



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Charity Commission

Regulator investigates charity over sanctioned trustees

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into and frozen the bank account of a grant-making charity, after three of its founding trustees were made subject to financial sanctions.

[Genesis Philanthropy Group](#) was registered in 2018 with charitable purposes which include advancing the education of the public in the arts, culture, and heritage of the Jewish people.

Three of the four founding trustees of the charity (as previously recorded on the charity's entry on the public register), Petr Aven, Mikhail Fridman and German Khan, have been named as 'designated persons', added to the list of those subject to financial sanctions by the UK government relating to Russia.

The Commission's position is that individuals subject to financial sanctions in the UK cannot discharge their duties as a trustee of a charity.

The Commission's register of charities has been amended to reflect the fact that the three individuals have ceased to be trustees of the charity.

The inquiry, which opened on 16 March 2022, will examine whether the charity can continue to operate and is viable, and whether the trustees have discharged their legal duties and responsibilities in their management and administration of the charity.

The regulator has frozen the charity's bank account, meaning that no one can access or move funds held in its account without the Commission's prior consent. ...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-investigates-charity-over-sanctioned-trustees>

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House of Commons Written Answers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Palestinians: Newspaper Press

Steve McCabe (Labour) [137233] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in the context of the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), whether her Department has made representations to representatives of the PA in relation to an article in the official PA newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, on 21 August 2021 reporting that Israel's goal is to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Palestinians: Monuments

Steve McCabe (Labour) [137234] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in the context of the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), whether her Department has made representations to representatives of the PA on the building of a monument to Kamal Abu Wa'er in Jenin.

Palestinians: Television

Steve McCabe (Labour) [137235] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in the context of the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), whether her Department has made representations to representatives of the PA on the airing of footage of children praising Dalal Mughrabi on official PA television on 22 September 2021.

Steve McCabe (Labour) [137236] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in the context of the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), whether her Department has made representations to representatives of the PA on the praising of Thaer Hammad on official PA television on 5 October 2021.

Palestinians: Cultural Heritage

Steve McCabe (Labour) [137237] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in the context of the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), whether her Department has made representations to representatives of the PA on an exhibit celebrating convicted terrorists at the Bethlehem: Capital of Arab Culture Week in Bethlehem on 9 October 2021.

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/2022-03-09/137233>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137234>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137235>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137236>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137237>

United Nations

First Person: From Gaza to the Red Planet

Loay Elbasyouni is a Palestinian electrical engineer on the NASA team that designed Ingenuity, an innovative robotic helicopter that landed on Mars in 2021. He talks to UN News about his journey, from a UN-run school in the Gaza strip, to the US space agency. "I have always been passionate about the environment, and having an impact in changing our planet to a better place. I was also passionate about space, but at the same time, I really wanted to focus on making things better on our planet.

So, I worked on alternative energy and electric vehicles after college, and I learned a lot about electric motors and electric propulsion systems, and gained useful experience that I used later on in my career. ...

Ingenuity marks the first time that we have flown on another planet. The main goal is to demonstrate the technology, to prove that we can fly on Mars, and the data we collect from the flights will help in future missions. ...

I haven't been back to Gaza in almost 22 years. My extended family is mostly still there, but my dad got a job in Germany, and 11 years after I left I got to see them for the first time.

My brothers are scattered around the world: one is here in the US, one is in Germany and another lives in Turkey. We're an international family, with more than five citizenships. We could call ourselves the United Nations family! ...

I had to drop out university when I first arrived in the US, because I couldn't afford the fees, and I had to find work. But I always had the passion to carry on, and be part of the solution to making the world a better place. ...

Even when you come from challenging beginnings, you really have to believe in what you want to do and follow your dreams. ...

It's about believing in yourself: you really have to believe you can do it." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114222>

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Other Relevant Information

United Nations

International Day for Eliminating Racial Discrimination 'an Urgent Call to Action' towards United World Free of Hate, Secretary-General Tells General Assembly

... Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of Governments and stymies an inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19.

Racism is also a catalyst of coarsening public discourse that normalizes hate, denies dignity and spurs violence. ...

No country is immune from intolerance, nor free of hate. ...

This year's theme — "Voices for Action against Racism" — calls on us to listen closely, to speak out loudly and act decisively. We all have a responsibility to engage in solidarity with movements for equality and human rights everywhere. And we must extend solidarity to everyone fleeing conflict or persecution without any discrimination based on race, religion or ethnicity.

We must speak out against hate speech — offline and online. We must defend civic space by protecting free expression and assembly — the bedrock of pluralist, peaceful and inclusive societies. ... We must listen to those experiencing injustice and ensure their concerns and demands are at the centre of efforts to dismantle discriminatory structures. ...

Together, we are committed to making sure people of every race, ethnicity, colour, gender, religion, creed and sexual orientation enjoy a sense of belonging and safety and have an equal opportunity to contribute to the success of our United Nations.

Realizing the vision of a world free of racism and racial discrimination demands action every day, at every level, in every society. Today and every day, let us unite around our common humanity and speak as one for equality, respect, justice and dignity for all. Thank you.

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21189.doc.htm>

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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>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0282/amend/natborders_ccla_rm0321.pdf

Online Safety Bill

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

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 8 days**

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