



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

UNRWA: Finance

Caroline Ansell (Conservative) [8085] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's stated zero tolerance approach to antisemitism of the UK's financial support for the UN Relief and Works Agency which utilises the official Palestinian Authority school curriculum in its schools in the West Bank and Gaza; and if she will make a statement.

Amanda Milling: The UK is committed to combatting the rise of antisemitism in all its forms. 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. 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/2022-05-24/8085>

House of Lords Written Answer

Jerusalem: Religious Freedom

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL423] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of religious freedom for (1) Christians, and (2) Muslims, in Jerusalem, especially during Jewish festivals.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities. The UK condemns all attacks on the right to freedom of religion or belief. Israel is a thriving democracy, and has made clear its commitment to freedom of religion. We encourage the Israeli Government to do all it can to

uphold the values of equality for all enshrined in its laws.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl423>

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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

**** *deadline extended to 23 June 2022***

Independent Review of Social Cohesion and Resilience (closing date 23 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