



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Back issues](#)

Home Affairs

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Prime Minister's statement on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We are all devastated by the news we have just heard from Balmoral.

The death of Her Majesty The Queen is a huge shock to the nation and to the world.

Queen Elizabeth II was the rock on which modern Britain was built.

Our country has grown and flourished under her reign.

Britain is the great country it is today because of her.

She ascended the throne just after the Second World War.

She championed the development of the Commonwealth - from a small group of seven countries to a family of 56 nations spanning every continent of the world.

We are now a modern, thriving, dynamic nation.

Through thick and thin, Queen Elizabeth II provided us with the stability and the strength that we needed.

She was the very spirit of Great Britain – and that spirit will endure.

She has been our longest-ever reigning monarch.

It is an extraordinary achievement to have presided with such dignity and grace for 70 years.

Her life of service stretched beyond most of our living memories.

In return, she was loved and admired by the people in the United Kingdom and all around the world.

She has been a personal inspiration to me and to many Britons. Her devotion to duty is an example to us all.

Earlier this week, at 96, she remained determined to carry out her duties as she appointed me as her 15th Prime Minister.

Throughout her life she has visited more than 100 countries and she has touched the lives of millions around the world.

In the difficult days ahead, we will come together with our friends across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world to celebrate her extraordinary lifetime of service.

It is a day of great loss, but Queen Elizabeth II leaves a great legacy.

Today the Crown passes - as it has done for more than a thousand years - to our new monarch, our new head of state:

His Majesty King Charles III.

With the King's family, we mourn the loss of his mother.

And as we mourn, we must come together as a people to support him.

To help him bear the awesome responsibility that he now carries for us all.

We offer him our loyalty and devotion just as his mother devoted so much to so many for so long.

And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country,

– exactly as Her Majesty would have wished –

by saying the words...

God save the King.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-the-death-of-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii>

Scotland First Minister's Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

Like everyone across Scotland, the United Kingdom, indeed the world, I feel a deep sense of sadness on the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

On behalf of the people of Scotland, I offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to The King, The Queen Consort and to the entire Royal Family.

There will be many opportunities, in the coming days, to reflect fully on The Queen's extraordinary life and service.

For more than 70 years, Queen Elizabeth has been the great constant in our national life. She has inspired us, on occasion comforted us and always personified values we hold dear. Throughout her reign she performed her duties with exceptional wisdom, dedication and fidelity.

Scotland loved, respected and admired her.

And by all accounts, Her Majesty was rarely happier than when she was here in Scotland at her beloved Balmoral –

a fact I have been privileged to observe personally.

I hope it will be a source of comfort to her family that she spent her final days in a place that she loved so much.

This is a moment of acute loss and profound sadness, it also a moment of enormous significance.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth marks the end of an era.

Our nation is in mourning.

My heart and my thoughts – and I know those of people across Scotland – are with the Royal Family at this deeply sad moment.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/tribute-majesty-queen/>

Llywydd pays tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

The Llywydd has paid tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's lifelong commitment to public service following the sad announcement of her death.

As the country enters a period of national mourning, all Senedd business is suspended and the Senedd's flags will be flown at half-mast.

The Llywydd, Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS, said: "Queen Elizabeth II served the United Kingdom with a dignity that endeared her to millions around the world.

"She reigned during a time that has seen great constitutional and social change in our country. She attended every Senedd opening ceremony since its inception, reflecting her recognition of this Parliament's contribution to Welsh life.

"The Queen will be remembered for her lifelong commitment to public service, including

championing many charities and organisations in Wales.

“The Senedd sends its condolences to her family.”

<https://senedd.wales/senedd-now/news/llywydd-pays-tribute-to-her-majesty-the-queen/>

Chief Rabbi: A Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On behalf of the Jewish communities of the Commonwealth, I convey our most profound condolences on the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Queen embodied the most noble values of British society. Throughout her extraordinary reign she conducted herself with grace, dignity and humility, and was a global role model for distinguished leadership and selfless devotion to society. In an ever-changing world, she was a rock of stability and a champion of timeless values.

