



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Ministry of Justice

#### **Delivering justice for victims: Government response**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/delivering-justice-for-victims-a-consultation-on-improving-victims-experiences-of-the-justice-system/outcome/delivering-justice-for-victims-consultation-response>

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6M-04620] Welcoming the St Margaret Declaration** – That the Parliament welcomes the approval of the St Margaret Declaration, a joint statement of friendship between the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland, by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; commends the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland for acknowledging the historic issues that have divided the churches, and further commends the churches for, it believes, refusing to be bound by the past and their desire to promote the healing of division within the life of the Scottish nation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-04620>

*Information about the Declaration referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/kirks-general-assembly-endorses-saint-margaret-declaration>

*and*

<https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1651136400/article/catholic-church-and-church-of-scotland-release-dec.html>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **West Bank and Gaza: Schools**

**Caroline Ansell (Conservative)** [8083] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the UN Relief and Works Agency's use of the Palestinian Authority school curriculum in its schools in the West Bank and Gaza; and if she will make a statement.

#### **Palestinian Authority: Peace Negotiations**

**Caroline Ansell (Conservative)** [8084] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Palestinian Authority (PA) on the removal of material reportedly inciting violence and antisemitism and the inclusion of material promoting peace in the PA school curriculum; and if she will make a statement.

**Amanda Milling:** We strongly condemn all forms of violence and incitement to violence. We accompany our support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) with stringent attention to implementation of their neutrality policy, including how they apply this to textbooks and other learning material to ensure they reflect UN values. In Gaza and the West Bank, UNRWA uses the Palestinian Authority's (PA's) curriculum in their schools after rigorously reviewing that it is in line with UN values. Our partnership with the PA 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. Officials from the British Consulate General Jerusalem regularly discuss the curriculum with counterparts in UNRWA and the PA.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8083>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8084>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [6848] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her (a) Israeli and (b) Palestinian counterparts on reports of forced evictions in Masafer Yatta.

**Amanda Milling:** The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. Our opposition to the demolition of Palestinian property and the evictions of Palestinians from their homes is long-standing. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to Palestinians and is harmful to efforts to promote peace. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6848>

### House of Lords Written Answers

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL324] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Reporters Without Borders that there have been more than 140 instances of violence by Israeli security forces against journalists in Friday protests since March 2018.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is committed to the protection of media freedom around the world. The safety of journalists across the globe is vital and they must be protected when carrying out their critical work. We continue to reiterate the importance of a free and open press, and freedom of expression to the Israeli Government and Palestinian Authority. We also continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/hl324>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://rsf.org/en/israel-palestine-four-years-violence-against-palestinian-journalists-covering-march-return-protests>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL274]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the judgment by Israel's High Court on 4 May concerning the eviction of Palestinian residents of Masafer Yatta.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL275]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the eviction of the Palestinian residents of Masafer Yatta.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL276]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what humanitarian support they are providing to Palestinian families evicted from their homes in Masafer Yatta.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL277]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that the eviction of Palestinian families from Masafer Yatta will have on the prospects for negotiating a two-state solution in the Middle East.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. Our opposition to the demolition of Palestinian property and the evictions of Palestinians from their homes is long-standing. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to Palestinians and is harmful to efforts to promote peace. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/hl274>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/hl275>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/hl276>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/hl277>

*The judgement referred to above can be read (in Hebrew) at*

<https://supremedecisions.court.gov.il/Home/Download?path=HebrewVerdicts/13/130/004/n89&fileName=13004130.N89&type=2>

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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>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online\\_rm\\_pbc\\_0601.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online_rm_pbc_0601.pdf)

#### **\*\* Schools Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/46559/documents/1859>

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

#### **\*\* closes tomorrow**

**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