



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Oral Answer

#### Covid-19 Update

**The Lord Bishop of Rochester:** ... Along with the Prime Minister's Statement, it was announced that places of worship in England may remain open. I know that that has been welcomed by some faith communities, although others have already gone largely online. However, all such communities continue to engage with energy in acts of pastoral and community service. In the light of this, would the Leader of the House care to suggest what she and her colleagues would most wish to ask of our faith communities? What further might we offer? I believe that the noble Lord, Lord Boateng, may already have provided part of an answer.

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** I thank the right reverend Prelate—and, of course, all the people from all the different faith communities who are working so hard to help with the difficult situation we find ourselves in. He is absolutely right: the noble Lord, Lord Boateng, raised some very important points, and we all need to come together to encourage people to take up the vaccine, and to deal with some of the myths and worries that people have. Trusted local community leaders such as faith leaders can really help to do that. We want to try to get everyone involved, so that we can get to the light at the end of the tunnel and, we hope, beat this thing once and for all.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-07/debates/C9EB2152-53C5-417F-8D97-52CD20A7EFF3/Covid-19Update#contribution-F914E0C9-18CB-4678-A82F-F029F5C960F0>

### Scottish Government

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: Updated guidance for the safe use of places of worship**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/pages/overview/>

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# Israel

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Updated travel advice: Israel**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

**Updated travel advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

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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 (Approved Organisations) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

**Marriage (Authorised Belief Organisations) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2795>

**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

### **Introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland**

(closing date 19 February 2021)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation>

### **Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19**

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

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