



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Home Affairs

House of Lords Debate

Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2021
col 1983 The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): ... The threat level in the UK, which is set by the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, remains at “substantial”, which means that a terrorist attack in our country is likely. We have a duty to our allies, as well as to our own people, to tackle groups that inspire and co-ordinate international terror. While we can never entirely eliminate the threat from terrorism, we will always do all that we can to minimise the danger that it poses and to keep the public safe. Some 77 terrorist organisations are currently proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. ...

The group that we now propose to add to the list of proscribed terrorist organisations, amending Schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000, is the Base, a predominantly US-based militant white supremacist group. The group’s actions, such as seeking to train members in weapons and explosives, along with an ideology which aims to divide communities and stir up hatred, are entirely contrary to our values. ...

col 1984 ... the Base is a predominantly US-based, militant white supremacist group that was formed in 2018. It draws influence from a collection of essays by prominent national socialist James Mason that advocate the use of violence to initiate the collapse of modern society through a race war and the subsequent creation of a white ethno-state. This ideology is known as accelerationism.

The Base has links with other internationally based national socialist groups, such as Atomwaffen Division, which was proscribed by this Parliament in April, along with some individuals, and it seeks to provide training, guidance and networking.

The Base almost certainly prepares for terrorism. While it outwardly seeks to promote itself as a self-defence and survivalist group, and refutes any claims that it is involved in terrorist activity, the training that it provides is highly likely to be paramilitary in nature and preparatory to offensive action. This training would almost certainly enhance the intent and capability of trainees to conduct terrorist acts. Members of the Base have engaged in weapons and explosives training.

The Base has almost certainly promoted or encouraged acts of terrorism and elements of

its membership will almost certainly continue to do so. ...

col 1985 Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): ... We have seen in recent weeks the hideous face of British racism and the disgraceful failure of senior members of the Government to support the anti-racism stance taken by the England football team. ...

As the Minister has explained, that is why proscribing extreme right-wing terrorist groups such as the Base is so important. I quote the Home Office press release:

“The Base has celebrated and promoted the use of violence in an attempt to establish a fascist, white ethno-state by means of a race war, and members are known to have engaged in weapons and explosives training. Its founder has also published a series of videos under his alias covering topics including”, as the Minister has said, “lone wolf activity, advocating guerrilla warfare, and leaderless resistance.” ...

col 1987 Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): ... This is the third white supremacist hate group that Parliament has proscribed in the past year. The group, called the Base, was founded in 2018 and has been operational since then. That was three years ago. There have been TV programmes about it and there is plenty of information on the internet on its activities, so the question of delay arises ... Is the Minister satisfied that this group and far-right groups like it are properly monitored and that action, such as today’s proscription order, is put in place in a timely manner for the protection of the public? ...

col 1988 Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... It is important that the decisions we take are based on robust evidence and do not adversely impact on any ongoing investigations, and, in order to keep the public safe, it is not appropriate for us to discuss any specific intelligence that led to the decision to proscribe. ...

col 1989 ... a large portion of the Muslim community does not agree with terrorism. Not only do Muslims make a great contribution to this country, but Islam is a religion of peace and Muslims, I might say, are often the victims of terrorism rather than the perpetrators. ...

To read the full transcript see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-15/debates/69D5AEF9-060F-4315-B0E5-FE694C2EDF9B/TerrorismAct2000\(ProscribedOrganisations\)\(Amendment\)\(No2\)Order2021](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-15/debates/69D5AEF9-060F-4315-B0E5-FE694C2EDF9B/TerrorismAct2000(ProscribedOrganisations)(Amendment)(No2)Order2021)

House of Commons Oral Answers

Racist Abuse on Social Media

col 373 Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the prevalence of racist abuse on social media.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins): ... Individuals who commit racist offences should face the full force of law, and we already have robust legislation in place to deal with online hate. ... We are leading the world in tackling online harms through the introduction of the online safety Bill, which will put in place measures to tackle illegal and legal but harmful abuse, including racist abuse. ...

If major platforms do not meet their own standards to keep people safe and address abuse quickly and effectively, they could face enforcement action...

