



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Oral Answers

CPS Prosecutions: Hate Crime

Bob Blackman (Conservative): What recent assessment [the Attorney General] has made of the effectiveness of the CPS in prosecuting cases of hate crime. (904195)

The Solicitor General (Alex Chalk): Hate crime can have a devastating impact on individuals and communities. In the last year, the CPS prosecuted more than 10,000 such offences; in 79% of those cases that resulted in a conviction, the court agreed to impose a sentence uplift to reflect this important aggravating factor. Let the message go out: those who seek to divide our society through hate can expect a robust response.

Bob Blackman: Hate crime is clearly a serious concern right across this country. Do local Crown Prosecution Service areas have all the resources that they need to take these measures on and prosecute people for hate crime?

The Solicitor General: Yes, and those resources are growing. CPS London North maintains hate crime co-ordinators and inclusion and community engagement managers to provide a single point of contact on all aspects of hate crime prosecution. It has achieved some of the highest sentence uplift statistics anywhere in the country, with increases handed down in 83% of cases.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-18/debates/DC7FFD74-ECB6-4DAD-BD87-308051B066B3/CSPProsecutionsHateCrime>

Business of the House

Bob Blackman (Conservative): Last Sunday, this country quite rightly paused to reflect, and to honour those men and women who risked or gave their lives in world wars and other conflicts. It is less well known that this Sunday we come together at the Cenotaph to honour the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, with a parade where veterans and children of veterans honour those who risked or gave their lives. Could we have a debate in Government time on all the other people who gave or risked their lives so that this country and Parliament could be free?

Jacob Rees-Mogg: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for bringing this matter to my

attention, because I did not know that the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women had a parade on the week after Armistice Sunday. I congratulate him on bringing that to the attention of the House. I also congratulate the association on its work and on the commemoration to recognise one's gratitude to the veterans from the Jewish community who served in Her Majesty's forces—or His Majesty's forces, as they then often were—and to ensure that their contribution, along with the contribution of others, is not forgotten. It may be difficult to facilitate a debate immediately, but remembrance should be discussed in this House.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-18/debates/61B78E70-17E2-4B40-8B55-A051F11EC9DF/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-4DF66933-CE10-42AF-A947-F8D899337279>

Business of the House

John Cryer (Labour): Like the Leader of the House, I was not aware that the Sunday after Remembrance Sunday—this Sunday—there is a planned march by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, until it was raised by the hon. Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman). I feel it was a bit remiss of me not knowing that. Considering what seems to be a sharp rise in antisemitism, not just in Britain, but across Europe and elsewhere, should we not look at having a full debate in Government time on the contribution of AJEX to British history, where we could also pay tribute to associated organisations, such as the 43 Group, which crushed the Blackshirts in the late 1940s?

Jacob Rees-Mogg: The hon. Gentleman makes an important point. We have in some years had a debate around Armistice Day, where it has been possible to record the contribution of a range of people who have been involved in keeping the country safe and free. I am afraid that in normal circumstances, this is more a matter for the Backbench Business Committee than the Government, but his appeal is very wise.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-18/debates/61B78E70-17E2-4B40-8B55-A051F11EC9DF/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-8C811465-0D2D-4E90-9160-4ADDF8E136F>

House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Alberto Costa (Conservative) [71368] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to tackle the increase of violent hate crimes in (a) Leicestershire and (b) England.

Rachel Maclean: All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable.

Whilst the biggest driver for the increase in recorded crime is general improvements in police recording, along with increased victim willingness to come forward, we cannot be complacent. That is why we have committed to publishing a new Hate Crime Strategy this year to set out the Government's plan for tackling these abhorrent crimes.

The Government will continue to work with the police and stakeholders to understand what more can be done to address hate crime trends.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71368>

Muslim Brotherhood

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [68131] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission a new review of the Muslim Brotherhood to update the 2015 review; and if she will make a statement.

Damian Hinds: There are no plans to conduct a further full cross-government

review of the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK.

The Government continues to monitor the current intelligence picture in order to assess potential threats where required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68131>

The 2015 review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486948/53163_Muslim_Brotherhood_Review_-_PRINT.pdf

Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [73751] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure people travelling to countries, such as Israel, which require proof of three Covid-19 vaccination doses can provide appropriate certification to gain entry to those countries.

