



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answer

History: Education

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6403] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history in the school curriculum to combat bullying in schools.

Baroness Barran: The history curriculum gives teachers and schools the freedom to use specific examples to teach pupils about the history of Britain and the wider world.

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers' history can already be taught as part of schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Resources are available from experts in the communities themselves and bodies such as the Historical Association.

In recognition of its importance, the Holocaust is the only historic event which is compulsory within the national curriculum for history at key stage 3. The curriculum gives teachers and schools the freedom to decide how to teach the subject and what resources to use to support an understanding of the Holocaust, and the experiences of non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

The department is providing over £1.1 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2022, to five anti-bullying organisations, to support schools to tackle bullying. We are working with all five organisations to ensure any training and resources produced as part of these projects are in line with our requirements.

Our preventing and tackling bullying guidance sets out that schools should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents and evaluating the effectiveness of their approaches.

Alongside guidance, the department's Educate Against Hate website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with advice and trusted resources to safeguard young people from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values. We have also published the Respectful School Communities: Self-review and Signposting Tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can

help education settings combat bullying, harassment, and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-23/hl6403>

The website referred to above can be read at

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

The Tool referred to above can be read at

https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/6.4953_DFE_Respectful-schools_signposting-tool_FINAL_Fillable_Client_Cop....pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Oral Answer

Topical questions: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Christian Wakeford (Labour): Despite our deep and historic ties both with Israel and with the Arab world, the UK was entirely absent from the process that led to the Abraham accords in the summer of 2020, and last year's integrated review made no mention of them whatsoever. Does the Minister agree that if the rhetoric of global Britain is to mean anything, surely the UK should be central to encouraging more of our partners across the Arab world to normalise relations with Israel for the good of the whole middle east?

The Minister for Asia and the Middle East (Amanda Milling): The Foreign Secretary made clear her commitment to the Abraham accords at the Gulf Cooperation Council and UK Foreign Ministers meeting on 20 December 2021. The UK warmly welcomes the historic steps taken to agree normalisation agreements between Israel, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Sudan, and we will continue to work with the US and regional partners to actively encourage further dialogue between Israel and other countries in the region to work towards a more peaceful and prosperous future.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-03-08/debates/A1D7EE7C-07F7-4ACD-A5B8-CB7D8BCA10CB/TopicalQuestions#contribution-C1A744BF-A518-47D0-AE0F-D56D63AD522F>

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Arab States

Christian Wakeford (Labour) [905929] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to encourage Arab and Muslim states to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel.

Amanda Milling: The UK is committed to working with Arab and Israeli partners to help deliver shared prosperity and regional security.

We welcome Israeli PM Bennett's recent inaugural visit to Bahrain.

The UK is committed to ensuring that normalisation is an enduring success. We will continue to encourage further regional partners to normalise relations with Israel and support efforts that bring us closer to this goal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-08/905929>

United Nations

Statement by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, on the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem

I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This past week, daily violence has claimed the lives of six Palestinians, including one child, and 26 Palestinians and seven Israelis have been injured.

Every death is tragic, and every injury is lamentable, but the loss or injury of a child is particularly devastating. I reiterate that children must never be the target of violence or put in harm's way.

In this volatile situation, all concerned must refrain from actions and provocations that fuel tensions and exercise maximum restraint. There can be no justification for violence or terror, which must be condemned by all. Israeli security forces must use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable to protect life.

This uptick in violence is taking place at a particularly sensitive time. I call on political, religious and community leaders to reject violence and speak up against those who try to inflame the situation.

We must all work toward restoring hope and the prospect of a political resolution to this conflict.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/statement-un-special-coordinator-middle-east-peace-process-6>

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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>

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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-08/debates/20397778-861E-4D27-B358-53B067DE72A3/NationalityAndBordersBill>

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

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