



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religious Freedom

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [119627] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his planned reforms to sections 3 and 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 will ensure that references to religion in legislation and guidance will be interpreted as religion or belief.

Religious Freedom: Telecommunications

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [119634] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the judgment in *Blackburn (t/a Cornish Moorland Honey) v Revenue and Customs Commissioners* [2013] UKFTT 525, what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed reforms to sections 3 and 6 of the Human Rights Act on the protection offered to persons with a religious conviction against the use of electronic communication.

James Cartlidge: In December, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Government is consulting on proposals to overhaul and replace the Human Rights Act (HRA) with a Bill of Rights. The consultation process is ongoing and we are carefully considering the impact of proposed policies on the legislative framework and legal systems of each devolved nation within the UK. Engagement with stakeholders, including in the devolved administrations, is underway and roundtable events with religious, humanist and secularist groups are planned. In line with our manifesto commitment, we want to ensure there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our national security and effective government.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119627>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119634>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKFTT/TC/2013/TC02913.html>

The sections of the Human Rights Act referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/section/3>

and

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/section/6>

The consultation referred to above can be read at

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

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Jerusalem: Palestinians

Caroline Lucas (Green) [119479] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2022 to Question 107537 on Jerusalem: Palestinians; what response she received from the Government of Israel to her representation urging them to stop the practices of demolitions and evictions of Palestinian homes; whether she is monitoring the extent to which the Government of Israel has stopped these practices since her representation; and if she will make a statement.

Amanda Milling: The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. On 19 January, Minister Cleverly urged the Government of Israel to stop these practices. The UK raises the issue of demolitions, confiscations and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel, most recently with Israel's Ministry of Defence on 20 January and Ministry of Justice on 27 January.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119479>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-19/107537>

The statement referred to above can be read at

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

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL5812] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Protection of Civilians Report of 11–24 January, what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning roadblocks and checkpoints placed on Palestinian village entrances and agricultural roads in the West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to raise with the Israeli authorities the impact that restrictions on access and trade have on the living standards of ordinary Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/hl5812>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/11-24-january-2022>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Updated Travel Advice: Israel

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

Updated Travel Advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

TUC

Take action to help end corporate complicity in the occupation of Palestine

The illegal occupation of Palestine means that Palestinians face violations of their human and workers' rights on a daily basis - and too many companies are benefiting from it.

The UN has set up a database to help track these companies' activities – but it's falling out of date. We're campaigning to make sure that the UN has to keep an accurate record of these companies: you can add your name to the petition to support this action [here](#).

The Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have been built in violation of international law. Settlement activities involve enforced displacement of Palestinians, land confiscation, disruption to Palestinians' livelihoods, restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement and the exploitation of natural resources.

Every day, thousands of Palestinian workers in the settlements face [exploitation](#), ...

In 2020, after years of pressure from rights groups, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) published a [database](#) of 112 companies doing business in these illegal Israeli settlements. These businesses [have](#), according to [UN Resolution 31/36](#) "directly and indirectly enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the Israeli settlements". ...

In 2009, the TUC Congress agreed to support moves to divest from and boycott the goods of companies that profit from the illegal settlements, the occupation and the construction of the wall.

In 2010, TUC Congress democratically agreed to support a ban on importing goods produced in the illegal settlements ...

Corporate complicity in the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and violations of Palestinians' human rights must be exposed and ended. There is no excuse. ...

The TUC, as part of the international trade union movement, [supports](#) justice for Palestinians, equality and respect for all Palestinian rights.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/take-action-help-end-corporate-complicity-occupation-palestine>

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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>

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

**** closes in 2 days**

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

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

**** closes in 9 days**

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Draft Corporate Plan 2022-2025

(closing date 25 February 2022)

<https://www.equalityni.org/CorporatePlanConsultation#gsc.tab=0>

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>

Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland (closing date 28 March 2022)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

Trade with Israel (closing date 30 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-israel-call-for-input>

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