



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Out-of-school Education: Islam

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated)** [HL5587] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Barran on 18 January (HL5056 and HL5057), what steps they take to ensure that radical Islamism is not being taught in madrassas in the UK; whether they have any evidence that radical Islamism is being taught in those settings; and if so, what further steps they intend to take.

**Baroness Barran:** The government is committed to ensuring all children are safe, wherever they are educated, including safe from extremism and radicalisation. The department is actively working with the education sector, national partners, and local partners to safeguard children and young people from these risks. In addition to the work that we do with schools and colleges to ensure our children and young people are resilient to extremist ideology, we jointly fund with the Home Office a network of experts who provide frontline support to education providers

We have also established an online form to allow concerns regarding extremism within the education sector to be reported directly to the department, to complement our existing counter extremism helpline, and we encourage anyone with a concern to use this service.

As mentioned in my answer of 18 January, in instances where the department becomes aware of a provider where extremist activity might be taking place, we will also work closely with relevant agencies, such as the local authority, Ofsted and the police to act. In those rare cases, such as the case of Umar Haque in 2018, which saw the attempted radicalisation of several children in a London Madrassa through devious and sophisticated grooming techniques, we have worked closely with safeguarding partners to intervene and safeguard the children, and to act against the perpetrators. In the case of Umar Haque, we saw multi-agency action result in the conviction of him and his associates under the Terrorism Act 2006.

However, while there are many legal powers in place to protect children in out-of-school providers including madrassas, which have been proven to be effective, we have not ruled out further action.

As outlined in my previous answer, the department has been taking forward a package of activity aimed at further enhancing safeguarding in this sector. This includes the provision of over £3 million of targeted funding to pilot ways in which we can boost local capacity further to identify and intervene in out-of-school providers of concern, and testing the utility of existing powers held across multiple agencies, such as local authorities, the police and Ofsted, to safeguard children attending these providers.

These pilots were taken forward with the intention of building our evidence base to inform our national next steps for supporting safeguarding in the sector, including the need for any legislation. This work concluded at the end of last year, and we are currently evaluating the outcome of these pilots. We will set out our next steps to this work in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-20/hl5587>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5056>

*and*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5057>

## Department for Education

### **Education Secretary leads call to tackle antisemitic abuse on campuses**

Urgent action is required to stop antisemitic abuse on campuses, the Education Secretary has said ahead of a summit he is hosting with vice chancellors, university reps and Jewish rights groups ...

The antisemitism summit, being held by Nadhim Zahawi ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January), will look at the incidents of antisemitism on campus and discuss measures and commitments that can be taken to ensure Jewish students and staff feel safe in higher education. ...

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said: In November I visited Auschwitz and was humbled by the experience. Seeing first-hand the spectre of a concentration camp which bestowed so many horrors is something which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

It also strengthened my resolve to fight the lingering plague of antisemitism still sadly present in our society. Ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day, today's summit marks a significant step towards that goal.

Education is the vaccine against antisemitism. No Jewish students or staff members should be subjected to antisemitic abuse, and by working together we will send out a clear message that antisemitism – like other forms of racism – will never be tolerated in our classrooms or campuses.

Minister of State for Higher and Further Education Michelle Donelan said: I am horrified by the very thought of even one incident of antisemitism on campus – it has no place within any of our world leading universities.

I will work hand-in-hand with the sector to take forward commitments agreed to today and ensure providers have the right tools to tackle this issue.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to urge those few universities yet to sign up to the IHRA's definition of antisemitism to follow in the footsteps of many others and do so now. Without a universal recognition of antisemitism, we cannot hope for its abolition.

UJS President Nina Freedman said: ... Antisemitism awareness training is a vital and effective tool for rooting out antisemitism in the higher education sector. We hope to empower as many people as possible to recognise and call out antisemitism where they see it in any form.

CST Chief Executive Mark Gardner said: Record levels of antisemitism have been reported by Jewish students and teaching staff, so this is a vital meeting with the Education

Secretary, the Universities Minister and numerous vice chancellors. It is the leadership of the universities who need to take antisemitism seriously and fulfil their duties of care. CST looks forward to working closer with universities in improving both the recording of antisemitic incidents on campus, and in supporting those suffering from antisemitic double standards, exclusion and abuse. ...

The summit builds upon the Department for Education's ongoing commitment to work with Higher Education providers in England to acknowledge and eradicate antisemitism.

Figures published by The Times November last year showed there were 111 antisemitic incidents recorded at British universities in the 2020/21 academic year - a rise of 59 per cent on the previous academic year.

