



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Holocaust

Downing Street

Boris Johnson: Pleased to support the first #HolocaustSurvivorDay and to honour the extraordinary contribution of Holocaust survivors to the UK and the world.

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1407972305746153474>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Gaza and West Bank: Coronavirus

Dawn Butler (Labour) [18498] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support covid-19 vaccination of civilians in the West Bank and Gaza.

James Cleverly: The British Embassy Tel Aviv and the British Consulate-General Jerusalem are in regular contact with the relevant parties and continue to raise the issue of timely access to vaccines. The Foreign Secretary most recently raised this during his visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 26 May. The UK is committed to global equitable access to effective vaccines as demonstrated by our £548 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) - the international initiative to support global equitable access to vaccines. We are pleased that the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) were among the first to benefit from the COVAX scheme with its first delivery on 17 March 2021. Since that initial shipment, we are pleased that several further deliveries have arrived in the OPTs, including most recently on 1 June 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18498>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Arrests

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL970] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Israel undertook a mass arrest of Palestinian citizens of Israel on 24 May.

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupied territories. We also reiterate our view, in line with international law, that administrative detention should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary rather than as routine practice and as a preventive rather than a punitive measure.

In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we continue to urge Israel to ensure that its investigations are transparent, swift and comprehensive. We also continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl970>

Palestinian Authority

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL935] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the value of the UK contribution to the Palestinian Authority in the last 12 months; and what assessment they have made of the sources of funds for the Palestinian Authority Martyrs' Fund.

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In financial year 2020/21 we provided £20m in funding to the Palestinian Authority to support the salaries of education workers in the West Bank. No UK aid is used for the Martyrs Fund directly or indirectly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl935>

Land Mines: Bomb Disposal

Baroness Kennedy of Cradley (Non-affiliated) [HL953] To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries they have provided (1) advice, and (2) support, on landmine clearance programmes.

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Since 2018 we have funded programmes to clear landmines and other explosive hazards in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Colombia, Georgia, (Abkhazia), Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. In most countries these programmes include capacity development for national authorities to help them manage contamination and education for populations to help keep them safe. In November 2020 the UK successfully fulfilled its own obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention with the completion of the Falklands Demining Programme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl953>

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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 (16 to 19 Academies) (Religious Character) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2946>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

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

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

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

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 6 days**

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

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

**** closes in 8 days**

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

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

Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in the EU (closing date 5 July 2021)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13068-Strategy-on-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-Jewish-life-in-the-EU_en

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>

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