



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Debate

#### Freedom of Speech (Universities)

**David Davis (Conservative):** I beg to move, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to place a duty on universities to promote freedom of speech; to make provision for fining universities that do not comply with that duty; and for connected purposes. ...

When representatives of the globe gathered in 1948, in the aftermath of unthinkable destruction and despair, we as one people—one human race—said, “Never again.” Fundamental to this united course of humanity was article 19 of the universal declaration of human rights, which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” Today that is under threat, and it is under threat in the very institutions where it should be most treasured: our universities.

Freedom of speech only matters when it is controversial —when it is challenging. That is why the greatest characterisation of free speech is attributed to Voltaire by his biographer, who said: “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”. ...

... the unwillingness to hear uncomfortable opinion and the refusal of platforms to people they disagree with is damaging to us all. ...

Today, there is a corrosive trend in our universities that aims to prevent anybody from airing ideas that groups disagree with or would be offended by. Let us be clear: it is not about protecting delicate sensibilities from offence; it is about censorship. ...

Today, views expressed in a recent survey commissioned by Britain’s biggest university academic union showed that Britain has the second-lowest level of academic freedom in all Europe. Just last month, a report by Civitas found that more than a third of our universities impose severe restrictions on freedom of speech—including, I am ashamed to say, Oxford, Cambridge and St Andrews. ...

What does this Bill set out to do? It would, in effect, make universities responsible for upholding free speech throughout their campuses. Freedom of speech is not, of course, absolute. With rights come responsibilities, so speech that is illegal —incitement to

violence, for example—would of course be forbidden, but speech that is merely unpopular with any sector of the university would not be proscribed. Controversial views and the challenging of established positions would not be proscribed. ...

*Bill read the First time*

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-19/debates/A245BD12-7C20-4D6E-BD87-C73D1ABC6182/FreedomOfSpeech\(Universities\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-19/debates/A245BD12-7C20-4D6E-BD87-C73D1ABC6182/FreedomOfSpeech(Universities))

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.civitas.org.uk/content/files/Academic-Freedom-in-Our-Universities.pdf>

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Funerals

**Luke Pollard (Labour)** [134553] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has received advice from SAGE on an increased risk of covid-19 infection for people working in the funeral sector handling the bodies of people who have died from covid-19.

**Jo Churchill:** The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) has not made a specific assessment.

Public Health England has published guidance for the care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, which includes guidance for funeral directors. This guidance suggests that those handling bodies should be aware there is likely to be a continuing risk of infection from body fluids and tissues where the infection is present. While the risk of infectious transmission is lower than for living patients, action should be taken to mitigate the risk. This guidance is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134553>

### Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

**Neale Hanvey (SNP)** [137326] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will extend the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond 31 March 2021.

**Nigel Huddleston:** The Government is fully committed to supporting listed places of worship and has committed to the present level of funding until 31 March 2021. We recognise the importance of this scheme and the reliance which is placed on it. We are presently working through the implications of DCMS's Spending Review settlement with HMT and within DCMS. We will be able to provide an update shortly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137326>

*Information about the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>*

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Covid-19: Wedding Ceremonies

**S5W-34231 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the number of people who can attend a wedding ceremony or reception

is different depending on the level of restrictions for the area in which they take place, in light of people being able to travel from areas subject to different levels of restrictions to attend such events.

**Ash Denham:** All of Scotland is currently at level 3 or level 4. At level 3, marriage ceremonies can take place with up to 20 people attending. At level 4, marriage ceremonies can take place, but under [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) (legislation.gov.uk) no more than 5 people may attend (the couple, their celebrant or registrar and the two witnesses), or no more than 6 if an interpreter is required.

We have published guidance on [marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations](#)

At level 3, wedding receptions can take place with up to 20 people attending, whereas wedding receptions cannot take place at level 4. There are restrictions on travel. At level 3, one of the examples of a reasonable excuse for entering or leaving a level 3 area is to attend a gathering which relates to a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration: [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) (legislation.gov.uk) This is designed to cover both the marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration and any associated reception.

One of the examples of a reasonable excuse for entering a level 4 area from another part of Scotland is to attend a solemnisation of a marriage or registration of a civil partnership: [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) (legislation.gov.uk) This just covers the marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration and does not cover receptions.

One of the examples of a reasonable excuse for leaving home when you live in a Level 4 area is to attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration. This applies only where the person travelling is in relation to that marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration a party, a witness, the religious or belief celebrant solemnising the marriage or registering the civil partnership, or a required interpreter.

