



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Home Affairs

Race Disparity Unit (with numerous other departments)

Inclusive Britain: government response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-06824] To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions have taken place regarding (a) its and (b) its agencies' adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017. As such, the Scottish Government and its agencies have been expected to adhere to the definition since June 2017.

The adoption of the definition demonstrates our determination to tackle antisemitism, and sends a strong message that it is entirely unacceptable in Scotland. While the IHRA definition is not legally-binding, we find it to be helpful in bringing clarity to what is often a complex issue.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-06824>

Senedd Cymru: Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

President of National Library of Wales pre-appointment hearing

40 Tom Giffard (Conservative): ... I wanted to ask you about your personal views as well, and how you think they would impact your role. I know you've historically been quite vocal on Twitter about your disapproval of the State of Israel, and you've tweeted in the past about your support of the Boycott Israel campaign. So, in your prospective role as president of the national library, are you looking to do things like making sure the organisation boycotts Israeli products, for example? And what message do you think your appointment would send to the Jewish community in Wales?

41 Ashok Ahir [interim president of the national library]: Well, I'm happy to return that query at some point offline, but I don't recall myself being vehemently opposed to it or supportive of any boycotts of Israel.

42 Tom Giffard Okay. You're happy to provide that in writing, through the Chair, if that's appropriate.

41 Ashok Ahir: Yes. That's fine. And, like I said, I think one thing that I am very proud of is my support for all-faith communities right across Wales, including the Jewish community, and I'm pretty sure I could demonstrate lots of examples of that to you offline about that as well. ...

<https://record.senedd.wales/Committee/12633#C415514>

TOP

Holocaust

Council of Europe

European governments must ensure Holocaust Remembrance and education to combat anti-semitism

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has adopted a comprehensive "Recommendation on passing on remembrance of the Holocaust and preventing crimes against humanity". The Recommendation calls on the organisation's 46 member states to promote teaching and learning about the history of the Holocaust and to pass on remembrance of the Holocaust and the crimes committed by the Nazis, their accomplices and collaborators, as an integral part of education and public policies. The text emphasises the exceptional nature of the destruction of the European Jewish community, while also recognising the other victims of Nazism and of other mass crimes of the 20th century.

Taking into account that there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors to bear direct witness, the Council of Europe proposes an inter-disciplinary approach to Remembrance, including historical documents, places of remembrance, media, music, art and literature.

Welcoming the Recommendation, Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić said "Learning and teaching about the Holocaust is vital to prevent future crimes against humanity. At a time when anti-semitism is on the rise, we must spare no effort to remember the victims and to ensure that remembrance will continue in future. This is an essential part of our collective responsibility to protect Jews and Jewish life in Europe. It is part of our common European values."

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-governments-must-ensure-holocaust-remembrance-and-education-to-combat-anti-semitism>

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Development Aid

Kevan Jones (Labour) [135435] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer to Question 45069 on 13 September 2021 on Palestinians: Overseas Aid, for what reason her Department does not publish Partnership Principles Assessments.

Amanda Milling: In line with our transparency commitment policy, the FCDO publishes Memorandums of Understanding and Annual Programme Reviews for programmes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on DevTracker. We do not publish Partnership Principles Assessments. We have an active dialogue with the Palestinian Authority (PA) on issues relating to the 'partnership principles' and assess that the PA continues to demonstrate a credible commitment to our agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135435>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45069>

DevTracker for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, referred to above, can be read at

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/countries/PS/projects>

Palestinians: Newspaper Press

Kevan Jones (Labour) [135436] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority, whether her Department has raised concerns with representatives of the Authority about an article in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida on 5 April 2021 referring to the Park Hotel suicide bombers as self-sacrificing and heroic.

Amanda Milling: Our partnership with the Palestinian Authority includes a commitment from the Palestinian leadership to adhere to the principle of non-violence and to tackle any language and actions that could incite violence or hatred. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to avoid engaging in, or encouraging, any type of action and language that makes it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135436>

Memoranda of Understanding, as referred to above, can be read on DevTracker at

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/countries/PS/projects>

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL6629] To ask Her Majesty's Government,

further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 February (HL6050), what judicial body they consider would be able to make decision about allegations of the crime of apartheid in respect of Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The issue of jurisdiction over the crime of apartheid is a matter for an appropriate international judicial body. The government believes that the use of the apartheid terminology hardens positions on both sides. We encourage direct engagement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Our priority remains support for a two-state solution.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/hl6629>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/hl6050>

TOP

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>

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0285/210285.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0285/210285en.pdf>

Regulatory Policy Committee Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061266/2022-02-18-RPC-DCMS-4347_4 - Online Safety Bill.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061266/2022-02-18-RPC-DCMS-4347_4_-_Online_Safety_Bill.pdf)

Impact Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061265/Online Safety Bill impact assessment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061265/Online_Safety_Bill_impact_assessment.pdf)

European Convention on Human Rights Memorandum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-bill-supporting-documents/online-safety-bill-european-convention-on-human-rights-memorandum>

Government response to the Joint Committee report on the draft Online Safety Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-committee-report-on-the-draft-online-safety-bill-government-response/government-response-to-the-joint-committee-report-on-the-draft-online-safety-bill>

Factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-bill-supporting-documents/online-safety-bill-factsheet>

Press release: World-first online safety laws introduced in Parliament

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-online-safety-laws-introduced-in-parliament>

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