



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

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## Israel

See also the press release, “CAGE to challenge Education Minister’s guidance to schools on Palestine” included in the Other Relevant Information section below.

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **UN experts condemn raid on West Bank NGO, urge Israel meaningfully probe child deaths**

UN human rights experts have called on the Government of Israel to immediately return confidential documents and office equipment that its military seized from the offices of Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCIP) in Al-Bireh, in the occupied West Bank.

“We are deeply concerned by the Israeli military’s interference with the human rights work of a well-known and well-regarded NGO,” said the experts. Computers, hard drives, binders and other materials were taken from DCIP’s offices during a nighttime raid at the end of July.

“The indispensable work of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society organizations has provided a measure of much-needed accountability in documenting and scrutinizing the dispiriting human rights trends in the occupied Palestinian territory,” the experts said.

“In recent years, DCIP has critically and reliably reported on the patterns of arrests, maiming and killings of Palestinian children by the Israeli military in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The silencing or hindering of these activities violates the fundamental human rights of expression and association, which Israel has

committed itself to uphold through its ratification of the two 1966 International Covenants.” ...

The UN experts also called upon the Government of Israel to fully respect the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998.

“An occupying power with a true commitment to human rights would protect and encourage the work of human rights defenders, and not ostracize, harass or silence them,” the experts stated.

“Such a government would respect the critical scrutiny of their work, even if their reports and allegations excoriated the conduct of that government. And such a government — even one conducting a long-term military occupation — would accept that human rights can be infringed only as a last measure and then only in a minimally impairing manner that is subject to meaningful judicial review.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27381&LangID=E>

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## Other Relevant Information

### CAGE

#### **CAGE to challenge Education Minister’s guidance to schools on Palestine**

CAGE has ... initiated a legal challenge against the Education Minister Gavin Williamson’s discriminatory guidance to schools leaders on Palestine. The letter issued on the 28th of May 2021, amounted to censorship of political dissent in schools and discriminated against students by infringing their right to freedom of expression. The Minister’s advice also leads schools to violate their legal duty for impartiality.

The letter by the Education Minister followed hundreds of cases of mainly Muslim students being reprimanded in their schools, including exclusions and referrals to PREVENT, for expressing solidarity with Palestinians.

The Minister’s intervention, although cloaked in concerns around anti-semitism, had the impact of censoring views in schools that challenge the state-sponsored narrative on Israel. The aim was to set a fixed template within which pupils’ discussion on Israel-Palestine should be conducted. This was further accentuated by his suggestion that schools interact with specific named openly pro-Israel organisations to deliver a ‘balanced’ presentation of the issue. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.cage.ngo/cage-to-challenge-education-ministers-guidance-to-schools-on-palestine>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **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>

## **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>

## **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

### **Domestic Abuse Act statutory guidance** (closing date 14 September 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-abuse-act-statutory-guidance>

### **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill** (closing date not stated, but no later than 23 September 2021)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2021/july/have-your-say-on-the-higher-education-freedom-of-speech-bill/>

**Dispute Resolution in England and Wales** (closing date 30 September 2021)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1008174/dispute-resolution-call-for-evidence.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008174/dispute-resolution-call-for-evidence.pdf)

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