



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Marriage: Ceremonies

**Baroness Cox (Crossbench)** [HL7850] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Nuffield Foundation report, When is a wedding not a marriage? Exploring non-legally binding ceremonies, published on 8 March; and, in particular, of the conclusion that wedding law reform is achievable and long overdue.

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** The Government notes the conclusion of the Nuffield Foundation's report. The Government remains committed to assessing the case for more comprehensive and enduring reform to marriage law once the Law Commission has completed its fundamental review of the law in this area. The final report will take into account the findings of the Nuffield Foundation and is due in July. The report will support the Government in understanding what types of ceremonies are taking place, why they are taking place and what the demand for them is, and who conducts them, in order to consider the implications of changing the law on marriage on all groups.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-22/hl7850>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/when-is-a-wedding-not-a-marriage-exploring-non-legally-binding-ceremonies-final-report.pdf>

*Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/>

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Definition of Antisemitism

**Jackie Baillie (Labour)** [S6W-07112] To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take to ensure that universities in Scotland adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

**Jamie Hepburn:** I refer the member to the answer to question S6W-07711 on 19 April 2022. ...

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07712>

The answer referred to above reads:

**Jamie Hepburn:** *The Scottish Government is committed to tackling all forms of racism, including antisemitism. We adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism in June 2017. This is the Scottish Government position and it applies to all Ministers. We encourage all bodies to sign up to the IHRA definition of antisemitism.*

*We are actively engaged in consultation with Jewish students, Jewish community organisations, and stakeholders in higher education as part of our wider approach to tackling antisemitism.*

*On 23 February 2022, I held a round table discussion on antisemitism in higher education with Jewish students, representatives from the Jewish community, and stakeholders from the higher education sector. The event was organised in response to a letter from the Union of Jewish Students regarding universities and the IHRA definition of antisemitism.*

*It was an opportunity for students to share their experiences of antisemitism and also to hear from stakeholders about the work they are doing to confront this issue in practice. The discussion was very productive, with all parties agreeing to undertake positive actions to address antisemitism on campus going forward.*

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07711>

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## Holocaust

### UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation

#### **Immersive UK digital map of people's stones painted for the UK Holocaust Memorial launches**

Of over 10,000 Foundation Stones painted for our UK Holocaust Memorial in London by members of the public to date, 28 stones with stories have been chosen to feature on an [immersive map](#). The Foundation Stones Map allows people to explore the stones in 3D in locations across the country and listen to the stories behind them ...

From a whole village in Norfolk coming together to paint 150 stones to a 98-year-old woman in London paying tribute to her mother murdered in Auschwitz, the trail winds its way to London where the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be built. People can turn the 3D stones to see all around them and listen to the stories and words of the people who painted them.

Lord Pickles, Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, said: Every stone on this trail has a story or message for our new UK Holocaust Memorial in London. We're incredibly moved and proud that people from across the UK are supporting the Memorial, not only in their hearts but with their hands through painting stones which will become part of the memorial as it is built. We are truly building a national memorial together.

Ed Balls, Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, adds: By exploring the trail, you discover the British public's emotional connections to the history of the Holocaust, from families lost to the resilience of survivors. The Holocaust is part of the British story. Discover connections to liberators, aid workers and campaigners in communities up and down the country. ...

Inspired by the Jewish custom of placing stones on graves and headstones, every stone will become part of the Memorial and is a promise to remember the past and build a future free from hate. ...

[Foundation Stones](#) invites everyone to paint a stone for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of Nazi persecution. People can also dedicate their stones to those murdered in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. People have until Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2023 to take part.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immersive-uk-digital-map-of-peoples-stones-painted-for-the-uk-holocaust-memorial-launches>

### **Remembering Kitchener Camp: A memorial concert for Yom HaShoa**

As part of the Yom HaShoah commemoration, the concert will remember the Kitchener Camp in Kent which saved the lives of 4,000 Jewish refugee men. ...