In addition, we have asked the Law Commission to conduct a wide-ranging review into hate crime, including offensive online communications. Let us put that in context: in 2019-20, the police recorded more than 76,000 race hate crimes. Increases in police-recorded hate crime in recent years have been driven by improvements in crime recording and better identification of what constitutes a hate crime. Although statistics can help us track trends, we must always remember that behind the numbers are real people who are often left traumatised and shaken by their experiences. There is nothing so damaging and corrosive as the impact that racism has both on victims and on our communities more widely. ...

col 374 Nick Thomas-Symonds: ... the reaction of the Government has lacked urgency and completely failed to understand the scale of the revulsion that exists as a result of the events of recent days. The England men's football players have been a credit to the country on and off the pitch. When they took the knee to stand against racism, that was not gesture politics. They spoke courageously to a desire for change across our country. ...

The racist abuse to which Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka have been subjected is disgraceful. Such behaviour has been too common on social media for too long. Social media platforms have had more than long enough to act. ...

Will the Government therefore commit to including criminal sanctions for senior executives in the Bill? In addition, will the Minister tell us exactly when the Government will be acceding to the demand from Opposition Members to extend football banning orders to offences that take place online ...

Victoria Atkins: ... the Home Secretary ... has been relentless ... in pursuing social media companies to ensure that they take much tougher stances, as we all expect, not just on racism online, but on child sex exploitation, terrorism and other offences. ...

On the online safety Bill, this is a landmark piece of legislation. The Government have been very careful to ensure that the Bill receives the scrutiny of the House, and that is why we are taking the confident step, I would say, of opening up the draft Bill to pre-legislative scrutiny. ...

col 375 On football banning orders ... It is complex because we know, for example, that some of the trolls who have targeted some members of the team over the weekend are overseas, but we very much want to work with football clubs and others to ensure that these orders have the powers that we all want them to have. As I have said throughout—and this is the golden thread that runs throughout our work on tackling online crimes—what is illegal offline is illegal online ...

Simon Fell (Conservative): ... On Sunday night, the Centre for Countering Digital Hate identified and reported 105 Instagram accounts that racially abused members of the England football team. As of this morning, only six of them have been taken down ...

Victoria Atkins: ... I read with some dismay and anger a report in the *i* paper today about how Instagram had applied its own rules—community rules—in relation to offensive emojis and indeed highly offensive words that were sent to players, but the social media companies themselves have to explain how exactly their community rules accord with the expectations and indeed the law of our country. ...

Stuart C McDonald: The disgusting online racism faced by England players is unfortunately overshadowing a fantastic tournament and a fantastic performance ...

Content must be taken down faster, and platforms must no longer be allowed to support racist content through shamefully lax rules. ... Does the Minister agree that social media regulation is not a silver bullet, that online racism reflects offline racism, and that the Government need to take tackling racism, including structural and institutional racism, more seriously? ...

col 376 Victoria Atkins: ... he is right to acknowledge that this is a matter for us all to tackle. ... Of course, “hate crimes” is a very broad term: it includes not only racism but hatred towards disabled people, hatred towards transgender people, and so on. That is why we have asked the Law Commission to look at online crimes to ensure that the position is up to date and meets our expectations.

However, there is a wider message on racism more generally. I have been overwhelmed by the public's response to those trolls over the weekend—by, for example, the way they responded to what happened to the mural in Withington: how angry they were that some individual had defaced it, and how positive their reaction has been. ...

There are many, many people in our society who have to deal with this racism, not

just online but, I am afraid, offline. I think that part of our national conversation should be about how each of us can show our complete support for the campaigns to combat racism, and how we can all ensure that we are doing everything we can, both individually and as a country, to tackle racist behaviour. ...

col 377 **Yvette Cooper (Labour):** On the Instagram profiles of England heroes this lunch time, there are still racist posts, including blatantly racist words and emojis, that have been up for more than 24 hours. I have challenged Instagram on this from the Home Affairs Committee repeatedly over the last few days. It told me this morning that using some of those emojis as racist slurs is against its rules, yet inexplicably, they are still up, and it is still taking Instagram days to remove these posts. Speed matters. ...

Victoria Atkins: ... I do not think these tech companies quite understand the anger and frustration of everyone involved in trying to scrutinise and hold them to account when they come back at us with, "It doesn't meet our community rules." Words such as the words I suspect she is thinking about, the emojis, the language—that is unacceptable in any civilised society, and that includes online fora as well as offline. ...