In relation to travel to and into Scotland from certain other parts of the common travel area, an example of a reasonable excuse is to attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration. Again, this is only where the person travelling is, in relation to that marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, a party, a witness, the religious or belief celebrant solemnising the marriage or registering the civil partnership, or a required interpreter. Clearly, receptions are not taking place in level 4 in Scotland. Any person planning to travel to Scotland to attend a wedding should check restrictions on travel in place in the area where they live.

If the member has any specific concerns, he is welcome to write to me so I can consider any detailed points.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-34231>

### **Covid-19: Wedding Ceremonies**

**S5W-34232 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government what its reasons are for children under 12 being included in the numbers allowed to attend wedding ceremonies but not included in any other setting.

**Ash Denham:** The restrictions on gatherings are a consequence of the current pandemic and are designed to reduce the transmission of the virus. Marriage ceremonies are an exception to the general rules on social gatherings and the number of people who can attend a marriage is higher than the number of people who are generally allowed to meet in one place. This reflects the importance

of marriage to society.

All of Scotland is currently at either level 3 or 4 of the Strategic Framework. At level 4, under the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, only 5 people may attend a marriage ceremony (the couple, the celebrant or registrar, and two witnesses) or, where an interpreter is required, 6 people may attend.

At level 3, no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony. However, children are at present included in the limit of 20 people. If we were to exclude children from this limit, children from several different households could attend, significantly increasing the number of people attending. This could increase the risk of transmission of the virus at a time when it is more important than ever before to limit transmission as much as possible.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-34232>

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## Holocaust

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

**Sajid Javid (Conservative)** [135895] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2021.

**Eddie Hughes:** Due to the Covid19 pandemic, this year's national Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration will take place on-line on the 27 January at 7pm. The event will include a national candle-lighting moment at 8pm. Several national buildings will be lit in remembrance of the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust, all victims of Nazi persecution and victims of subsequent genocides.

MHCLG and a number of other Government departments will be hosting Holocaust Memorial Day events in the run up to Holocaust memorial Day. Local authorities, churches, schools and a number of civic society organisations across the country will also be marking the day with online ceremonies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/135895>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Oral Answers

#### **Topical Questions: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

**Bob Blackman (Conservative):** I welcome the Government's strong condemnation of anti-Israel bias at the UN Human Rights Council recently, but the robust stance that we have taken there conflicts with our voting at the United Nations General Assembly, where we have supported dozens of resolutions hostile to Israel, even one erasing the Jewish connection to Jerusalem. Will my right hon. Friend commit to ensure that, going forward, our actions will better reflect our words? (911039)

**Dominic Raab:** My hon. Friend is always a great champion for all the different community groups in his constituency. He is right to talk about the importance of balance in these UN resolutions. In fact, our record has not changed in recent years; it has been consistent. We support the Palestinian right to self-determination consistent with a two-state solution. We support the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. We have called out illegal Israeli settlements. In relation to Jerusalem, what he says is not quite correct, because the resolution explicitly notes its importance as a holy site for the three monotheistic religions. We have also voted against one resolution and abstained on three precisely because we did not feel they were balanced.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-19/debates/DA79CE1C-6A66-495F-ADEF-2C815CD62F73/TopicalQuestions#contribution-A680FD6A-F6C4-4014-BBE2-24431BC03AC1>

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Israel: Foreign Relations

**John Lamont (Conservative)** [911008] What recent steps [has the Minister] taken to improve UK relations with Israel.

**James Cleverly:** Israel is a close friend of the UK; and our relationship is built on decades of cooperation. I have met with the new Israeli Ambassador to the UK on multiple occasions, seeking to further strengthen the UK-Israel partnership. The Foreign Secretary visited Israel/OPTs on 24-25 August 2020 where he held discussions with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and other senior members of the Government on a range of security and prosperity issues. Our security and defence cooperation – particularly CT and cyber – continues to go from strength to strength in addressing shared national security interests.

The UK and Israel have also cooperated extensively on Covid-19. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv have convened several UK/Israel expertise exchanges, including recently on vaccine rollout.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/911008>

### Israel: Coronavirus

**Alexander Stafford (Conservative)** [136101] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on that country's covid-19 vaccination rollout.

**James Cleverly:** HMG has had sustained engagement with the Government of Israel on Israel's vaccination programme. We have facilitated a number of senior expert discussions and the British Embassy Tel Aviv are in regular contact with the Government of Israel and health providers on the vaccine rollout.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136101>

### Israel: Coronavirus

**Jack Lopresti (Conservative)** [136500] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has received guidance from the Government of Israel on the involvement of military personnel in the covid-19 vaccination rollout programme.