Maggie Throup: Booster vaccinations are currently not recorded on the NHS COVID Pass as they are not required for domestic certification in England or at the United Kingdom border. We recognise that some countries are altering their vaccination requirements, therefore we are keeping this under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73751>

Home Office / The Times

Hamas to be banned as terror group

Supporters of Hamas will face up to ten years in prison after Priti Patel said that she was proscribing it as a terrorist organisation to fight antisemitism.

Individuals who express support for the Palestinian Islamist group, of which Jeremy Corbyn has previously spoken positively, will be in breach of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Support includes flying its flag or arranging to meet its members. The ban will also cover the wearing of clothing that is seen to support the group, which has controlled Gaza since 2007. ...

Patel ... told reporters last night: "We've taken the view that we can no longer disaggregate the sort of military and political side. It's based upon a wide range of intelligence, information and also links to terrorism. The severity of that speaks for itself."

Patel, who will make the announcement in a speech on security in Washington today, said it was a vital step to protect the Jewish community.

"Hamas is fundamentally and rabidly antisemitic," she is expected to say. "Antisemitism is an enduring evil which I will never tolerate. Jewish people routinely feel unsafe — at school, in the streets, when they worship, in their homes, and online. This step will strengthen the case against anyone who waves a Hamas flag in the United Kingdom, an act that is bound to make Jewish people feel unsafe." ...

To read the full report see

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hamas-to-be-banned-as-terror-group-s60lgbc9k>

Department of Health and Social Care

Boosters to be added to NHS COVID Pass for travel

... Travellers who have had a booster or a third dose will be able to demonstrate their vaccine status through the NHS COVID Pass from Friday 19 November.

The addition will enable those who have had their booster or third dose to travel to countries including Israel, Croatia and Austria who have already introduced a time limit for the COVID-19 vaccine to be valid for quarantine free travel.

Booster and third doses will not be added to the domestic COVID Pass as it is not a current requirement for individuals to receive booster doses to qualify as fully vaccinated. It will also not be necessary to show evidence of a booster for travel into England at this time. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-to-be-added-to-nhs-covid-pass-for-travel>

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Holocaust

House of Lords Written Answers

Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL3725] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the management of the (1) Holocaust Memorial, and (2) Learning Centre, in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lord Greenhalgh: We are considering a range of operating models for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/hl3725>

Imperial War Museum

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL3727] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission Report, published on 27 January 2015, why they do not regard the new Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum as the Holocaust Learning Centre.

Lord Greenhalgh: The case for a Learning Centre was set out in Britain's Promise to Remember, the report of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, published in January 2015.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/hl3727>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398645/Holocaust_Commission_Report_Britains_promise_to_remember.pdf

United Nations

As Sixth Committee Ends Session, Approving 15 Draft Resolutions without Vote, Speakers Decry Lack of Progress on Crimes against Humanity Text

... The Committee then took up the draft resolution "Crimes against humanity" (document A/C.6/76/L.17). ...

The representative of the **United Kingdom** highlighted that all delegations agree on the importance of this topic. Recalling how close delegates came to reaching agreement, he noted that while "ultimately, consensus eluded us", the vast majority of States pushed themselves hard to be flexible. ...

The representative of the **United States** said that, 75 years after the Nuremberg trials, there is not a dedicated multilateral treaty on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. The absence of such a treaty addressing crimes against humanity has left a hole in the international legal framework that he strongly believes should be addressed. ...

The representative of **Israel** ... voiced disappointment about the text, noting that, given the Jewish people's history, her State ascribes great importance to this topic. Also spotlighting

the divergence among States, she said it is important to create together a dedicated space where the views of all can be heard. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/gal3654.doc.htm>

Crimes against humanity (A/C.6/76/L.17)

<https://undocs.org/en/A/C.6/76/L.17>

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Israel

See:

- **Commons written answer 73751 “Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus” (Home Affairs section above);**
- **Times report about an expected Home Office announcement “ Hamas to be banned as terror group” (Home Affairs section above);**
- **Department of Health and Social Care press release “Boosters to be added to NHS COVID Pass for travel” (Home Affairs section above);**
- **UN press release “... Speakers Decry Lack of Progress on Crimes against Humanity Text” (Holocaust section above).**

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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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/43711/documents/971>

Special Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-18/debates/5EB2BB3B-63B1-47DB-BC94-2D5B033B9C56/CharitiesBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-18/debates/5EB2BB3B-63B1-47DB-BC94-2D5B033B9C56/CharitiesBill(HL))

Bill as amended in Special Public Bill Committee

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/43789/documents/984>

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

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

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>

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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