Every week in synagogue, we have prayed for her welfare, wellbeing and wisdom, and she never let us down. We recall with much appreciation the warm relationship she had with the Jewish community, with a particular commitment to interfaith relations and Holocaust memorial. I recall how, on one occasion, she showed me and my wife items of Jewish interest and value in her private collection in Windsor Castle, including a Torah scroll rescued from Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust.

Her affection for the Jewish people ran deep, and her respect for our values was palpable. In life she was rightly admired and loved the word over; in death may her memory and legacy be for an everlasting blessing.

<https://chiefrabbi.org/all-media/tribute/>

The Movement for Reform Judaism joins the nation in mourning

The Movement for Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom joins the nation in mourning the death of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96.

Queen Elizabeth was, for most of our community, the only monarch we have ever known. And coming just a year and five months after the heartfelt loss of her beloved husband Prince Philip these are sad times indeed.

Her Majesty was a figure of continuity, a reassuring presence since her accession in February 1952 and she brought inspiration and stability to the lives of our community.

Our sincere condolences go to His Majesty King Charles III and all the Royal Family. May God bring them comfort and wish them ‘long life’.

“After 70 years on the throne, the longest reigning monarch in British history, she will be forever remembered as a truly exceptional figure not only here in the UK and the Commonwealth but throughout the world” said Paul Langsford co-Chair of The Movement for Reform Judaism.

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton co-Chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors added: “We join the nation in expressing our profound sadness by saying ‘Baruch Dayan Ha’Emet,’ our traditional Hebrew blessing at this time. Her Majesty’s extraordinary dedication to her role, her deep sense of duty, her humility and her unwavering faith have been an inspiration to us all and provided a sense of permanence, stability and hope through times of turmoil and change. She was a most remarkable figure whose life was dedicated to the service of her people, which she provided with devotion, good humour and grace.”

As a British faith community, we acknowledge the freedom and protection afforded us to practice our Judaism freely. Our values as Reform Jews are reflected in our regular prayers for the Royal Family so that we may live in a society that works together for justice and peace.

May the Queen’s memory be for a blessing, and we hope the country finds consolation in the remarkable legacy that she leaves behind.

<https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Death-of-Her-Majesty-Queen-Elizabeth-II-Statement-1.png>

Liberal Judaism: Statement on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Liberal Judaism joins people all across our country, and the world, mourning Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen was a shining example to us all. She was a great friend to the Jewish community, tireless in her charity work and a strong female leader in a world where that wasn't common.

At Liberal Judaism we will continue to follow her example.

We send our deepest condolences to The Queen's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all the Royal Family. May her memory be a blessing.

<https://www.liberaljudaism.org/2022/09/a-statement-on-the-death-of-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii/>

Board of Deputies mourns the death of Her Majesty The Queen

The Board of Deputies of British Jews mourns the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. No words can fully describe the extent of our nation's loss; Her Majesty's wisdom, benevolence and dedication to duty served as an inspiration to generations of British citizens, including our community. May Her memory be for blessing.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Her Majesty's Son and Heir and all the members of the Royal Family. We pray that our nation will benefit from the strength and understanding of our new Sovereign for many years to come.

God save the King. Long live the King.

<https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/board-of-deputies-mourns-the-death-of-her-majesty-the-queen/>

The Jewish Community in Scotland pays tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, on behalf of the Jewish Community in Scotland and together with other Jewish Communities in the UK and the Commonwealth, joins in mourning the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. We offer our deepest sympathy on her sad passing to the new King, His Majesty, Charles III, and all the Royal Family.

We recall with gratitude Her late Majesty's kindnesses to the Jewish Community, and her own strong personal faith. As Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she stated that "the Church has a duty to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country", and commented that all religions provide "critical guidance for the way we live our lives, and the way we treat each other".

We remember the commitment, wisdom, and dignity with which she led this nation for more than 70 years in times of hardship and prosperity, and we pray that these qualities will be a light and a guide for her successors. We pray, in the words composed by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, that the new King and his ministers and counsellors be granted wisdom and understanding, so that they and we may live together in justice and peace, and walk together in the paths of unity, freedom, and harmony.

