



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Antisemitism

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative)** [105608] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle antisemitism in (a) Wakefield constituency, (b) West Yorkshire and (c) England.

**Christopher Pincher:** Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. We became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016 and we work with the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Antisemitism which ensures we can respond quickly to the concerns of Jewish communities. We also provide funds to a number of projects that work across the country to tackle Antisemitism; for example we fund the Antisemitism Policy Trust to support their work to tackle online antisemitism and help combat this growing area of concern.

This Government is also providing £14 million this year, and provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105608>

#### Religious Hatred: Islam

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative)** [105609] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has undertaken to tackle islamophobia in (a) Wakefield constituency, (b) West Yorkshire and (c) England.

**Luke Hall:** Muslims in our country should be able to practice their faith in freedom. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted. We have supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8 million between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred. To remain live to the issues facing Muslim communities, we continue to support the work of the cross-

Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group which provides valuable advice to Government on challenges faced by Britain's Muslim communities and how to address those challenges. We have also established the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme will support established community groups and civil society organisations to run short projects that champion the government's commitment to building a diverse and tolerant society for all faiths and races. Up to £2 million is available for projects to boost shared values and tackle religiously and racially-motivated hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105609>

## UK Labour Party

**An Avoidable Crisis: The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities**

<https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f5bdc0f30fe4b120448a029/5f973b076be4cad5045fad3An%20Avoidable%20Crisis.pdf>

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## Holocaust

### UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**UN expert: International community must do more to protect mass graves**

The international community must do more to help countries and communities where mass graves are located to ensure such sites are treated with respect, and in accordance with human rights standards ...

"Mass graves are places of evidence crucial to effective pursuit of formal justice," Agnès Callamard, UN special rapporteur on summary executions, told the General Assembly as she presented her [annual report](#). "They hold the remains of those denied identity in death. They are spaces of intimate sorrow for loved ones. And, they are places of public record - proof that heinous events took place which must never be forgotten."

"Ours is a human history marred by massacres, in which so often those responsible have not only walked free but are later even celebrated ...

"The international community must do far more to support the countries and communities where these sites are located," she says in her report. In addition to the historical and global neglect of mass graves, the report also highlights the lack of a coherent human rights framework for their treatment. ...

"More coherent human rights action must be taken also to ensure that present and future generations never forget the heinous crimes that led to these many mass graves and work actively to ensure that repetition of that violence is never allowed," Callamard said.

"It is only through human rights-based interventions that these massacre sites of massive suffering and mass death can become sites of dignity, respect and places for the deep communal learning essential to non-repetition."

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26440&LangID=E>

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## Israel

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Gaza Strip: Children**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9163] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of military violence in Gaza on the mental health of children living there.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza, including the effects of military violence on the health of the population, particularly for children. We have publicly and privately expressed our longstanding concerns about the use of live ammunition and excessive force by the Israel Defense Forces and we call on Israel to adhere to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We continue to call upon Hamas and other terrorist groups to permanently end their incitement and rocket fire against Israel. We encourage actors to put forward long-term sustainable proposals, to resolve the threat posed to Israel's security by Hamas, PIJ and other militants in Gaza. Hamas' misrule has terrible consequences for the people of Gaza and Israel. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate-General in Jerusalem will continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Gaza.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/hl9163>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2622>

#### **Assisted Dying Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2592>

#### **Education (Assemblies) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

#### **Genocide Determination Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621>

#### **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608>

#### **Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2584>

## Scottish Parliament

### **Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

### **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

### **Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type B Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations** (closing date 20 November 2020)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/consultation-specified-type-b-procedures/>

### **Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK** (closing date 30 November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

### **Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law** (closing date 3 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/#weddings-consultation-paper>

### **Hate crime laws** (closing date 24 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

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