



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs

Foreign Affairs

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

## Home Affairs

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Hate Crime Strategy

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-06438] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-03293 by Shona Robison on 11 October 2021, what the current status is of its new hate crime strategy, and what further steps it will take to tackle Islamophobia in Scotland, in light of the recommendations in the *Report of the inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland by the Cross-Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia*.

**Shona Robison:** On 23 December 2021 we published a [report on implementation](#) of the actions set out in the Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan (2017). The report shows encouraging progress has been made towards tackling hate crime in Scotland, with successful delivery of the vast majority of actions in the 2017 Action Plan.

Publication of this report allows the Scottish Government and partners to take stock of and refresh approaches to tackling hate crime. As such, and building on progress in this area, we will work with key delivery partners to develop a new hate crime strategy, for publication later this year. The new strategy will help guide how we tackle hatred and prejudice – including Islamophobia – in Scotland and will also support implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.

We are in the process of convening a strategic partnership group to provide a robust, multi-agency approach to development of the new hate crime strategy. Consideration is also being given to other necessary engagements that will allow for a range of voices to shape the strategy as it develops. We would therefore like to reiterate our previous commitment to working collaboratively on Islamophobia, including on the range of issues highlighted within the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-06438>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03293>

The report of the Cross Party Group, referred to above, can be read at <https://anassarwar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Islamophobia-public-inquiry-report-1.pdf>

### Definition of Islamophobia

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-06439] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-03292 by Shona Robison on 8 October 2021, what the current status is of its work on adopting a formal definition of Islamophobia; whether it will commit to adopting the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, and, if so, within what timeframe.

**Shona Robison:** On 23 December 2021 we published a [report on implementation](#) of the actions set out in the Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan (2017). The report shows encouraging progress made in a number of key areas including raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting.

Building on this progress we will publish a new hate crime strategy later this year. Development of a strategy of this nature will engender consideration of and engagement on a number of relevant initiatives to tackle hate crime and prejudice – including Islamophobia – in Scotland. It will therefore also naturally allow for further consideration of the need for the Scottish Government to adopt a formal definition of Islamophobia, such as the definition advanced by the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-06439>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03292>

The report of the All Party Group, referred to above, can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

TOP

## Foreign Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Freedom of Religion or Belief Summit

**Edward Leigh (Conservative)** [133127] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what her Department's objectives are for the international conference to promote freedom of religion or belief due to take place in London in July 2022.

**Vicky Ford:** The UK-hosted International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in July 2022 will drive forward international efforts on this agenda and demonstrate the UK's leading role in supporting freedom and openness. This conference will allow us to use our global influence to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief for all internationally. Preparations for the conference are ongoing, including consultations with our international and domestic partners to consider possible themes and outcomes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-02/133127>

TOP

## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **\*\* Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0255/amend/sentience\\_day\\_rep\\_0314.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0255/amend/sentience_day_rep_0314.pdf)

#### **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>

Bill as amended on Report

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45625/documents/1568>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45667/documents/1578>

#### **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/>

**TOP**

## 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>

TOP

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