



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Andrea Jenkyns (Conservative) [24282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to promote the Places of Worship protective security funding scheme to eligible institutions.

Victoria Atkins: The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme is a key commitment in the Government Hate Crime Action Plan. The sixth year of the scheme opened on 4th June 2021 with a record level amount of funding- £3.5 million.

Officials are engaging heavily with faith networks, representative groups including the Independent Advisory Panel consisting of Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh representatives, as well as the police to ensure there is positive uptake of the scheme.

The scheme has been promoted through the media, online engagement events, leaflets and a short video circulated to faith stakeholders.

The application window has been extended by 2 weeks to the 16th July to enable additional Places of Worship to apply, and further online engagement events will be organised in this period to promote the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/24282>

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Marriage: Minimum Legal Age

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-00899] To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to change the law to raise the minimum legal marriage age to 18.

Ash Denham: The Scottish Government is aware that issues are being raised on the minimum age to enter a marriage or civil partnership and that a Private Member's Bill has been lodged at Westminster to increase the minimum age in England and Wales: [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Bill](#) The Scottish Government will obtain more information on this issue and discuss the minimum age with key stakeholders. Before any steps were taken to raise the minimum age for entering a marriage or civil partnership in Scotland, there would need to be a full public consultation. If the member has any points she would like to discuss on the minimum age, I would be happy to meet her.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-00899>

Welsh Government

Updated guidance on reopening places of worship: coronavirus

<https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus-html>

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Israel

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Richard Burgon (Labour) [300] Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill – This House notes that the UK Government has authorised hundreds of millions of pounds worth of arms sales to Israel between 2016 and 2020; believes that the UK Government should end these arms sales as part of efforts to end Israel's militarized repression of Palestinians, violations of international law and the illegal occupation of Palestine; and therefore welcomes the presentation of the Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill laid on 7 July 2021 that seeks to stop the UK Government from authorising arms sales to Israel.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58751>

Information about the Bill referred to above can be read at

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2020

pp48-49: The State of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999607/Human_Rights_and_Democracy_the_2020_Foreign_Commonwealth_Development_Office_report.pdf

Scottish Government FoI Release

Learning and teaching resource on Israel and Palestine

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100215626/>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Ethnic Groups: Human Rights

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [27305] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his policies of the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report entitled Agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality, published on 28 June 2021.

Nigel Adams: The UK is committed to combatting all forms of racism, including antisemitism, both at home and abroad. We believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate respect among different religious and racial groups is to encourage all states to uphold their human rights obligations. We have received the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and are reviewing it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-05/27305>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/53>

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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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-07/debates/F09E7E75-B3C1-4913-87ED-4EF83E840271/CharitiesBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-07/debates/F09E7E75-B3C1-4913-87ED-4EF83E840271/CharitiesBill(HL))

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>

**** Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0144/210144.pdf>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-07/debates/8B2059EB-2340-4C87-929C-785FB961EF12/PointsOfOrder#contribution-995C1F82-E67F-478E-971E-E542CF938CBE>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

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

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 7 days**

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>

Animal welfare [EU legislation] (closing date 3 August 2021)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en

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