Felicity Buchan (Conservative): ... many of these online trolls hide behind the cloak of anonymity? Can she confirm that the police can still prosecute anonymous postings, and will she consider whether we should outlaw such online posting? ...

Victoria Atkins: ... While we know that many, many cowards hide behind anonymous accounts, there are people who use their anonymity legitimately—victims of domestic abuse, for example, and indeed whistleblowers in very restrictive regimes overseas. ... when we come to scrutinise the Bill, [we] will weigh those arguments up very carefully ...

col 378 **Zarah Sultana (Labour):** ... what did she think about the Prime Minister when he was describing black people as "piccaninnies" with "watermelon smiles", when he used newspaper columns to mock Muslim women as "letterboxes" and "bank robbers", when he refused to condemn the booing of England players taking the knee, and when his Home Secretary derided that anti-racist message as "gesture politics"? Is it not the case, like England star Tyrone Mings has said, that the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister were stoking the fire of racism and giving the green light to racism ...

Victoria Atkins: ... I do not genuinely think the hon. Lady is accusing either the Prime Minister of this country or, indeed, the Home Secretary of racism. That would be a truly extraordinary allegation to make. I hope that, at some point, we will be able to work together to tackle racism. ...

col 379 **Jeremy Corbyn (Labour):** ... The Amnesty International report on "Toxic Twitter" pointed out that black women are 84% more likely to experience racist abuse online than anyone else. What real steps will the Minister take, urgently, to ensure that no one—and I mean absolutely no one—is able to post racist abuse online?

Victoria Atkins: ... I suspect I am not the only person who feels a little astonished that it is this right hon. Member who chose to ask that question about taking immediate action to tackle racism. I remind the House of the findings of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission under his watch—Labour has "unlawfully discriminated against, harassed or victimised people because they are Jewish."

I am also reminded that a Jewish female MP had to have police protection at the right hon. Gentleman's party conference, because of fears for her own safety. I will listen to many people about tackling racism and I will work with pretty much anyone, but I will take a long spoon with which to sup with this particular Member. ...

Margaret Hodge (Labour): ... The racist abuse targeted at black footballers has been absolutely abhorrent. The tech giants could have stopped it, but they chose not to because it suits their business model. In October 2020, Mark Zuckerberg decided, literally on a whim, to remove holocaust denial from his Facebook, and he did that. In February 2021,

after a public outcry, Instagram made a U-turn, changed its policy and started to regulate some direct messages of racial abuse.

Does the Minister agree that it is not the powers or the capability of the tech giants that is lacking, but the will?

col 380 Victoria Atkins: ... these powers exist already, so one can only conclude that in the cases highlighted in this Chamber and in newspapers, the businesses concerned do not wish to remove those items ...

col 381 Catherine McKinnell (Labour): Minister, we live in an era when online abuse is becoming normalised. The disgusting comments directed at our footballers on social media have in many cases been illegal, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. But in other cases the abuse has been technically legal, yet remains extremely harmful and distressing. Warm words and veiled threats are clearly not enough. ...

Victoria Atkins: Yes, I am very happy to confirm that of course we are looking at legal but harmful material. ...

col 382 Andrew Gwynne (Labour): Racist abuse online is not just abhorrent; it normalises racist views offline and desensitises people to them. ...

col 383 Florence Eshalomi (Labour Co-op): ... Racist incidents online do not exist in a vacuum; they exist in a world where, according to the YMCA, 95% of young black British children have witnessed racism in education. They exist in a world where, according to the Runnymede Trust, racism in the UK is systematic in our health system, in the criminal justice system, in employment and even in politics ...

Social media companies need to take a lot more action, but, until they feel the full weight of the law, they will not understand that. Will the Minister confirm whether the Government will introduce criminal sanctions against social media executives in the Online Harms Bill?

Victoria Atkins: ... that is something we are looking at in the Bill. ...

col 384 Damien Hinds (Conservative): ... As the Minister said in response to my hon. Friend the Member for Kensington (Felicity Buchan), anonymity is important in some contexts, including, for example, for survivors of domestic abuse, but it does not follow that it is therefore required in all contexts. If someone is communicating online in their own identity, should they not be able to say that they want to hear from and be commented on only by other people who are using their own identity? ...

