



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Weddings: Restrictions

**S5W-30784 Tom Mason (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government when it anticipates being able to relax the restrictions on attendances at weddings and wedding receptions.

**Reply from Ash Denham:** With effect from 15 July, Scottish Ministers removed the restrictions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 affecting attendance at marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, subject to the need to maintain physical distancing within the couple's chosen venue.

At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, even where a larger number could be accommodated. This limit will be reviewed again on 20 August. Receptions or other celebrations related to a marriage or civil partnership must continue to comply with the restrictions on public gatherings under the Health Protection Regulations.

We will continue to consider how to permit all marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place, with improved hygiene and other precautions, during Phase 4 of our route map, taking account of medical and scientific advice. During Phase 4 we also anticipate that further relaxations on gatherings of family and friends will be possible.

The Scottish Government continues to keep the position under careful review. In relation to the Health Protection Regulations, as soon as the Scottish Ministers consider that a restriction or requirement in the Health Protection Regulations is no longer necessary to prevent, protect against, control or respond to the incidence or spread of the infection, the Scottish Ministers must end the restriction or requirement.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30784>

### **Marriages: easing of lockdown restrictions**

**S5W-30831 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government on what date marriages will resume in places of worship and civil settings as part of the easing of lockdown restrictions.

**Ash Denham:** With effect from 15 July, Scottish Ministers removed the restrictions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus)(Scotland) Regulations 2020 affecting attendance at marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, subject to the need to maintain physical distancing within the couple's chosen venue.

This means that it is now possible for a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration to take place in any venue permitted to open under the Health Protection Regulations, such as hospitality venues, places of worship and registration offices.

The Scottish Government has published guidance for couples and celebrants to coincide with this change. At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, provided they can be accommodated safely with the necessary physical distancing in the couple's chosen venue. This limit will be reviewed again on 20 August.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30831>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

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

## **Welsh Government**

**Updated guidance on reopening places of worship: coronavirus**

<https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus-html>

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## **Holocaust**

### **House of Lords Written Answer**

#### **Roma Holocaust Memorial Day**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL7411]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to mark Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August.

**Lord Greenhalgh:** Every year we honour the memory of the Roma and Sinti population murdered by the Nazi's at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on 27 January. The 2nd of August marked the liquidation of the Gypsy Family camp' at Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year due to the restrictions on gatherings brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic I honoured the memory of the Roma and Sinti men, women and children murdered by the Nazi's by releasing a short film on social media.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7411/>

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## Israel

### Department for International Development / ODI

**Exploring the impacts of covid-19 on adolescents in the Gaza Strip**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f31510c8fa8f57ac3af2e07/Exploring-the-impacts-of-covid-19-on-adolescents-in-the-Gaza-Strip.pdf>

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