



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Holocaust

High Court

The London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust v The Minister of State for Housing and Westminster City Council

... All parties before the Court support the principle of a compelling memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and all those persecuted by the Nazis during those years when “*humanity was tipped into the abyss of evil and depravity*” (words taken from the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission Report ‘Britain’s Promise to Remember’). The Memorial is considered to be an essential part of “*Britain’s Promise to Remember*”.

The issue dividing the parties is the proposed location of the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens ... Victoria Tower Gardens has considerable cultural, historical and heritage significance. ...

The merits of the Memorial’s proposed location in Victoria Tower Gardens are not a matter for the Court. ...

Three of five grounds of challenge arise for consideration by the Court. They are:

- 1) Did the Planning Inspector and Minister err in their assessment of harm to the historic environment of the Gardens ...? (Ground 1)
- 2) Does the London County Council (Improvements) Act 1900 impose a statutory prohibition on locating the Memorial in the Gardens? (Ground 3)
- 3) Did the Planning Inspector and Minister err in their treatment of alternative sites for the Memorial? (Ground 4)

The claim succeeds on Ground 3 ... It succeeds on Ground 4 ... but only to the extent consequential on the outcome of Ground 3. ...

Section 8(1) of the London County Council (Improvements) Act 1900 imposes an enduring obligation to retain Victoria Tower Gardens for use as a public garden. ...

The Planning Inspector and Minister assessed alternative sites for the location of the Memorial without an appreciation of the potential impediment presented by the 1900 Act to locating the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens. ...

The appropriate remedy is to quash the decision, so as to enable further consideration of the implications of the 1900 Act. It is an Act of Parliament which specifically regulates Victoria Tower Gardens and specifies that the land must be retained for use as a public

garden. ... The Court was not addressed on the mechanics of whether or when the 1900 Act might be repealed. ...

To read the full summary see

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/LHPGT-v-Minister-for-Housing-Summary-080422.pdf>

To read the full judgement see

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2022/829.html>

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Other Relevant Information

Tell Mama

Neo-Nazi terrorist who called for violence against Muslims and Jews jailed

A neo-Nazi terrorist who called for violent white supremacist terror against Muslim and Jewish communities online will spend the next two years locked up in a young offenders institute.

Thomas Leech, 19, from Preston, pleaded guilty to encouraging acts of terrorism and stirring up religious or racial hatred at Manchester Crown Court.

When arrested by counter-terror officers, Leech confessed that he was a Nazi. Following bail, Leech continued posting extremist, racist content online.

Leech also admitted possessing and creating child abuse images ...

The court heard how Leech promoted racist conspiracies about Jewish communities - including historic antisemitic canards about so-called 'global influence' and Holocaust denial.

He also promoted the infamous white supremacist conspiracy of the so-called "Great Replacement," which has inspired various acts of racist terror globally – including the murder of 51 Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand. ...

The racist screeds of Thomas Leech on GAB also came to the attention of the antisemitism watchdog and charity that works to support Jewish communities, the Community Security Trust in 2020, whose research includes how extremist platforms like GAB serve as hotbeds for racist conspiracies about Jewish communities – notably when it concerns Covid-19.

In mitigation, Leech's defence said, "He was doing it because he needed a feeling of belonging and significance and literally had time on his hands." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://tellmamauk.org/neo-nazi-terrorist-who-called-for-violence-against-muslims-and-jews-jailed/>

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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>

Online Safety Bill

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Independent Review of Social Cohesion and Resilience (closing date 2 June 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-review-of-social-cohesion-and-resilience-call-for-evidence/independent-review-of-social-cohesion-and-resilience-call-for-evidence>

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