Victoria Atkins: That is an extremely interesting point, and I promise I will look into it.

col 386 Aaron Bell (Conservative): I draw the Minister's attention to the paradox identified by Sunder Katwala, the director of British Future: there are far fewer overt racists in Britain today than there were 20 or 30 years ago, which is a very good thing, and there are far fewer racist attitudes in Britain, but because of social media and the fact that everyone is always online, individuals from black and ethnic minority communities experience far more racism on a day-to-day basis than they did then. ...

Victoria Atkins: We all acknowledge the echo chamber that social media provides, and the fact that being available online across the world perhaps enables just a single person to have far more volume added to their voice than would be the case if they were known, as they usually are, to be sitting in their bedroom rather pathetically tapping away on their laptop or phone. We must build resilience among our young people in schools to prepare them to understand that torrents of abuse like this may represent only a tiny number of people, and very much build on education and the cultural attitudes that we are seeking to address through relationships, health and sex education in schools to ensure that people understand the principles of tolerance and kindness in being able to debate without hatred. There are many ways of tackling racism. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-14/debates/B4980D5D-E885-4E0E-8A2A-127F2D5D099D/RacistAbuseOnSocialMedia>

Information about the Online Harms Bill, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Information about the Law Commission Review referred to above can be read at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

The Amnesty International report referred to above can be read at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2018/03/online-violence-against-women-chapter-1/>

Prime Minister's Questions Time: Jewish Graves: Alderney

Matthew Offord (Conservative): The circumstances of Jewish burials around the world are a sensitive and important issue to my constituents and, as such, to me. In January 1942, the Nazis built two concentration camps on British soil, on the island of Alderney. Conditions were appalling, with multiple deaths. However, there are just 397 recorded graves on Alderney, just 6.6% of a total population of 6,000 internees. In 1961, a British delegation undertook an inquiry into the atrocities that occurred on Alderney. Today I ask the Prime Minister to authorise the release of all documents and information residing in the archives into those investigations, so that we know what happened to thousands of people on the island of Alderney during world war two. To quote Elie Wiesel, "to forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time." (902754)

The Prime Minister: My hon. Friend makes an excellent point about the victims on Alderney. We must never forget those on the Channel Islands who suffered under occupation between 1940 and 1945. I am told that the documents in question have been transferred to the National Archives, but I will ensure that the relevant Minister meets my hon. Friend to discuss the matter further.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-14/debates/E0C07F8B-EE53-42B1-AEDE-1AA8CBFEFD4B/Engagements#contribution-59D461F7-5BFA-4F97-80DC-5261437331EB>

House of Lords Oral Answers

Northern Ireland: Jewish Community

Lord Dodds of Duncairn (DUP): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the concerns expressed by the Jewish community in Northern Ireland about its future as a result of the operation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, we recognise the concerns raised on this matter. It is a positive step that it was possible to agree with the EU a sensible extension on chilled meats moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland until 30 September this year. This extension means that Northern Ireland consumers will continue to be able to buy chilled meat products, including kosher products, from Great Britain, and allows for further discussions to continue on a permanent basis.

Lord Dodds of Duncairn: My Lords, the Jewish community in Belfast and Northern Ireland has made, and continues to make, a very rich and compelling contribution to the life of our country. Indeed, the sixth President of the State of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was born in my former constituency in north Belfast, and his son Isaac is the current President of the State of Israel. Very worryingly, the Chief Rabbi and Jewish leaders in Belfast have expressed great concerns about the operation of the protocol and the continued viability of the Jewish community. The Prime Minister has also expressed concerns. The Minister referred to a grace period, but that runs out in September. Will he give a guarantee that, in all circumstances, he and the Government will take whatever measures are necessary to guarantee the supply of kosher food into Northern Ireland for the Jewish community?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord makes some very good points: it is vital that we find a way to ensure that goods flow as freely as possible between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where they are destined for Northern Ireland

