



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Debate

Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism

col 1630 **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster):** ... The threat we face from terrorism remains significant, but, as assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service and national lead for counter-terrorism policing Neil Basu has said, right-wing terrorism is the fastest-growing terror threat in the United Kingdom. We can never entirely eliminate the threat from terrorism, but the Government are determined to do all we can to minimise the danger it poses and keep the public safe.

The nature of terrorism is constantly evolving. There are organisations that recruit, radicalise, promote and encourage terrorism, as well as those that actually commit terrible acts of violence against innocent people with the aim of undermining our democracy. Proscription is therefore an important part of the Government's strategy to disrupt the full range of terrorist activities.

The group that we propose to add to the list of terrorist organisations, amending schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000, is Feuerkrieg Division, or FKD ... a white supremacist group whose ideology stands in direct contrast to the core values of our United Kingdom. Its actions, which seek to divide communities, stir up hatred and glorify violence, are reminders of the darkest times in Europe. Proscribing this group will prevent its membership from growing and help to stop the spread of propaganda that allows a culture of hatred and division to thrive. It will also help to prevent FKD from radicalising people who may be vulnerable to extreme ideologies and at risk of emulating the terrorist acts that they glorify. ...

col 1631 The group celebrates the concepts promoted in a collection of essays that advocate the use of violence and mass murder in pursuit of an apocalyptic race war. While the bulk of FKD's activity is online, members have engaged in distributing violent, racist and antisemitic propaganda. In mid-2019, the group reportedly called for the deaths of a European Parliament politician and YouTube's chief executive officer.

FKD's members have been arrested on terrorism charges both in the UK and overseas. In 2019, US authorities charged several individuals with a variety of offences, including weapons charges, plotting to bomb a synagogue and attack members of the LGBTQ

community, plotting to bomb a major news network, and distributing information related to explosives and weapons of mass destruction. In September 2019, UK police apprehended a 16-year-old on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism. ... In October 2019, a 21-year-old appeared in court in London charged with terror offences relating to his purported support for FKD. He allegedly encouraged the mass murder of members of the Jewish and LGBTQ communities. ...

col 1632 **Conor McGinn (Labour):** ... we welcome this proscription order before the House today, which will provide clarity and direction in respect of this organisation and its members. It also sends a strong and unambiguous message that condoning or glorifying acts of terrorism will never be tolerated. ...

We know that the authorities in the UK and the United States have apprehended FKD members on terrorism charges, such as for planning heinous atrocities, including the targeted attacks against synagogues and members of the Jewish and LGBT communities, threatening senior UK police officers and disseminating information about explosives and weapons of mass destruction. We must do everything we can to tackle such repulsive manifestations of extremism and terrorism. ...

col 1633 Today's order also reflects the concerning fact that the menace of far-right extremism and terrorism, of which FKD is an expression, is growing at an alarming rate on UK streets and on those of other countries across the globe. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... The Scottish National party abhors all forms of terrorism and we consider it very important that this Parliament is alive to the risks posed by the far right and white supremacists. ...

On the basis of what the Government have said, the SNP is satisfied that the statutory test for proscription is met and that the Home Secretary in this instance is doing the right thing in the exercise of her discretion. ...

col 1634 **Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op):** ... While this order is welcome, the description that the Minister gave of antisemitism, racism and encouragement of attacks on minority groups, our police and public figures, as well as the use of the online world to groom and radicalise individuals into these organisations, are an all-too-familiar tale. ...

I urge the Minister to look carefully at groups that are using similar tactics or ideologies, or that pose a similar clear and present danger to the citizens of this country, and indeed globally. ...

The Order of Nine Angles is a Nazi satanist group that is deeply antisemitic and advocates the use of sexual violence and murder. It was founded by an individual who spent 50 years in satanism and in organisations such as the British Movement, Column 88, Combat 18, and the National Socialist Movement. ...

Such groups present a clear and present danger. ...

col 1635 The online world is a key factor in the way that these organisations groom, organise and spread their vile ideology. It is therefore deeply concerning to have heard in the last few weeks of potential further delays to the online harms Bill. ... Every week it is easy to find information relating to these extreme organisations and their ideology. They are not hiding—they are active in plain sight, encouraging people down a dark, despicable well of hatred and on to other platforms where there are direct encouragements to murder, rape and attack minority groups and public figures. ...

While I welcome the order, there is a clear case for proscribing a number of other organisations, including the Order of Nine Angles, for the Government to move much faster on this and for tackling the way that these organisations operate online. ...

col 1636 **Stephanie Peacock (Labour):** ... For proscription measures to have the maximum possible impact, they cannot become an end in themselves. Banning an organisation should be the start of the enforcement process. When National Action was banned in 2016, not enough was done to track the activity of those involved in the National Action network. As recent events have shown, including the charging of a police officer,

National Action still had a presence in this country after it was formally prohibited. Today's ban must mark the beginning of new police efforts to track FDK members and their activities. ...

