



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Holocaust

Israel

Other Relevant Information

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Holocaust

United Nations

Holocaust and United Nations Outreach Programme to Commemorate November 1938 Pogrom Anniversary with Online Discussion of Moving Theatrical Performance, 11 November

This year, to mark the anniversary of the November 1938 Pogrom, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme together with The Braid will host an online discussion about the moving theatrical performance titled “Stories from the Violins of Hope”. The virtual discussion will take place on Thursday, 11 November 2021, at 1 p.m. New York time via Microsoft Webinar.

“Stories from the Violins of Hope” brings together theatre and music to tell the story of a collection of stringed instruments that survived the Holocaust, and those whose lives the instruments touched. The violins, played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust, were meticulously restored by Amnon Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein is the founder of the Violins of Hope Collection. He has spent the last two decades locating and restoring these special violins. ...

Register at this link — <https://bit.ly/3ml0RM5> — to attend the discussion.

A limited screening of “Stories from the Violins of Hope” is available 9-13 November 2021 at this link: <https://bit.ly/watchVOH> ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/pi2296.doc.htm>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Catherine West (Labour) [64705] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social

Care, what steps his Department is taking to (a) help ensure that there is mutual recognition of covid-19 vaccine records from countries outside the EU and (b) ensure that people who have been double-vaccinated abroad with a certified vaccine can obtain a covid-19 vaccine pass in the UK.

Maggie Throup: Those who are fully vaccinated from over 135 countries and territories will no longer need to quarantine or take a day eight test when arriving in the United Kingdom. Over 80 countries and territories have already accepted UK COVID-19 certificates, including the NHS COVID Pass, to demonstrate an individual's status, including vaccination records and proof of recovery following a positive National Health Service polymerase chain reaction test.

The NHS Covid Pass programme has now linked with the European Union Digital COVID Certificate, ensuring that the UK and EU can digitally verify each other's vaccination status certificates. This also provides access to non-EU countries such as Norway, Switzerland, Israel and Iceland.

A pilot was launched in England on 30 September to enable residents vaccinated abroad to request that their vaccines are uploaded to the national database. Vaccines equivalent to those UK-approved, regulated by the European Medicines Agency, Health Canada, Swissmedic, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and United States Food and Drug Administration be recorded on an NHS COVID Pass.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-27/64705>

House of Lords Written Answers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Palestinians: Third Sector

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL3404] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Israeli Defence Ministry on 19 October to designate six Palestinian civil society organisations that monitor human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to be "terrorist organizations".

Israel and Occupied Territories: Human Rights

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3409] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the work of (1) Al-Haq, (2) Addameer, (3) Defence of Children International - Palestine, (4) Bisan Center for Research and Development, and (5) Union of Palestinian Women's Committee in monitoring allegations of human rights breaches in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3410] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the climate for human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories following the decision of the Israeli Ministry of Defence to claim that (1) Al-Haq, (2) Addameer, (3) Defence for Children International – Palestine, (4) Bisan Center for Research and Development, (5) Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, and the (6) Union of Agricultural Work Committees, are linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3387] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following claims by the Israeli Ministry of Defence that six human rights organisations are linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and whether they share this assessment by the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3411] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the government of the United States of America, and (2) with other allies, following the decision of the Ministry of Defence in Israel to label six human rights organisations to be linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and what conclusions did they jointly reach.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the decision by the Israeli authorities and will be seeking additional information to understand the basis for the designations. Human rights and civil society organisations have a vital role to play in the development of thriving, open societies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3404>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3409>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3410>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3387>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3411>

Palestinians: Health Services

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL3406] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports by Physicians for Human Rights that (1) seriously ill Palestinians, and (2) those injured by Israeli forces, are dying because they are prevented from receiving medical care.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of such reports. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israel security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. The wounded or critically ill should be able to access the urgent medical care they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3406>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL3405] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following reports of an attack on Palestinians by Israeli settlers near the town of Turmus Ayya.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. The UK regularly raises the issue of settler violence with the Government of Israel, most recently with Israel's Ministry of Defence on 19 October. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to address settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance to bring those responsible to justice. We also continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3405>

TOP

Other Relevant Information

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Overview of Antisemitic Incidents Recorded in the European Union 2010–2020

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-antisemitism-overview-2010-2020_en.pdf

TOP

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>

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>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7774/documents/81006/default/>

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/>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Labelling for Animal Welfare (closing date 6 December 2021)

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-welfare-market-interventions-and-labelling/labelling-for-animal-welfare/>

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Animal Welfare – revision of EU legislation (Food Safety) (closing date 21 January 2022)

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

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2022-2025

(closing date not stated)

<https://nihrc.org/news/detail/we-want-to-hear-from-you-about-our-strategic-planning-2022-2025>

[TOP](#)

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