The Kitchener Camp opened in Sandwich, Kent, in January 1939, and saved the lives of 4,000 Jewish refugee men from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Many of these men had been arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps such as Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen following Kristallnacht in 1938. In Britain, the Jewish community and others persuaded the UK Government to relax visa entry restrictions, paving the way for the Kitchener Camp scheme.

The camp was intended to provide sanctuary for a steady flow of refugee men who were then expected to emigrate to Australia, America or Canada. A small number of women, often with very young children, who had gained entry to Britain with domestic visas, were able to temporarily join their husbands; but these were the lucky few. Sadly, most of the men would never see their families again. ...

The event will conclude with the awarding of British Heroes of The Holocaust medals to descendants of brothers Jonas and Phineas May, and Ernest Joseph – three men who played pivotal roles in establishing and running the Kitchener Camp.

The British Heroes of the Holocaust medal is awarded by the UK government in recognition of British citizens who helped or rescued Jews or others in the Holocaust; either through extraordinary acts of courage, or by going above and beyond the call of duty in the most difficult circumstances. Since its inauguration in 2010 it has been awarded to 41 individuals. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/remembering-kitchener-camp-a-memorial-concert-for-yom-hashoa>

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## [Israel](#)

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Department for International Trade: Visits Abroad**

**Emily Thornberry (Labour)** [155627] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the Answer of 6 April 2022 to Question 149195, on Department for International Trade: Aviation, and her Department's declaration of ministerial travel published on 21 October 2021, whether the total cost to the public purse of her predecessor's accommodation, meals and other expenses, excluding travel, when visiting Israel in June 2021 was £989.39; and who paid for any costs incurred above that amount.

**Penny Mordaunt:** Transparency returns include the best information available to

the department at the time of publication. On some visits, accommodation, transport and other services are provided by Embassies or host governments. Information on the costs of these services is not centrally held.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-19/155627>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149195>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Imports: Israel

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7831] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they require businesses importing from Israel to specify that their products do not originate in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** The existing United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement requires that goods originating in Israel are declared as such upon import into the United Kingdom.

Goods imported from illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are not entitled to benefits from preferential trade and we are committed to maintaining that approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-07/hl7831>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### Israel's housing policies in occupied Palestinian territory amount to racial segregation – UN experts

Israel's housing policies in East Jerusalem amount to racial segregation and discrimination against the Palestinian people, and a violation of their human rights, UN experts said today.

Based on reports received, the experts said Palestinians in the territory have been subject to discriminatory zoning and planning regimes that restrict access to housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, and other essential services, including healthcare and educational facilities.

"The discriminatory zoning and planning regime in East Jerusalem, which prioritises zoning for Israeli settlements and limits housing options for Palestinians, clearly amounts to segregation on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin," the experts said.

"Racially segregated settlements have had significant and lasting consequences on the standards of living of the Palestinian people," they stressed, calling attention to the detrimental effect of the measures on Palestinians and Bedouin communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

A [report](#) to the Human Rights Council in March said Israel's 55-year occupation of the Palestinian territory constitutes apartheid. The UN experts echoed the findings of the report and urged the Israeli Government to comply with international human rights and humanitarian law, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

They expressed alarm about reports that Palestinian protests over the establishment of the "Evyatar" outpost and Israel's exclusive control over the distribution of public spaces and basic resources have allegedly been met with disproportionate violence and systematic suppression by the Israeli Defence Forces.

"We have received reports that protesters have been subjected to indiscriminate and

excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, torture, and collective punishment. At least six Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli security forces or Israel settlers while protesting the establishment of the settlement,” they said.

The UN experts urged the international community to conduct independent investigations into the conduct of military and law enforcement operations ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/israels-housing-policies-occupied-palestinian-territory-amount-racial>

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

### **UK Parliament**

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

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

Received Royal Assent

#### **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>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9295/CBP-9295.pdf>

#### **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>

Received Royal Assent

#### **\*\* Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Lords consideration of Commons message

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-27/debates/A55E216C-E66A-4D6E-9B46-1FD44C4C1AFC/NationalityAndBordersBill>

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

House of Commons Library Reading List

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9509/CBP-9509.pdf>

## **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