To officially recognise the issue of discrimination towards Jewish people within the sector, last year the Department for Education called upon more Higher Education providers to sign up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

Following these calls, as of [November 2021](#), more than triple the number of universities have signed up to this definition – up to 95 from 28. Research from Union of Jewish Students showed that this represented a significant increase of 67 universities when compared to figures from September 2020.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-leads-call-to-tackle-antisemitic-abuse-on-campus--2>

*The Times report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/record-levels-of-antisemitic-abuse-hit-university-campus-v7b82609s>

## Office for National Statistics

**Updating ethnic contrasts in deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), England: 8 December 2020 to 1 December 2021**

### Report

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/updatingethniccontrastsindeathsinvolvingthecoronaviruscovid19englandandwales/8december2020to1december2021/pdf>

### Data

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/updatingethniccontrastsindeathsinvolvingthecoronaviruscovid19england>

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## Holocaust

### Scottish Parliament Time for Reflection

**Andrei Martin (Holocaust Educational Trust):** Sarah Bateman and I are ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust. Last year, we participated in the “Lessons from Auschwitz” online project ... We heard from Holocaust survivors, saw Auschwitz-Birkenau via virtual reality and shared what we learned with our school. ...

**Sarah Bateman:** The most important part of the project for me was my speaking to Holocaust survivor Janine Webber BEM. I was particularly struck by the photos that she

showed us of her family before the Holocaust, which made her story seem so much more real. Before the project, we both knew various facts and figures about the Holocaust, but until we heard Janine's story, we had never truly understood their gravity. ...

**Andrei Martin:** ... I shared how the Holocaust affected Jewish people all across Europe, but I also talked about the diversity of pre-war Jewish life, which is a really important aspect of humanising the Holocaust.

**Sarah Bateman:** I focused on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust, as well as on passing on parts of Janine Webber's story and orchestrating an activity around the individual Jewish experience. That helped us to shift the focus away from statistics and, instead, to see those who were impacted as individual people.

**Andrei Martin:** ... One day cannot tell the whole story, but remembering just one day during the Holocaust can be a gateway to realising that no one person who was affected by it was the same afterwards. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13541&i=122878&c=2373955#ScotParlOR>

## Senedd Ministerial Statement

### Holocaust Memorial Day

**209 Jane Hutt (Minister for Social Justice):** ... The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day this year is 'One Day'. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has highlighted the different ways we can interpret this theme, such as: learning from past events to build a better future, where one day there will be no genocide; focusing on one day in history and learning about the events of that particular day; or remembering those whose lives were an unimaginable struggle during horrific periods of history, where people could only take one day at a time in the hope that the next day would be better.

We support Holocaust Memorial Day not only to remember the direct victims and survivors, but also to remember vital lessons from history. Hate and prejudice are not issues confined to the past. Genocides do not typically begin with mass murder. They begin with an incremental undermining of personal freedoms and the rule of law and an inexorable othering of sections of society. We have a vision for Wales to be a place where everyone is respected and diversity is celebrated. We want to drive out hatred and provide a warm welcome to all, and I want to reiterate that hate has no home in Wales. ...

Once again, the Welsh Government has provided funding to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to support organisations across Wales with planning their commemoration events for Holocaust Memorial Day this year. In the run-up to the day, the trust has engaged with a diverse mix of organisations across Wales, including third sector organisations, businesses, places of worship, schools, student unions, museums and prisons. ...

The Welsh Government continues to fund the Holocaust Educational Trust to run the Lessons from Auschwitz programme in Wales. The trust has adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by developing a groundbreaking, interactive, digital platform to deliver its learning programme. The programme includes interactive online live sessions, led by experts in the history of the Holocaust, live survivor testimony, and also provides the opportunity to experience the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum through virtual reality technology. The programme will again be delivered digitally in 2022, with an enhanced learning platform to include digitally rendered artefacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum and a new piece of virtual reality focused on the town of Oświęcim, which became known as Auschwitz when invaded by the Nazis in 1939. It will enable participants to further their understanding of the pre-war Jewish community that existed in this town as well as the devastating impact that the rise of Nazism had on the local population.

We take our responsibilities in supporting minority communities seriously because we know the loss of human potential inequality causes, as well as the risks of divided communities. Through our various action plans, we are seeking to eliminate inequalities, whether in relation to race or nationality, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity, or disability. This includes the development of the race equality action plan, amongst others, to help us meet our vision of an anti-racist Wales.

We continue to tackle hate crime where it occurs through funding the national hate crime report and support centre, the hate crime in schools project, and our community cohesion programme. Our anti-hate crime campaign, Hate Hurts Wales, aims to portray the devastating effect of hate crime, but also encourage people to report it and get support.

The most recent hate crime statistics, published in October 2021, showed a 16 per cent rise in recorded hate crimes in Wales when compared to the previous year. I want to encourage victims of hate and witnesses to come forward and report these incidents to the police or to the national hate crime report and support centre, which is run on our behalf by Victim Support Cymru. There is support and it will be taken seriously. Dirprwy Lywydd, we need to continue to challenge hate, wherever we find it, so that one day we can truly honour genocide victims and say with confidence that the lessons of genocide have been learned. ...