**James Heappey:** Her Majesty's Government has had sustained engagement with the Government of Israel on their vaccination programme. This has included Defence's Surgeon General regularly engaging with his Israeli counterpart. The Ministry of Defence however has not been in receipt of guidance from Israel specifically on the use of military personnel in vaccine roll out. We will remain in regular contact with the Government of Israel and health providers regarding efforts

to tackle the virus.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136500>

### **West Bank: Demolition**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [138046] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the bulldozing and demolition of Ras Ein Al Auja, a Bedouin community in the Jordan Valley and if will he make representation to his Israeli counterpart in light of this.

**James Cleverly:** We are concerned by increasing rates of demolition of Palestinian property by the Israeli authorities. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process. The UK regularly raises demolitions with the Government of Israel. I raised my concerns about demolitions of Palestinian and humanitarian structures with the Israeli Ambassador on 29 October 2020, and the UK Ambassador to Israel outlined the UK's position to the Israeli Authorities in Jerusalem on the same day. UK senior officials raised demolitions with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 10 November 2020. The UK also urged the Government of Israel to end demolitions of property in the West Bank at the UN Security Council on 21 December 2020. We are focused on preventing demolitions from happening in the first place through our legal aid programme, which supports Bedouin communities and Palestinians facing demolition or home eviction in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/138046>

*The speech to the United Nations referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/seeking-cooperation-in-order-to-achieve-a-two-state-solution>

## **House of Lords Written Answers**

### **Israel: Diplomatic Service**

**Lord Mann (Non-affiliated)** [HL11785] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) local staff, and (2) UK nationals, have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in (a) the UK embassy in Tel Aviv, and (b) the UK consulate in Jerusalem.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Vaccinations received locally by staff in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem will have been arranged on a personal basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11758>

### **Occupied Territories: Property**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11785] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the database published by the Yasser Arafat Foundation Private Ownership by Palestine Refugees Data on 24 February 2020; and what representations they intend to make to the government of Israel about the payment of reparations for any such occupied land.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made an assessment of the database published by the Yasser Arafat Foundation on 24 February 2020. The UK is clear that the status of Palestinian refugees must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Until that time, the UK remains firmly committed to supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. We support a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees in line with

UN Security Council Resolution 1515. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa met with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 15 December and reiterated the UK's position on the Middle East Peace Process, including our commitment to a two state solution.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11785>

Information about the database referred to above can be read at

<https://www.yaf.ps/page-1542-en.html>

### **West Bank: Olives**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11784] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that olive trees are being destroyed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of the difficulties facing Palestinian olive growers. Attacks on olive groves are particularly painful to Palestinians given their status as a national symbol and the sole source of income for many Palestinian farmers. We have expressed our concerns to the Government of Israel and security officials about the destruction of olive trees and the prevention of access to them on a number of occasions. The UK condemns any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. We urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance and bring those responsible to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11784>

### **Jerusalem: Religious Buildings**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11786] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of (1) increasing numbers of incursions by Israelis into the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and (2) Israeli police preventing Muslim worshippers from accessing that mosque for the duration of tours by Israelis.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Haram Al-Sharif / Temple Mount and Jerusalem hold particular significance for many groups around the globe, especially the three Abrahamic faiths of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The UK is committed to working with all parties to maintain calm, avoid provocation and uphold the status quo to ensure the safety and the security of the Al Haram Al Sharif / Temple Mount and all who worship there.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11786>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11840] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of the use of (1) force, and (2) firearms, by Israel Defence Force soldiers on Palestinians seeking to prevent the confiscation of property.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are concerned by Israeli confiscations of Palestinian homes and structures. The practice of confiscations causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes. We also continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population and urge restraint in the use of live fire. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we advocate transparent investigations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-06/hl11840>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11787] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of increasing numbers of incidents of hit-and-run incidents by Israelis in the West Bank where limited action is taken against those causing such incidents.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK condemns any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. We call on the Israeli authorities to thoroughly investigate every instance and allegation of crimes against protected persons in the West Bank, and where appropriate bring those responsible to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11787>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11789] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that the Israeli Defence Force used tear gas and rubber-coated bullets during an incident at Palestinian medical facilities in Ramallah.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not made representations about these reports, we have publicly and privately expressed our longstanding concerns to the Israeli authorities about the use of live ammunition and excessive force by the Israel Defence Forces. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we advocate transparent investigations