consumers, while ensuring that goods moving onward into the EU are subject to the appropriate requirements to ensure that EU rules are observed and the single market protected. On the noble Lord's point about the Jewish community, it is a key focus for government to support that community. I take note of the points he raises and, although I cannot give a guarantee, every effort is being made to move forward and find solutions to these problems.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington (Labour): My Lords, it is vital that Jewish people in Northern Ireland can practise all aspects of their religion, including access to kosher food. It is deeply regrettable that the Government have so far failed to deliver a practical, long-term solution in the form of a veterinary agreement. The Governments of Switzerland and New Zealand have managed to secure such an agreement with the EU. What does the Minister intend to do to ensure that freedom of religion for Jewish communities in Northern Ireland is protected through a veterinary agreement?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Jewish community has played an integral role in shaping the journey and identity of this nation, particularly in Northern Ireland. Our society is richer for its diversity and the Jewish community is proud and shining testament to that. In answer to the noble Baroness's question, as I said earlier, every effort is being made. UK and EU officials are engaging multiple times each week to discuss the issues around the implementation of the protocol. We also meet the EU regularly under the formal protocol joint and special committee structure, with the most recent meeting of the joint committee having taken place last month.

Baroness Suttie (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, does the Minister acknowledge that if the Government had carried out a full impact assessment on the Northern Ireland protocol before agreeing to it, many of these culturally sensitive issues would have been highlighted? To push further on the EU-UK veterinary agreement, does he not agree that this is yet another issue that could be resolved by signing up to such an agreement?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not agree with some of the points that the noble Baroness makes, because the protocol was really a compromise. It was always clear that it was a delicate balance designed, crucially, to support the Good Friday agreement and to maintain Northern Ireland's place in the UK while protecting the EU single market. The question, of course, is how it is applied. I point out to her that under the detail of the protocol, it is not simply about putting a goods and customs border in place between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For example, Article 6(2) says that the UK and EU "shall use their best endeavours to facilitate the trade between Northern Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom ... with a view to avoiding controls at the ports and airports of Northern Ireland to the extent possible", so we need to look at that.

Lord Caine (Conservative): My Lords, as my noble friend Lord Dodds made clear, the Jewish community has made a huge contribution to the city of Belfast, including providing a unionist Lord Mayor as far back as 1899. Does my noble friend the Minister agree that it would be both tragic and outrageous if this latest crazy manifestation of the EU's implementation of the protocol now forces that community to leave Northern Ireland altogether? How do supplies of kosher food to a small Jewish population in any way threaten the integrity of the EU single market?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not disagree with my noble friend's last point. Again, the Jewish community has made an important contribution to society in Northern Ireland. It is essential that that community receives the kosher products that it requires, for eating and for religious purposes. A key focus is to support the community in this respect. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Dodds, it is vital that we find a way forward to ensure that these goods flow smoothly.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, why was this important issue not addressed by the Government and their supporters before now? Can the Minister tell us

what meetings were held with the Jewish community in Northern Ireland when the protocol was being negotiated by this Government, and what did the Government tell that community about how they would avoid the impeded access to kosher food, which has a serious impact on the legally protected human right of religious practice? If the Government will not solve this through a veterinary agreement, as I and many others are calling for, how will they solve it through negotiating a specific exemption? The Government must pursue one route or the other.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not have any information to hand as to what meetings took place at the point when the protocol was being negotiated. However, I can tell the noble Baroness that the Secretary of State met the Jewish community last week and impressed upon it that the Government were urgently seeking solutions to the flow of important goods for that group.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative): Although I welcome the extension for chilled meats between GB and Northern Ireland, we are just kicking the can down the road. Will my noble friend give a commitment that we will negotiate an SPS agreement, such as has been agreed between New Zealand and the EU? Will he further give the House a commitment today that there is no threat to the availability of kosher or other such foods from the protocol or any other legislation currently before the House, such as the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My noble friend's question takes us slightly beyond the immediate subject. However, on supplies to supermarkets, which I think is the gist of her question, a lot of work has gone on to ensure that supplies continue to fill their shelves in Northern Ireland. We announced in March that arrangements for supermarkets and their suppliers who are trusted traders supplying food will continue until October, meaning that they do not need to complete health certificate paperwork. But as they have made clear to us, notwithstanding the considerable government investment to support these efforts, there are still some real challenges to sort out.

