must be updated on an annual basis. Israel had intensified its attacks against civilians and prohibited members of the media from reporting on attacks on Palestinians. Large-scale arrest campaigns were still underway. Over 5,000 Palestinians were still in prison, including children. The occupying power was continuing its efforts to change the status of East Jerusalem and to take action on Al Aqsa mosque and other religious sites. Mr. Netanyahu had stated that settlements would continue. ...

Syria ... recalled that since the first day of the occupation of Palestine and the Syrian Golan, the occupying power had destructed villages and forced the inhabitants to leave. It had also stolen the natural resources of these areas. The international community had repeatedly called on Israel to fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, notably through several Security Council resolutions that called on this country to backtrack from the occupation. For more than 50 years, the occupation had continued, disregarding the United Nations Charter and the various United Nations resolutions. The support of the United States to Israel had accelerated the occupation policies ... Syria also condemned the practice of demolishing houses to compel residents to move, as well as the practice of forcing residents of the occupied Syrian Golan to register their properties in Israel, a policy that violated their right to property. ...

A number of speakers urged the international community to exert pressure on Israel in view of its violations of international law in the occupied Palestinian territories, condemning Israel's use of force against Palestinian protesters, women and children, including the use of live ammunition. Many speakers recognized the two-State solution based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine as the best roadmap for solving this crisis. Speakers welcomed the publishing of the database of businesses working in Israeli settlements and expressed the hope that it would be updated annually. ... The

deterioration of the situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic was noted by speakers, some of whom condemned Israel's attempts at using it to further expand its illegal settlements. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25961&LangID=E>

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

<https://undocs.org/en/a/hrc/43/67>

Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

<https://undocs.org/en/a/hrc/43/71>

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

<https://undocs.org/en/a/hrc/43/69>

Implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1

<https://undocs.org/en/a/hrc/43/70>

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>

Equality and Human Rights Committee consideration of the Bill at Stage 2

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12691&i=114819#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/civil-partnership-scotland-bill/stage-2/civil-partnership-scotland-bill-as-amended-at-stage-2.pdf>

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>

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