**220 Darren Millar (Conservative):** ... I want to pay tribute as well to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and to the Holocaust Education Trust for the work that they do, not only on Holocaust Memorial Day, but all year round, to promote remembrance of these things. Because they don't only offer us an opportunity to consider all those who lost their lives as a result of the Holocaust and genocides since, they also give us an opportunity to consider survivors, those individuals who live with the mental and physical scars from those horrific periods in human history. ...

I am very pleased that the Welsh Government has continued to fund the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and many of its activities to support commemoration across the country. ...

Regrettably, of course, we all know that the hate and racism that acts as the breeding ground for the evil that leads to events such as the Holocaust has unfortunately not been completely eradicated, and it's for this reason that we've always got to be vigilant and take swift action to tackle racism and hate wherever it rears its ugly head. While I know of the Minister's personal commitment to stamping out hate and racism in Wales, and welcome very much the initiatives to which her statement has referred, I am very concerned that the number of hate crimes recorded in Wales continues to rise, including reports of antisemitism. The Minister will be aware that concerns have been expressed by the Jewish community in Wales in recent months about the blocking of people from Israel from being able to access the Cadw website. Now, while I appreciate that this matter has now been addressed, regrettably the Welsh Government has still failed to provide any explanation as to why the firewall configuration on the Cadw server was set up in such a way that it allowed people from other nations around the globe to access the Cadw website, yet blocked access from the only Jewish state in the world. Now, this matter was brought to the attention of Cadw back in September of last year, yet nothing was done until I raised the matter in the Senedd in December. So, perhaps, Minister, can you tell us today who was it that set up that firewall in that particular way? Why was Israel blocked? And why did it take months to resolve the issue? The Jewish community, I think, need and deserve answers.

In addition to that, concerns have also been raised about the recent appointment of Rocio Cifuentes as the new Children's Commissioner for Wales. Social media shows that the commissioner attended a protest in Swansea at which there were chants of 'Khaybar, oh Jews', which, of course, is a well-known rallying call to genocide. Now, regrettably, Ms Cifuentes's Twitter feed still promotes the rally to which I've referred. Wales needs a children's commissioner, Minister, who promotes the rights of all children in Wales,

including those of the Jewish faith and heritage. So, I'd be grateful if you could tell us what action the Welsh Government has now taken to investigate concerns about Ms Cifuentes's appointment and her suitability for this important role.

And finally, one of the things that I want to applaud the Welsh Government for is the way in which it adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism. But, regrettably, Minister, in spite of the leadership shown by the Welsh Government in that particular area, there are many organisations, there are many public sector organisations in receipt of Welsh Government funds who have not adopted it. Some of those organisations are further education and higher education organisations here in Wales—our universities. Now, these ought to be places where people can feel safe from the evil of antisemitism, but, unfortunately the reluctance of those institutions to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance antisemitism definition, I think is causing many Jewish people and learners at those universities to be fearful about the future. Can you tell us whether the Welsh Government will commit today to requiring anybody in receipt of Welsh Government funds to adopt that definition as a matter of urgency? I look forward to your responses.

**225 Jane Hutt:** ... I do acknowledge the issues that you've raised. Clearly, the issues around the Cadw server have been addressed. And I would like to just comment on the appointment of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, because I was delighted by the appointment of the next Children's Commissioner for Wales. The cross-party appointment panel that I chaired unanimously agreed on the successful candidate, and the Children, Young People, and Education Committee, which held a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing, saw no reason not to endorse the appointment. The First Minister has replied to the Welsh Conservatives, who have made a range of unsubstantiated claims, and he set out the robustness of the recruitment process, which all Members are aware of. The appointment process will not be reopened. But I think, importantly, to say to Darren and colleagues, I was determined that the involvement of children and young people was an integral part of the recruitment exercise, and they were involved at a number of points through this recruitment exercise, and I'm sure that Members will want to now welcome the new appointment and the new children's commissioner, Rocio Cifuentes, who will start in her post in due course.

It is important that we continue to be vigilant in terms of our commitment to antisemitism, and I think the ways in which we come together throughout the year, not just now, the National Holocaust Memorial Day, are important. I think to be accountable as the Welsh social justice Minister for the Welsh Government is important in terms of our commitment to tackle hate crime and antisemitism, in particular today. So, adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism in full, without qualification, back in 2017, and restating that commitment in 2018, on every opportunity—. And of course this is an opportunity to share the importance of that with all our public bodies across Wales, because its adoption is quite clearly an important step to support understanding and recognition of contemporary forms of antisemitism, to be clear that antisemitism in any form will not be tolerated in Wales, and the Welsh Government stands with the Jewish community. We condemn the vile hatred expressed by individuals who seek to create a climate of fear and aim to fragment our communities. ...

