



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Home Office

Updated guidance: Places of Worship (POW): protective security funding scheme
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

House of Commons Justice Committee

The Coroner Service

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6079/documents/68260/default/>

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Israel

House of Lords Written Answer

Palestinians: Recognition of States

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL275] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to recognise Palestine as a sovereign nation.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK will recognise a Palestinian state at a time when it best serves the objective of peace. We remain committed to a negotiated two-state solution that protects the peace and security of both Israelis and Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/hl275>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Dominic Raab: Congratulations to @Isaac_Herzog on his election as the 11th President of Israel. I look forward to strengthening the UK and Israel's friendship and cooperation

under his Presidency.

<https://twitter.com/DominicRaab/status/1400515417085448196>

UNRWA

Commissioner-General statement on the latest developments in Gaza

I am seriously concerned by the gravity and magnitude of the attacks directed against the senior management of UNRWA in the Gaza Strip over the past week, including the assembly of a very large protest in front of the UNRWA Gaza Field Office compound on Monday 31 May 2021. The Agency notes with concern that some of the slogans, statements and parodies circulated in the last two days in particular, directly targeting the Director and Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza are unacceptable and tantamount to threats to the safety and security of UNRWA staff members.

In addition, I am aware that certain news outlets have reported that “Palestinian factions” have declared the Director and Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza persona non grata, something that UNRWA was not formally notified of. ...

UNRWA has unequivocally condemned the killing and wounding of all civilians, including Palestine refugees, and has consistently called on all parties to ensure the protection of civilians during the recent hostilities in Gaza and the recent escalation of violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNRWA has recently reiterated at the UN Security Council that the Agency is deeply concerned about the trauma and psycho-social impact that relentless airstrikes and rocket attacks have inflicted on civilians, especially children. UNRWA strongly protested and contested the position conveyed by the De Facto authorities in Gaza that they could no longer guarantee the safety and security of our staff. Regrettably, such a position left the Agency with no other choice than to ask the staff to leave the Gaza Strip as their security is of paramount priority to UNRWA.

In the aftermath of a devastating conflict and the urgent need to help Palestine refugees in Gaza feel safe, UNRWA must be able to deploy all its staff and efforts without any fear for their safety and security. UNRWA senior management, health, education, camp improvement and social workers are fully mobilized to respond to the immense needs of 1.4 million Palestine refugees as they arise after 11 days of hostilities. It is not possible for UNRWA to deploy staff across Gaza without explicit safety and security guarantees that they will all be protected. ...

To read the full statement see

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/commissioner-general-statement-latest-developments-gaza>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

Charities Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Race Equality Action Plan: An Anti-racist Wales (closing date 17 June 2021)

<https://gov.wales/race-equality-action-plan-anti-racist-wales>

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance (closing date 16 July 2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultation-document-curriculum-for-wales-religion-values-and-ethics-guidance.pdf>

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