



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Religion: Education

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [69707] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has on the introduction of initial teacher training financial incentives in the form of bursaries for religious education; and if he will make a statement.

Robin Walker: The bursaries the department offers for initial teacher training (ITT) are intended to incentivise applications to ITT courses. The department reviews the bursaries on offer each year to take account of factors including historic recruitment, forecast economic conditions, and teacher supply need in each subject. This provides flexibility to respond to the need to attract new teachers, and means we are spending money where it is needed most.

In academic year 2020/21 the department exceeded the postgraduate ITT target in religious education (128% of target). As a result, the department decided to focus the bursaries we offered for academic year 2021/22 on subjects where it is hardest to attract sufficient applicants. We have taken a similar approach for academic year 2022/23 and will review the need for financial incentives across all subjects again before announcing the bursaries for academic year 2023/24.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69707>

Senedd Cymru Written Answer

Hate Crime and Misinformation

Altaf Hussain (Conservative) [WQ83671] Will the Minister outline what work has been carried out with organisations such as Google, Facebook and Twitter to tackle hate crime and misinformation?

Minister for Social Justice: On 15 June 2021, we published our Programme for Government, which includes a commitment to work with social media and tech companies to tackle hate crime and misinformation online. We are currently engaging with stakeholders specialising in these areas as part of the groundwork

for conversations with social media and tech companies during this Senedd term. We are, meanwhile, already supporting this commitment through a number of actions:

- Our Hate Crime in Schools Project is providing critical thinking, anti-hate crime and misinformation training to pupils and teachers in approximately 160 schools across Wales before March 2022.
- Our Hate Hurts Wales campaign has a specific focus on online hate and encourages the reporting of it.
- During Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021, the National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre, which is funded by Welsh Government, hosted an online conference: 'The Online Hate Phenomenon'.
- To support public and third sector partners throughout the pandemic, Welsh Government communications professionals worked with communications colleagues across Wales to share countering misinformation toolkits, created with Public Health Wales. The team hosted workshops to discuss wider approaches including case studies from regions. Following the workshops, increased demand led the team to produce additional resources and supporting materials. Many partners have since confirmed that they have now included managing misinformation within their strategic communications strategies.
- We have advised our social media followers on how to identify misinformation, such as vaccine invitations and NHS COVID Pass scams.
- We have updated [social media house rules](#) to help counter hate and misinformation, this includes reporting hate speech and misinformation to social media platforms.
- Welsh Government and the Football Association of Wales have collaborated on educational resources aimed at tackling online hate towards girls and women.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/83671>

The Programme for Government, referred to above, can be read at <https://gov.wales/programme-for-government-2021-to-2026-html>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Palestinians: Third Sector

Caroline Lucas (Green) [68118] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the military order issued by the Israeli Defense Ministry on 19 October 2021 declaring six Palestinian civil society organizations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to be terrorist organisations, if she will reiterate the Government's support for (a) Palestinian human rights defenders and (b) humanitarian and development organisations operating in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories; if she will provide support to those six civil society organisations; and if she will make a statement.

James Cleverly: The UK is aware of the decision by the Israeli authorities to designate six Palestinian Civil Society Organisations. We are in contact with the Government of Israel to understand the basis of the designations. We have made clear that human rights and civil society organisations have a vital role to play in

both Israel and the OPTs, including those critical of Israel's conduct of the Palestinian Territories.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68188>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN experts alarmed by rise in settler violence in occupied Palestinian territory

UN human rights experts have expressed alarm at the rising rate of violence directed by Israeli settlers towards Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

“Settler violence has always been an extremely disturbing feature of the Israeli occupation,” said the experts. “But in 2021, we are witnessing the highest recorded levels of violence in recent years and more severe incidents.

“The Israeli Government and its military have done far too little to curb this violence and to protect the Palestinians under siege. In several cases, Israeli security forces and outsourced private security companies stand by and take no action to prevent the violence; instead, they respond to settler-related violence by ordering Palestinians to leave the area, including Palestinian-owned land, or even actively support the settlers.” ...

These settler attacks are primarily directed against rural Palestinian families living on small farms or in villages and towns in the occupied West Bank located in close proximity to Israeli settlements. Many of these Palestinians reside in the so-called “Area C” of the West Bank, which is under complete Israeli security and civil control, and where Israel’s *de facto* annexation stratagem is most evident.

The experts noted that settler violence has taken many forms, including physical violence, shooting with live ammunition, torching of fields and livestock, theft and vandalization of property, trees and crops, stone-throwing and tenacious intimidation of herders and their families. In the autumn, it is often directed towards Palestinians engaged in the olive harvest. Harvested olives are stolen or ruined. Olive trees are destroyed. Harvesters are attacked with rocks and pipes, or threatened with weapons.

On other occasions, settlers have seized private or public Palestinian land and brought sheep and cattle to graze on the land, as an initial step to drive Palestinians away from their land. ...

“We are very troubled by the failure of Israel, the occupying power, to exercise its substantial obligations under the *Fourth Geneva Convention*, including Article 27, to protect the population under occupation.”

According to Yesh Din, an Israeli human rights organization, 91 percent of investigations into settler attacks against Palestinians between 2005 and 2019 were closed by the Israeli authorities with no charges filed. ...

“This precipitous rise in settler violence is not simply the result of a few ‘bad apples’ among the settler population,” the experts said. “The deep state support provided by Israel to the illegal settlement enterprise, including to the more than 140 settlement outposts established throughout the West Bank in defiance of even Israel’s own laws, has fueled this coercive environment and encouraged violence.

“In an atmosphere where the rights of the protected population are ignored, where settler violence is met with complicity and the prevailing political message from the occupying power is that this land belongs to only one people, the international community has a solemn responsibility to impose accountability measures to end this climate of impunity and to insist upon respect for the international rule of law.”

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27792&LangID=E>

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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 (Assemblies) Bill**

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

Order of Commitment, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-10/debates/DAF1B888-012D-41E7-8180-142E130FA57F/Education\(Assemblies\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-10/debates/DAF1B888-012D-41E7-8180-142E130FA57F/Education(Assemblies)Bill(HL))

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>

Research Briefing: Reaction to the draft Online Safety Bill: A reading list

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9243/CBP-9243.pdf>

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

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>

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