**231 Sioned Williams (Plaid Cymru):** ... In his excellent book *Yr Erlid*, Heini Gruffudd of Swansea tells the story of his mother, the scholar and author Käthe Bosse-Griffiths, and the appalling impact of the growth of Nazism and the Holocaust on her and her family in Germany. They, like millions of other families who weren't considered people by the Nazis and their allies, were persecuted and some, like his mother, had to flee, and others, like his great aunt, committed suicide, and millions like his grandmother were killed in the prisoner camps. It's difficult to imagine the suffering. But books such as *Yr Erlid*, telling the

story of one family, help us to understand the way an appalling ideology and prejudice could bring about inhuman cruelty and genocide. The experience of my sister-in-law's family, Dr Zoe Morris-Williams, was very similar, and the descendents of her grandfather, Heinz Koppel, who became one of the foremost artists of Wales, have made a major contribution to their communities and to Wales, with Zoe, the granddaughter of a refugee, saving lives as a doctor.

Just as individual family stories ensure that we understand the incomprehensible, one day, Holocaust Memorial Day, helps us to remember the lives of the millions killed as a result of Nazi persecution and also every family across the globe who have suffered as a result of genocide. A day of remembrance gives us a chance to reflect on these stories and to hear and to understand the warnings that they contain, and to commit to work towards a future without persecution and cruelty of this kind, and to eradicate the racism and intolerance that can lead to that. ...

We have seen, in a period of national crisis and economic uncertainty, how intolerance can grow and can be nurtured for political reasons. This isn't a thing of the past. Just last week, I saw a Nazi symbol painted on a bus station wall in Neath. And the frightening statistics on reports of anti-Semitic attacks and racist attacks in Wales show clearly that a lack of tolerance is on the increase here in Wales. The Holocaust taught us that standing against prejudice and xenophobia is crucial.

Refugee organisations warn us that the new Nationality and Borders Bill of the Westminster Government will undermine our ambition here in Wales to be a nation of sanctuary for everyone who needs that sanctuary. Placing people in particular categories, proving their qualification by carrying out physical tests and therefore placing value on one life above another is something that we must pledge, on Holocaust Memorial Day of all days, to oppose. ... How does the Government ensure that we promote and celebrate the contribution of families who have made their homes here in Wales having fled prejudice, racism and violence? And would the Government agree to issue a statement on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which would send a message of support to that community too? And what role can the new curriculum play in ensuring that our children understand and learn from the lessons of the past so that we, one day, can see a future that won't be scarred by the most appalling cruelty and will prevent any nation from taking the path that leads to genocide? ...

**235 Jane Hutt:** ... this is also about—and you mentioned the curriculum—the ways in which we are reaching out to our children and young people, because we funded the Holocaust Educational Trust to run the Lessons from Auschwitz programme in Wales. It's currently being delivered online, but there are seminars guided by experts and first-hand testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Those students—and I think many of us will know the young people who have benefited from those from our schools and our communities—they learn about pre-war Jewish life, the former Nazi death and concentration camps—as I said, Auschwitz-Birkenau—and then they can continue. What's so important is the links you made to the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. So, many of those students have become ambassadors, Holocaust Educational Trust ambassadors, and that does mean that they continue to share their knowledge, but it influences the whole of their lives and their values, and they share it in their communities. That's the ambassador role: encouraging others to remember the Holocaust. ...

**241 Jenny Rathbone (Labour):** ... You quite rightly mentioned the massacres that have occurred since the Holocaust, but I just want to mention a couple of the massacres that occurred during and immediately after the first world war ... Sioned Williams has just mentioned the Armenian massacre of 1915. ...

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar of 1919 cannot be described as an extermination—the unarmed civilians who were gunned down are counted in their thousands rather than the millions—but the fact that the massacre was carried out by the

British army in order to suppress demands for Indian independence should make it equally shocking, because it was carried out in our name, or in the name of the British empire. ... I appreciate that, above all, Holocaust Memorial Day remains an unimaginable burden for the Jewish community in Cardiff, as well as the Gypsy and Traveller and Roma community, and also all the gay community, who were massacred by the Nazis. But today, as the prospect of war in eastern Europe raises its ugly head again, what does the Minister think we can do about understanding that it is war and want and racism that fuels these terrible massacres that have divided communities based on our differences of religion, race or sexual orientation ...

**245 Jane Hutt:** ... Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for us to acknowledge and recognise those atrocities and genocides that are in history, and it is acknowledged by the Holocaust Memorial Day that this is a time for everyone. So, I think, as has been very clearly said by those who organise Holocaust Memorial Day, it, 'encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide', and we promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day—the international day on 27 January—to remember the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution, and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur. ...

**250 Samuel Kurtz (Conservative):** ... I was fortunate enough to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau as a teenager through my school. The stillness and silence that enveloped the concentration camp, the lack of colour or joy and the weight of the atrocities that were allowed to happen there are all memories that will live with me forever. ...