Lord Rogan (UUP): My Lords, the diverse country that Northern Ireland has become over recent decades is a source of great local pride but, as the noble Lords, Lord Dodds and Lord Caine, have said, there is nothing new about the special place that the Jewish community holds in Ulster, which dates back to the mid-18th century. Speaking at a Policy Exchange event last week, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Brandon Lewis, said: "None of us can tolerate or be willing to accept" a threat to the Province's Jewish community because of the protocol. If that is the case, why did the Prime Minister choose to sign up to it?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: As I said earlier, the protocol was a compromise. We agreed something exceptional, it is fair to say, to control goods moving within our own country in the interest of peace—to apply EU law in our own country without any democratic say beyond a vote, as the House will know, in four years' time. Again, that was in the interest of peace. No other country has agreed to such a thing and if it is to be sustainable, it must operate in a pragmatic and proportionate way—not just like any other external border of the single market.

Lord Polak (Conservative): My Lords, there is a joke that the structure of Jewish holidays can be simply put as: "They tried to kill us; we won; let's eat", so availability of kosher food is important, especially to a small community as in Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the right honourable Brandon Lewis, is a true friend of the community, and I am grateful, as has been said, that he found time to meet the Chief Rabbi and the Board of Deputies last week. However, can my noble friend the Minister assure me that the department will do whatever it can to resolve this issue and allow the Jewish community to celebrate, and eat?

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Perhaps a discussion on the importance of eating is for a separate debate but I take the first point that my noble friend made with the

due seriousness it deserves. We are mindful that many communities in Northern Ireland have specialised foods which are deeply important to their culture and spiritual beliefs, and we will always act to ensure that these are adequately supplied. However, I assure my noble friend that, in the supermarkets we have been in touch with, we are pleased to note that there is no disruption at this time, although there were specific issues during Passover which he will know about, and which DAERA and Defra, working together, helped the sector to navigate.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-14/debates/853E7176-BBA9-40CE-8A88-049CD7AECCB1/NorthernIrelandJewishCommunity>

Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care

COVID-19: Updated guidance for arranging or attending a funeral or commemorative event during the coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Charity Commission

Trust in charities post-Covid

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002264/Charity_Commission_public_trust_in_charities_research.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Oral Answers

UK-Israel Trade Deal

Michael Fabricant (Conservative): What plans she has to enhance the UK's trade deal with Israel following her recent visit to that country; and if she will make a statement. (902798)

Scott Benton (Conservative): What plans she has to enhance the UK's trade deal with Israel. (902819)

The Secretary of State for International Trade (Elizabeth Truss): We have a strong bilateral trade relationship with Israel worth £5 billion a year. On my recent visit to Israel, I discussed our ambitions for a new free trade agreement to create further opportunities for British business.

Michael Fabricant: My right hon. Friend will know from her visit to Israel that it has the highest number of high-tech start-ups in the world. Moreover, the latest Intel chips in all our computers were designed in Israel by Intel. Does my right hon. Friend have any plans to enhance the trading relationship in high-tech products with the state of Israel?

Elizabeth Truss: My hon. Friend is completely right. The UK and Israel are both leaders in technology, from agri-tech to gaming to med-tech, and there are huge opportunities for us to work together. What we will be seeking in the new trade deal with Israel is an advanced digital data and technology chapter that looks to the industries of the future to give both countries more opportunities.

Scott Benton: I welcome the Secretary of State's commitment to sign an advanced free trade agreement with our close ally Israel, and I hope she enjoyed her first ever visit to the country this month. Israel is a growing export market for UK companies, so what steps is she taking to champion UK-made products being sold in Israel, and what more can be done to boost UK exports of things such as cars, machinery and clothing?

Elizabeth Truss: The current UK-Israel partnership is already worth £5 billion a year, but we want to turbo-charge that. We are providing practical assistance for UK firms through our trade adviser network, as well as strong support from UK Export Finance to help to finance those exports into Israel.

Emily Thornberry (Labour): We all welcome the prospect of an enhanced trade deal with Israel, and I congratulate the Secretary of State on her efforts to secure it. Among the many improvements that we hope the new deal delivers, will she guarantee to remove the clause mistakenly included in the 2019 UK-Israel agreement that prohibits manufacturers in UK freeports from sharing in the benefits of that deal? Can she tell us when we can expect revised deals with the 20 other countries, including Switzerland and Singapore, where the same freeport blunder still applies?