While this proposed ban is welcome, I firmly believe that another neo-Nazi organisation already mentioned more than once in the debate—the Order of Nine Angles—represents a greater threat to UK citizens. As parliamentary chair of HOPE not Hate, an anti-fascist campaign group, I co-ordinated a letter from a group of cross-party MPs to the Home Secretary. We called for the organisation to be banned. HOPE not Hate has provided a clear case for the proscription of the O9A. It is active today. Its members make use of largely unmonitored, encrypted social media platforms to incite hatred and inspire people to commit acts of terror. ...

Using social media channels such as Telegram, it radicalises vulnerable people, promoting neo-Nazi, antisemitic, Satanist beliefs and glorifying unspeakable acts of terror. ...

col 1637 Kevin Foster: ... As has rightly been pointed out, proscription is just part of the process and, sadly, does not in itself eliminate these types of group and their activities. It is important that we, the police and the intelligence agencies—and the courts, when people come before them—work to ensure that appropriate action is taken, and that the cases are considered fairly under a type of justice that, sadly, they do not believe in themselves. We, as a values-based democracy, must ensure that they receive a fair trial. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-15/debates/0469211F-5E9C-40FE-998E-CDB0B7FB1945/PreventionAndSuppressionOfTerrorism>

Downing Street

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

The Government has today announced the membership of its Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities.

The Commission will be chaired by Dr Tony Sewell, an international education consultant who is Head of Generating Genius, a ground-breaking charity which works to ensure that talented students from disadvantaged and diverse ethnic backgrounds are positioned to excel in STEM careers. ...

The Commission is independent and will be comprised of esteemed representatives from the fields of science, education, broadcasting, economics, medicine, policing and community organising. ...

The Commission will aim to report its findings on the priority areas of health, education, criminal justice and employment by the end of this year. ...

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: Today I am establishing an independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross-government Commission will examine inequality in the UK, across the whole population.

I am thrilled we have assembled a group of ten talented and diverse commissioners, who each bring a wealth of experience from across a range of important sectors. ...

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch said: ... This Commission demonstrates this government's mission to level up opportunity for everyone whatever their background. Our expert Chair and Commissioners will make evidence-based recommendations to change lives for the better. Their work will be crucial in informing and improving the national conversation on race. ...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-16-july-2020>

Scottish Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for small marriages and civil partnership registrations

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): funeral services in places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-funeral-services-in-places-of-worship/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for funeral services

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral directors

<https://tinyurl.com/yd5k7yp9>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for burial and cremation authorities

<https://tinyurl.com/yasbqw4y>

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Israel

House of Commons Oral Answer

Topical Questions: Department for International Development

Matt Vickers (Conservative): Children have a basic human right to education, yet there is huge concern that Palestinian children use textbooks that promote and encourage violence. I welcome the Government's work pushing for an international review of the curriculum ahead of the new academic year. Will my right hon. Friend provide an update on the progress of the interim report into the content of these textbooks, and will he confirm that the findings will be made public and acted on swiftly? [904818]

James Cleverly: The first call that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made when she entered post was to the Education Minister in the Palestinian Authority to register our disquiet over the points that my hon. Friend has raised. We will continue to ensure that Palestinian children are educated with our support through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency—half of them are girls—but we will also ensure that that education does not encourage violence or prejudice against Jewish peoples.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-15/debates/01243794-E3DD-4ED3-8C90-2789BEDD03D4/TopicalQuestions#contribution-D028F907-183F-4461-87E8-6068C7EAEF40>

House of Commons Written Answer

Middle East

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [69487] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the historical accuracy of Government references to the 1949 Armistice Line between (a) Israel, (b) Egypt, (c) Jordan, (d) Lebanon and (e) Syria as the 1967 borders.

James Cleverly: In 1950, on de jure recognition to the State of Israel, Her Majesty's Government noted that they could not regard the present boundaries between Israel, and Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon as constituting the definitive

frontiers of Israel, as these boundaries were laid down in the Armistice Agreements. As such they were subject to any modifications which could be agreed upon under the terms of those Agreements, or of any final settlements which may replace them. Following Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Golan Heights in 1967, we distinguish between the State of Israel within the pre-1967 lines and the territories occupied since 1967. It has been the position of every UK Government since 1967 that these territories were not lawfully part of the State of Israel at its creation or at any point thereafter. We are clear that the permanent borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state should be based on the 1967 lines, with mutually-agreed land swaps to reflect the interests of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples. The final status of these borders must be determined by the parties.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69487/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6266] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about (1) the arrest of Saifuddin Najajreh, Khalaf Shakarneh, and Amin Al-Sulaibi, and (2) the subsequent impact of that detention on their education.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not made representations about these cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6266/>

Hammouda al-Sheikh

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6269] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the 10-year prison sentence given to Hammouda al-Sheikh.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not made representations on this particular case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6269/>

Downing Street

PM call with Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority

The Prime Minister spoke to Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority this evening.

He reiterated the UK's commitment to the two state solution and our opposition to annexation proposals in the West Bank.

The Prime Minister urged President Abbas to engage in negotiations and offered the UK's support to foster dialogue.

The leaders agreed to continue to work together on this issue and others.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-mahmoud-abbas-president-of-the-palestinian-authority-14-july-2020>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Assisted Dying Bill

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

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

**** closes in 9 days**

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