At least 1.3 million people were inmates of Auschwitz. At least 1.1 million people were killed. Six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered in the Holocaust. As time moves on and fewer survivors are able to share their stories directly with the new generation, it is imperative that their stories do not die with them.

I must pay tribute to the Holocaust Educational Trust for their tireless work in ensuring these stories are taught and heard. Their aim is to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. The trust works in schools, universities and in the community to raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust, providing teacher training and outreach programmes to schools ... and teaching aids and resource material. The Lessons from Auschwitz project that the Minister mentioned in her statement allows two post-16 students from every school and college in the country to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. In commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day and the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945, we bear witness to those who endured genocide and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition. As is also written on the wall at Auschwitz: 'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'

**259 Jane Hutt:** ... I think it's important to recognise that, as a result of funding from the Welsh Government since 2008, the Lessons from Auschwitz in person and online project has reached 1,826 students from across Wales, 226 teachers from across Wales, and 41 schools and 142 students participate in the project this year, even through the virtual process and access. The most recent visits actually took place in January 2020, and 162 students and teachers participated, 70 schools across Wales; all of our schools will be involved. ...

**261 Delyth Jewell (Plaid Cymru):** There are some horrors in history that are so evil that human beings want to try and forget them, but we must never do that with the Holocaust, because it was a horror perpetrated almost in plain sight, and it is the banality of the evil and the fact that it happened over years that stands out as well: a railway that was built to take people to gas chambers to die, queues of people to be processed, a web of deception and betrayal, families like the Franks, with Anne and her diary, that were ripped from hiding places and thrown to be slaughtered.

Minister, Hugo Rifkind wrote a remarkable blog about the Holocaust in 2015 emphasising

how important it is that we continue to talk about the fact that it was what people did—the people. This is what I'd like to ask you about. He focuses on how easily it happened, how, although people who killed and the people who were killed had grown up alongside one another, some of them identified traits that they wanted to wipe from the face of the earth. Rifkind said: 'The dead and killers alike knew china teapots, Mozart, varieties of cheese...Then, one day, they...began to slide towards something else.'

So, Minister, do you agree that this is one of the principal reasons we have to mark this day, because that slide into horror is something that can lurk beneath the most seemingly civilised of societies, of times—that we cannot take for granted that that was another place, another time, that it can never be safe to bury it in history's tide? ...

**265 Jane Hutt:** ... I will simply say that every word you said is pertinent and important for us, not just today in responding to this statement, but in how we move forward as elective representatives, as Government Ministers and in communities. Commemorating the Holocaust is important, to recognise and to ensure that we never forget—never forget—how dangerous, hateful and divisive narratives can be, what can happen when people and communities are targeted and dehumanised because of who they are. I've talked about the 'othering' of sections of society that happens. It can become incremental in terms of undermining freedoms and, indeed, undermining the rule of law. We know the Holocaust didn't happen overnight. It began with a gradual erosion of human rights and divisive rhetoric against people who were different or were perceived to be different to others. So, those are the lessons we learn today.

**267 Peter Fox (Conservative):** ... Children, mothers, fathers, grandparents—no-one was immune to being engulfed in the depraved flames of Nazism. More than 6 million people were murdered, as we've already heard, and they were murdered not for any fault of their own, but simply because of who they were. And that number is more than just a figure; behind it is millions of people who were mums and dads, doctors and teachers, men and women who were ruthlessly killed by that depraved regime. ...

Holocaust Memorial Day encourages every one of us to remember one of the darkest periods in history, as well as the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Therefore, it's incumbent on us to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten. As a famous quote at Auschwitz eloquently states, 'The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again.' ...

**271 Jane Hutt:** ... I can, just finally, assure you that—with all of your commitments today—this is a commitment, and I think I've reflected that, in terms of our new curriculum, our ethos and values of this Welsh Government. I hope I can say, on behalf of the Welsh Parliament, how important it is that we continue with our support for the Holocaust Educational Trust and, indeed, for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, and that this is embedded into the life of Wales, not just today but every day, and in our schools and education.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/12592#A69801>

*The blog referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.het.org.uk/news-and-events/blog/entry/holocaust-memorial-day-2015-hugo-rifkind>

## United Nations

### **Let Us Stand Firm against Hate, Bigotry Anywhere and Everywhere,' Secretary-General Tells Holocaust Remembrance Service**

... As we remember the loss of so many, we reflect on the loss of so much. Six million futures stolen away — each a human being, each a universe unto themselves. Entire communities wiped out. An entire world — the world of the Shtetl — vanished forever. The

magnificent mosaic of Jewish life in Europe destroyed.

Dear friends, the very essence of the work of the United Nations — for dignity and human rights, for justice and peace — is to give meaning to the pledge of “Never Again”. Antisemitism and other forms of religious bigotry are a seismograph. The more they rattle our world, the greater the cracks to the foundation of our common humanity. Today, the cracks are impossible to ignore.