We pray that Her memory will be a comfort and a blessing for the new King, for the Royal Family, for the nation, and for the Jewish Community.

https://www.scojec.org/news/2022/22ix_queen_elizabeth_ii/queen_elizabeth_ii.html

House of Commons Written Answers

Marriage

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [45505] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Law Commission's recommendations to reform wedding laws in England and Wales.

Sarah Dines: In July 2019, the Government invited the Law Commission to undertake a wholesale review on weddings law in England and Wales. The Law Commission report was published on 19 July 2022 and contains 57 recommendations for wholesale legislative reform.

We must now take the time to consider the report recommendations fully. As has been set out in Parliament, marriage will always be one of our most important institutions, and we have a duty to consider the implications of any changes to the law in this area very carefully. We will publish a response to the report in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45505>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11j5xou24uy7q/uploads/2022/07/A-new-weddings-law-LC-report.pdf>

Marriage: Location

Steve Baker (Conservative) [45488] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Law Commission's report, Celebrating Marriage: A New Weddings Law, published July 2022, if he will implement the Commission's recommendations on removing restrictions on venues where civil and religious marriages can take place; and if he will make a statement.

Sarah Dines: The Law Commission report contains 57 recommendations for wholesale legislative reform. We must now take the time to consider the report recommendations fully. As has been set out in Parliament, marriage will always be one of our most important institutions, and we have a duty to consider the implications of any changes to the law in this area very carefully. We will publish a response to the report in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45488>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11j5xou24uy7q/uploads/2022/07/A-new-weddings-law-LC-report.pdf>

Religious Buildings: Energy

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [47590] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will take steps to provide funding to places of worship to support with rising energy costs.

Chris Philp: The Government recognises the vital role played by places of worship in our communities. Today the PM announced that the Government will introduce a six-month scheme to support businesses, charities and public sector organisations including places of worship that are registered charities. This will protect them from soaring energy costs and provide them with the certainty they need to plan their business through the acute crisis this winter.

The Government has also continued to fund the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which gives grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship, and recently renewed the Churches Conservation Trust funding order up to 2025. Places of worship that are registered charities were also able to benefit from the unprecedented multi-billion-pound

package of support for Britain's charities that the Government provided during the pandemic, including £750 million of dedicated funding that helped more than 15,000 organizations across the country respond to the impact of Covid-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/47590>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-liz-truss-opening-speech-on-the-energy-policy-debate>

Information about the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

House of Commons Library

Debate Pack: Use of blasphemy laws and allegations in Commonwealth countries

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2022-0160/CDP-2022-0160.pdf>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Health Services

Andy Slaughter (Labour) [44995] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer on 9 December 2021 to Question 85212 on Palestinians: Health Services, whether her Department has completed its review of the report by Medical Aid for Palestinians entitled Systematic Discrimination and Fragmentation as Key Barriers to Palestinian Health, published on 29 November 2021; and (b) what assessment she has made of the implications of its findings for her policies.

Vicky Ford: Officials regularly review reports relevant to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to inform our policy. We are aware of the findings of this report and remain committed to ensuring access to essential healthcare services for all Palestinians. We are a longstanding supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which provides core services, including healthcare to Palestinian refugees in Gaza. The UK Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of access to healthcare with the Israeli authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/44995>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85212>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.map.org.uk/downloads/reports/systematic-discrimination-and-fragmentation-as-key-barriers-to-palestinian-health-and-healthcare.pdf>

Gaza: Demonstrations

Andy Slaughter (Labour) [44993] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 9 December 2021 to Question 85214 on Gaza: Demonstrations, what estimate her Department has made of the number of investigations opened by Israeli authorities into the use of live

ammunition by Israeli forces against Palestinians during the 2018-19 Gaza protests.

Vicky Ford: We have not made this estimate. The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the Israel Defence Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas, including use of live ammunition. We will continue to do so. The UK supports an independent and transparent investigation which establishes the facts about the violence that occurred during the Great March of Return in Gaza. The UK continues to monitor progress of ongoing investigations by the Israeli authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/44993>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85214>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25 (closing date 23 September 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

Increasing the use of mediation in the civil justice system (closing date 4 October 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/dispute-resolution/increasing-the-use-of-mediation/>

TOP

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