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11789>

### Gaza: Hospitals

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL11788] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of a bombing of a paediatric hospital in Gaza on 26 December 2020.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza. The UK condemns the firing of rockets at civilian populations and urges both sides to work together to promote peace. Any attacks targeted against civilians are unlawful and unjustifiable. All countries, including Israel, have a legitimate right to self-defence, and the right to defend their citizens from attack. In doing so, it is vital that all actions are proportionate, in line with International Humanitarian Law, and are calibrated to avoid civilian casualties. We continue to call upon Hamas and other terrorist groups to permanently end their incitement and rocket fire against Israel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11788>

### Palestinians: Coronavirus

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [11742] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to support the provision of COVID-19 vaccines (1) to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and (2) Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK will deliver on its commitment to global equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment (AMC). The UK has supported the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) to be included in the COVAX. I most recently discussed this with the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki on 10th December and provided assurances that the UK will continue to coordinate closely with the Palestinian Authority (PA) so that vaccines are rolled out across the OPTs.

UK officials regularly engage in dialogue with the Government of Israel, including on issues affecting Palestinian prisoners in Israel and to discuss co-operation with the PA. We have not yet raised the issue of vaccine provision to Palestinian prisoners but will monitor the situation accordingly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11742>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Nadia Whittome (Labour) [1386] Covid-19 vaccination of Palestinians in the occupied territories** – That this House notes that after more than 53 years of occupation, Israeli authorities have an obligation to fully respect the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories, including their right to health; notes the Israeli government's duties under the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure medical supplies, including to combat the spread of pandemics, within occupied territories; notes that the United Nations has confirmed that the Israeli government is legally obliged to protect the right to health and other rights of the populations in the occupied territories; notes concerns raised by a number of human rights organisations and the World Health Organisation regarding the Israeli government's lack of action in vaccinating Palestinians in the occupied territories; expresses alarm at the unjust and stark contrast between Israeli citizens, including settlers in the West Bank, who are receiving Covid-19 vaccinations at one of the most rapid rates in the world and the unprotected and vulnerable state of Palestinians in the occupied territories who will not begin to receive the vaccine for several months; and urges the British government to use all diplomatic and foreign aid routes to address this disparity and uphold the human rights of the 4.5 million people living in the occupied territories.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57991>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Dominic Raab:** The UK has repeatedly urged Israel to end illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank. The decision to proceed with new settlements in Givat HaMatos separates Palestinians in East Jerusalem from Bethlehem, and threatens the viability of a two state solution.

<https://twitter.com/DominicRaab/status/1352214644052684803>

## The Catholic Church Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

**Israel must work with Palestinian authorities to make Covid vaccines accessible to Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza: Final Communique of the 2021 Holy Land Co-ordination**

... This is the first time we have been prevented from meeting physically in the Holy Land. Yet we remain resolutely committed to supporting our sisters and brothers in the homeland of Christ. ...

Through our dialogue, it has become painfully clear that there is today less cause for optimism than at any time in recent history.

The health challenges of Covid-19, felt by the entire world, are compounded by conflict, occupation and blockade.

The absence of international pilgrims has exacerbated widespread economic hardship, increased levels of unemployment and pushed many more families into poverty.

The lack of political progress, along with relentless expansion of illegal settlements and the impact of Israel's Nation-State law, continues to erode any prospect of a peaceful two-

state solution.

Now is a critical moment for us all to strengthen our expression of solidarity with the people of the Holy Land “*not as a vague sentiment but as a ‘firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good’*”.

We stress the importance of the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships recommitting to direct negotiations. We call upon our own governments and political leaders urgently to renew their active participation in the search for a just peace, supporting dialogue between all sides, upholding international law, and reaffirming the plurality of Jerusalem, given its unique significance for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Furthermore, the international community must hold Israel accountable for its moral, legal and humanitarian responsibility to make Covid-19 vaccines accessible for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and encourage cooperation by the Palestinian Authority ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/holy-land-co-ordination-communique-2021/>

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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>

#### **\*\* Freedom of Speech (Universities) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2820>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-19/debates/A245BD12-7C20-4D6E-BD87-C73D1ABC6182/FreedomOfSpeech\(Universities\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-19/debates/A245BD12-7C20-4D6E-BD87-C73D1ABC6182/FreedomOfSpeech(Universities))

#### **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>

Stage 1 Report, Justice Committee

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/J/2021/1/21/6d33a751-fbda-41b4-a3b6-c684349ffb1c/JS0521R01.pdf>

#### **\*\* Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Notice of amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-19-january-2021.pdf>

#### **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

**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>

**\*\* Human Rights Act Review** (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

**Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19**  
(closing date not stated)

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

**TOP**

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