Antisemitism — the oldest form of hate and prejudice — is resurgent yet again. Almost every day brings new reports of verbal assaults and physical attacks; of cemeteries desecrated and synagogues vandalized. Just last week, we watched in horror as a Rabbi and members of his congregation were held hostage in their synagogue in Texas.

Around the world, Jewish boys are warned not to wear the Kippah in public for fear of being assaulted. Around the clock, Jewish schools need police stationed outside. And we see many other contemporary manifestations of the centuries-old hatred.

We sense it in the startling regularity with which conspiracy theories devolve into heinous antisemitic tropes. We see it in the reprehensible way in which protestors against life-saving vaccines demonstrate wearing the yellow star. And we recognize it in the deeply disturbing attempts to deny, distort or minimize the Holocaust — which are finding fertile ground on the Internet amidst growing ignorance and disdain. In this connection, I welcome new efforts by the General Assembly and others to clearly define and actively combat Holocaust denial.

I was alarmed to learn recently that barely half of adults worldwide have even heard of the Holocaust. The lack of knowledge amongst the younger generations is worse still. Our response to ignorance must be education.

Governments everywhere have a responsibility to teach about the horrors of the Holocaust. The United Nations — including through our Holocaust Outreach Programme — is at the forefront of this crucial work.

We know that when young people learn about the Holocaust, they can better understand the fragility of shared values and democratic institutions — particularly in times of social and economic upheaval. They can learn to detect eerie echoes of the past in the prejudice, xenophobia and anti-refugee rhetoric of our own time. And by recognizing how easily hate speech can turn to hate crime, they can understand the dark path it may lead us down if left unaddressed.

They may ask why the victims’ desperate pleas for help were met with deafening silence — why so few spoke out and fewer still stood up in solidarity. And in asking these questions, they can understand how such silence in the face of hate is complicity. They can understand that the mass murder did not occur in a vacuum, but that it was the culmination of millennia of hatred and discrimination.

No society is immune to intolerance or irrationality.

My own country, Portugal, is marred by this history, too. I have spoken to you before about the expulsion of our Jewish population at the turn of the sixteenth century — an act of cruelty that caused tremendous suffering and an act of stupidity that produced centuries of stagnation.

Understanding our past is crucial to safeguarding our future.

Dear friends, 77 years ago, liberation ended the Holocaust. But it was just the beginning of our efforts to make sure such crimes can never happen again. As fewer and fewer can bear direct witness, let us together pledge to always remember and make sure others never forget.

Let us stand firm against hate and bigotry anywhere and everywhere. Let us do the work of *tikkun olam* — to do what we can to repair our world. And let us stand together for human rights and dignity for all.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21119.doc.htm>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### “Memory, dignity and justice”

#### **Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust**

Today we commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, a crime of shocking inhumanity that brutally murdered six million Jews, as well as Roma and Sinti people, Slavs, people with disabilities, LGBT people, prisoners of war and members of anti-Nazi networks from all over Europe.

The UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were conceived out of the Holocaust and two World Wars – driven by the urgent need to forever prevent such horrors. In these two founding documents, the world's leaders acknowledged that justice, and respect for human dignity, equality and rights are crucial to enduring peace, and that notions of State sovereignty must never be used as an argument to violate human rights. Today, racism and xenophobia are rising sharply. Violent attacks on Jewish sites and antisemitic incidents have been reported in many countries. Antisemitic conspiracy theories have attributed responsibility for the COVID-19 pandemic to Jews. Many public figures have minimized, distorted and weaponised the Holocaust in statements attacking public health measures. As they were in the 1930s, lies, hatred, scapegoating and dehumanization are on the rise – gravely threatening our social fabric today.

We need to push back against hatred. We need to stand up for the truth – including the fundamental truth of our human equality and universal rights as human beings.

Commemorating the Holocaust is essential to that work. These crimes demonstrate the magnitude of disaster that can result from hatred. Honouring those who were murdered – and the trauma and struggles of Holocaust survivors – brings dignity and a measure of justice to those whom the perpetrators of the Holocaust intended to obliterate. Safeguarding the historical record and challenging distortions of that history are a critical part of this effort. For the benefit of past, present and future generations, we must never allow humanity to forget these appalling crimes.

It is my hope that this year's commemoration will encourage action to challenge and combat the forces of division. We must tackle lies and incitement to hatred, including online – and both Governments and social media platforms have a special responsibility in this regard.

Our actions in remembrance of the victims of humanity's worst crimes carry with them the seeds of healing and unity – the realization that we are one humanity, equal in dignity and rights.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28064&LangID=E>

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2022**

#### **Combating all forms of antisemitism must remain global priority to challenge rising hatred – UN experts**

*On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, UN human rights experts reiterate their calls to combat antisemitism and all forms of religious and racial bigotry. They issue the following statement:*

“Over the years, we, and the UN mandates that we hold, have repeatedly issued warnings of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice to all peoples everywhere. Early reports confirm that 2021 – like 2020, 2019, and 2018 before it – was a year in which monitors around the world again documented historically high levels of antisemitism.

