



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Police: Standards

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she (a) is taking and (b) is able to take to help ensure equality in the dispensation of justice across different police services in England.

**Kit Malthouse:** The Code of Ethics requires all police officers to take active steps to oppose discrimination and make their decisions free from prejudice. This principle is at the heart of police practice. The Code of Ethics was published in 2014 by the College of Policing, who are responsible for setting and maintaining training standards within policing.

In January 2022, The College published its scope for reviewing the existing Code of Ethics. This review will help provide guidance to forces, to aid the implementation of ethical decision making at all levels and support the principle of candour by all working for the police. The full scope of the review is available here: [Scope for the Code of Ethics review published](#)".

The College of Policing also provides foundation training for those entering the police service, which includes substantial coverage of police ethics and self-understanding. Their initial training covers hate crimes, ethics and equalities, and policing without bias. Police forces also provide local training and development at several different levels ranging from initial entry, leadership and ongoing development to reinforce their organisational values.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/706>

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## House of Commons Written Answers

### Middle East: Wheat

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [1180] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of rising wheat prices on UNRWA's operations in (a) the occupied Palestinian territory and (b) Lebanon.

**Amanda Milling:** The UK continues to monitor closely the ongoing humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Lebanon. The UK is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides protection and core services to Palestinian refugees in Gaza and across the wider region. The UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to improve UNRWA's financial viability. This includes broadening UNRWA's donor base, encouraging the full disbursement of pledges and encouraging support through multi-year funding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1180>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [1178] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of (a) the number of Palestinians injured by Israeli forces since the beginning of 2022 and (b) the adequacy of local healthcare resources to treat the wounded.

**Amanda Milling:** We regularly raise Palestinians injured by Israeli Defense Forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out swift, transparent and thorough investigations. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israel security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. The wounded should be able to access urgent medical care they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1178>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [1179] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations her Department has made to the Government of Israel regarding reports that its forces obstructed and assaulted health workers treating those injured in recent raids in the Al Aqsa compound.

**Amanda Milling:** We encourage all parties to maintain calm, avoid provocation and to ensure the safety and the security of the Al Haram Al Sharif / Temple Mount and all who worship there. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israel security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. The wounded should be able to access the urgent medical care they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1179>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [1181] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent estimate her Department has made of (a) the number of Palestinian (i) homes and (ii) healthcare centres that were Gaza damaged or destroyed during Israel's military offensive in May 2021, and (b) how many of these have been fully rebuilt or rehabilitated.

**Amanda Milling:** The UK continues to monitor closely the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza. We continue to work with key partners, including the World Bank

and the UN to understand the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Gaza. The World Bank issued a Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment report in July 2021 to assess the damage which is publicly available. We continue to urge access into and out of Gaza, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, for humanitarian actors, reconstruction materials and those, including Palestinians, travelling for medical purposes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1181>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/178021624889455367/pdf/Gaza-Rapid-Damage-and-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

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## Foreign Affairs

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon looks ahead to the UK-hosted conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief**

... Together with our international partners we share a collective commitment to freedom of religion or belief for everyone, everywhere.

This is an issue that we all should care about. Although the right to freedom of religion or belief is enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it is regrettable, indeed tragic, that too many people around the world continue to live in fear of persecution on the basis of what they choose to believe or not to believe, or indeed how they choose to practice those beliefs.

Being denied the fundamental human right of freedom of religion or belief can be devastating for individuals and communities. ...

As individuals suffer from being denied this human right, societies, countries where survivors live suffer too. They become smaller, diminished culturally and spiritually by this lack of freedom. Therefore, let us strengthen all of our communities by driving forward the collective importance of not just promoting this important issue, but strengthening freedom of religion or belief for all.

This conference in London will bring together ministers, but also importantly other representatives from government, from faith and belief group leaders, and indeed importantly from civil society as well.

Alongside the official ministerial conference, an associated conference fringe will see a series of events organized directly by civil society.

These will be taking place around the United Kingdom and provide further opportunities for all to join this important debate and discussion and learn from each other about this important issue. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lord-ahmad-of-wimbledon-looks-ahead-to-the-uk-hosted-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief>

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

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

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

#### **Online Safety Bill**

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

#### **Schools Bill**

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

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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>

#### **Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament** (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

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