Elizabeth Truss: The clauses that the right hon. Lady is referring to are absolutely standard in free trade agreements. Every agreement is the result of a negotiation with the relevant country, and of course we secure the best possible outcome in terms of tariff reductions and rules of origin, but I will be absolutely clear that firms locating in our freeports are free to take advantage of whichever is better for their company: a given free trade agreement or the additional reductions from being in that freeport.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-15/debates/A937CA9E-FD68-406C-B4F9-6B22092C61F7/UK-IsraelTradeDeal>

House of Commons Written Answer

Jerusalem and Occupied Territories: Israel

Patrick Grady (SNP) [30372] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the (a) provision of covid-19 vaccines to the entire resident population of the Occupied Territories, (b) demolition orders on houses in the Al-Bustan area of East Jerusalem and (c) restoration of occupied land at Evyatar.

James Cleverly: The British Embassy Tel Aviv and the British Consulate-General Jerusalem are in regular contact with the parties on vaccine access. The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions with the Government of Israel. The Foreign Secretary did so during his visit to the region on 26 May. We are clear that Israeli outposts in the West Bank, illegal under international law and Israeli law, should be removed entirely. The advancement of settlements across the West Bank should also be suspended immediately.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-09/30372>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL1645] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will meet the government of Israel to express concern about (1) house demolitions, and (2) forced evictions, of Palestinian communities.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel.

The Foreign Secretary raised ongoing evictions, demolitions and settlement activity with the Israeli Authorities during his visit to the region on 26 May. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-01/hl1645>

Jerusalem: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL1734] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about protecting Palestinians living in the Silwan area of East Jerusalem from having their homes demolished.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel. The Foreign Secretary raised ongoing evictions, demolitions and settlement activity with the Israeli Authorities during his visit to the region on 26 May. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We monitor the situation in Silwan closely, and officials regularly visit and attend related court hearings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-05/hl1734>

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Other Relevant Information

CST

The Month of Hate

A new research briefing from CST titled 'The Month of Hate: Antisemitism & extremism during the Israel-Gaza conflict' ... reveals the true extent of the unprecedented wave of antisemitism in this country in the month from 8 May to 7 June, during and after the recent conflict in Israel and Gaza.

This was the most intense period of anti-Jewish hatred seen in the UK in recent years. It saw record levels of antisemitic hate incidents, anti-Jewish chants and placards on public demonstrations, incitement from radical Islamist extremists in the UK and calls from jihadist terrorist groups for Jews to be killed. ...

The level of anger and hate that is directed at Israel always spills over into antisemitism at times of conflict. Such crises see a recurring and disturbing pattern: reactions to 'trigger events', often from overseas, cause significant spikes in anti-Jewish hate crimes and hate incidents in the UK. In practice, this means that the perpetrators of these incidents deliberately target Jews and Jewish institutions to express their hatred of, or anger towards, Israel; or they use Israel as an excuse to attack Jews. This is a pattern British society in general ...

CST recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents from 8 May to 7 June 2021, the highest number CST has ever recorded in any month-long period, and roughly four times the number of antisemitic incidents that would normally be expected during this period. ...

Worryingly, antisemitic incidents during the recent conflict disproportionately affected the educational sector, with 25% of all recorded incidents relating to schools, universities and Jewish students and teachers. ...

... incidents are encouraged by rhetoric that fails to distinguish between Jews and Israelis, or simply swaps the words 'Zionist' and 'Zionism' for 'Jew' and 'Judaism'. It also feeds off extreme anti-Israel propaganda that does not mention Jews, but which demonises Israel

to such an extent that it generates a violent anger that finds an outlet in anti-Jewish hate; or that simply provides a supposedly legitimising cover for the expression of antisemitism via hatred of Israel. This is not about people criticising the Israeli government, but about hatred of Israel as an entire nation; it is not an expression of support for the Palestinian cause, but rather the treatment of Israel as a uniquely evil entity, a modern embodiment of Nazism and racism that must be erased from the world. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2021/07/15/the-month-of-hate>

The Month of Hate: Antisemitism & extremism during the Israel-Gaza conflict

https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/The_Month_of_Hate.pdf

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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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-14/debates/B72F48AA-B409-46E4-8848-EE6CED8A2A00/CharitiesBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-14/debates/B72F48AA-B409-46E4-8848-EE6CED8A2A00/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>

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>

Research Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9275/CBP-9275.pdf>

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 today**

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