We have warned about the need to raise awareness about persistent and emerging forms of antisemitic hatred, the need to document trends and to uphold the human rights obligations of States and human rights responsibilities of non-state actors in combating antisemitism in all its forms.

Of particular concern over the past year are the many reports that Jewish people, and

sites, were subjected to violence, discrimination and harassment by people targeting them as proxies for Israel because of their Jewish identity, particularly during and following armed hostilities in the Middle East in May 2021. Jewish people were violently attacked, suffered death threats and were harassed online; Jewish neighbourhoods were targeted by groups of individuals making violent threats; Jewish religious, educational, and cultural sites were vandalized and defaced; and protests targeted synagogues and Jewish community centres.

Conflict in the Middle East is frequently accompanied by a spike in antisemitism globally. Critiques of Israeli Government actions and policies that violate human rights including those of Palestinians, are both warranted and valid from a human rights perspective. However, in many cases, rhetoric and statements about Israel endorsed by public figures, academics and others went beyond criticizing Israeli policies or actions to assertions that Zionism, the self-determination movement of the Jewish people, is an inherently racist ideology and a form of racial supremacy, suggesting that supporting Zionism is inherently equivalent to supporting racial discrimination. Not only is this narrative false; it has also shown to fuel resentment against Jews and normalise bias against Jewish communities worldwide.

We regret that although UN leaders specifically warned Member States against airing antisemitic diatribes at UN meetings and other international fora, this warning was not heeded, and “Zionism is racism” trope continues to be aired.

As the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s *Working Definition of Antisemitism* notes while determinations concerning antisemitism must always be made with regard to “the overall context” and while “criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic ... holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel” is a form of antisemitism, as is “[d]enying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.”

Experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, have encouraged the use of the IHRA working definition as a non-legal tool, especially in the areas of data collection, education and awareness-raising. Using this working definition in accordance with international human rights standards will not only contribute to the global efforts in combating antisemitism but will also make the space for contentious public debates more capacious and inclusive.

We reiterate the call upon UN Member States in the 2005 UN General Assembly resolution 60/7, to educate future generations about the Holocaust as “a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice”. We therefore welcome the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly last week condemning Holocaust denial as an important milestone in the fight against global antisemitism and all forms of hatred. We hope it also serves as an inspiration to rejecting increasing instances of genocide denial, including the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia.

We urge stakeholders to come together and act within a human rights framework to ensure that the facts of the Holocaust are known and to appreciate how antisemitic conspiracy theories and harmful narratives contribute to an environment in which violence, discrimination and hatred can flourish.”

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28063&LangID=E>

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## House of Commons Oral Answers

### Middle East

**Alan Brown (SNP):** What recent discussions [the Minister] has held with (a) the Government of Israel and (b) representatives of the Palestinian Authority on supporting the peace-building process. (905224)

**Stephen Crabb (Conservative):** What recent discussions [the Minister] has held with counterparts in the middle east on the Abraham Accords. (905226)

**Holly Lynch (Labour):** If [the Minister] will take diplomatic steps to support the creation of an international fund for Israeli-Palestinian peace. (905236)

**The Minister for the Middle East, North Africa and North America (James Cleverly):** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Israeli President Mr Herzog and the Israeli Foreign Minister Lapid during their respective visits to the UK in November. I also recently discussed the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll and Palestinian Prime Minister Shtayyeh.

The Foreign Secretary made clear her commitment to the Abraham accords at the Gulf Co-operation Council-United Kingdom Foreign Ministers' meeting on 20 December. The UK is working with Gulf partners to help deliver shared prosperity and security for Arabs and Israelis alike. We support the objectives of the US Middle East Partnership for Peace Act and we will continue to engage with the US to identify opportunities for further collaboration. I outlined the UK's support for increasing dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians at the Alliance for Middle East Peace's "light the way" gala on 12 December.

**Alan Brown:** Meanwhile, evictions and demolitions continue in East Jerusalem aimed at eradicating Palestinian presence from the whole basin, with a cemetery desecrated to make way for a Jewish national park and new settlements planned that are designed to smash the concept of a two-state solution. When will the UK Government actually take actions to demonstrate that violations of international law do indeed have consequences?

**James Cleverly:** The UK enjoys a close and important relationship with Israel, and that enables us to raise important issues such as settlement demolitions directly with the Israeli Government, which we do. The UK's long-standing policy is to pursue actions that support the creation of a viable two-state solution, and that will remain the focus of our engagement with both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

**Stephen Crabb:** If anybody wants to see something genuinely positive and uplifting in foreign affairs, they should look at the Abraham accords and the fruit stemming from them in the remarkable growth in trade, investment and people-to-people contact between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and other Arab states. Given the UK's excellent relations throughout the Gulf region and our bilateral ties with Israel, does my right hon. Friend agree that we are well placed to help foster the growth of the Abraham accords' fruit? Will he look at how he can encourage other states to embark on the same journey of peace and friendship with Israel?

**James Cleverly:** My right hon. Friend is absolutely right that the UK enjoys excellent relations with all the signatory nations to the Abraham accords. Indeed, I was in Bahrain when the first ever Bahraini ambassador to the state of Israel was announced, and it was genuinely a joyous occasion. The UK will continue to support the Abraham accords and greater joint working between the states in the region. Ultimately, that is the best way to pursue peace, prosperity and freedom for all.

**Holly Lynch:** In 2017, I had the opportunity to visit Israel and Palestine, and what I saw in the west bank really shocked me. We must never see a return to last year's violence. Will

the Minister renew our commitment to an international fund for Israeli-Palestinian peace, based on the model of the International Fund for Ireland, and update the House on our international efforts to make the fund and lasting peace a reality?

**James Cleverly:** The hon. Lady makes an important point about the relationships between Israelis and Palestinians. The UK has, does and will continue to support and facilitate people-to-people contacts and cross-community contacts as well as ensuring that the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority also have a good working relationship. That is and will remain a foundation stone of our foreign policy in the region.

With regard to ALLMEP—the Alliance for Middle East Peace—we have had discussions with the United States of America, and I have had discussions with representatives of the organisation. We will continue to explore what role the UK might play in the future delivery of that.

**Matthew Offord (Conservative):** The successful conclusion of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians is key to bringing peace to the region, yet Hamas publicly condemn peace negotiations and has committed itself to Israel's destruction. Does my right hon. Friend agree that until Hamas disarms, Israel cannot be expected to negotiate with a terror group which calls for its very destruction?

**James Cleverly:** Hamas has not proven itself to be good for the Palestinian people. The simple truth is that its aggressive posture and threats to eradicate the state of Israel have harmed relations between Israelis and Palestinians. We wish to see a viable two-state solution with Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace, prosperity and freedom. Hamas has long been a roadblock to that. We call upon it to set aside its violent ways and pursue a path to peace.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-25/debates/B2782832-319F-494C-8B58-688A7E82FBEF/MiddleEast>

#### **Topical Questions: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour):** Last week saw the first eviction of a Palestinian family in Sheikh Jarrah in east Jerusalem in five years. Demolitions of Palestinian homes in the Occupied Territories have increased by 21% in 2021, and currently, 200 more Palestinian families have eviction orders and are at risk of being displaced. The forced evictions of Palestinians must stop, so will the Minister condemn these demolitions, and what action will he take to stop further evictions of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah? (905255)

**James Cleverly:** I forgive the hon. Lady for not being a devoted follower of my social media feeds and statements; I have already put out a statement on those demolitions. As I said in response to an earlier question, the UK enjoys an incredibly strong relationship with Israel. That allows us to bring up difficult and sensitive issues such as this, but also enables us to work with Israel on areas of mutual interest and concern, including ultimately a viable two-state solution.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-25/debates/E127271B-6E9A-451A-8C1A-4A5B0395687E/TopicalQuestions#contribution-C5EF8BBE-A70E-4744-BD75-1F3575F1F083>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/jamescleverly/status/1483866915613388810>

## **House of Commons Written Answer**

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Jim Shannon (DUP) [105523]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent representations she has made to her Israeli counterpart on discrimination faced by Palestinians.

**James Cleverly:** We have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to

the occupation and encourage the Israeli Government to do all it can to uphold the values of equality for all enshrined in its laws.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-17/105523>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Jerusalem: Christianity

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans** [HL5344] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to concerns expressed by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem that "radical fringe groups" are trying to drive Christians out of Jerusalem, what assessment they have made of the future status of Christians in Jerusalem.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities. The UK condemns all attacks on the right to freedom of religion or belief.

The UK is committed to working with all parties across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to ensure the safety and security of the holy sites and all who worship there, including Christians from all nations. Israel is a thriving democracy, and has made clear its commitment to freedom of religion. We encourage the Israeli Government to do all it can to uphold the values of equality for all enshrined in its laws.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-11/hl5344>

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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>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-25/debates/fe85831a-a848-42d0-93d6-98159d8ebbd7/CharitiesBill\(Lords\)\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-25/debates/fe85831a-a848-42d0-93d6-98159d8ebbd7/CharitiesBill(Lords)(FirstSitting))

#### **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>

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee Report: The Draft Online Safety Bill and the legal but harmful debate

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8608/documents/86960/default/>

## **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

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

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

**Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights** (closing date 8 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/human-rights-act-reform-a-modern-bill-of-rights>

**CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases**

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

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