



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Faith Schools: Admissions**

**Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat)** [18969] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he had made an assessment of the potential impact of religious selection on socioeconomic inclusion in schools.

**Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat)** [18970] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make it his policy to reduce the number of school places offered on a faith basis.

**Robin Walker:** Church and faith schools represent a third of all state-funded schools. The department values the contribution that they make to a diverse school system.

Faith schools have played a longstanding and important role in our education system. Faith schools are popular with parents, with many being high-performing and are more likely to be rated good or outstanding by Ofsted than non-faith schools. New academies and free schools that have a faith designation must allow for a minimum of 50% of places to be allocated to children without reference to faith where the school is oversubscribed.

In 2018, the department published 'Secondary school choice and selection: insights from new national preferences data'. The report found evidence that the smaller proportion of disadvantaged and minority ethnic pupils attending church schools compared to other schools was a result of a range of factors, including admissions oversubscription criteria, as well as parental preference.

The department expects all schools, including faith schools, to be open and inclusive. All schools, including faith schools, must ensure that their admission arrangements are fair and objective, and that the arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly a child from a particular social or racial group.

Many faith schools are oversubscribed, showing that parents value and want these schools. The department also understands that the ability to prioritise children of faith when oversubscribed is important to faith schools and we do not intend to change that.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18969>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18970>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/732881/Secondary\\_school\\_choice\\_and\\_selection.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732881/Secondary_school_choice_and_selection.pdf)

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## Israel

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Amanda Milling:** Delighted that the UK announced £15m this year at UN pledging conference to support Palestinian refugees. @UKUN\_NewYork Today I saw how UK support is being delivered by @UNRWA for refugees in Shua'fat refugee camp. remains committed to delivering humanitarian support.

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540365014334324736>

**Amanda Milling:** Inspiring visit to Kafr'Aqab to see the award winning work of @RiwaqPalestine to rehabilitate and revitalise historic Palestinian villages with local communities Very proud that the UK supports this important work through the British Council Cultural Protection Fund @psBritish

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540611634636460033>

**Amanda Milling:** Had a fascinating 2 days in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. An opportunity to meet political leaders, local Palestinians, businesses and human rights defenders to understand what really matters in the OPTs.

[includes video]

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540703686636208131>

**Amanda Milling:** Opportunity to meet Palestinian families facing eviction in Masafer Yatta, Occupied Palestinian Territories. The long standing position is that evictions and demolitions are illegal under international law in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

[includes video]

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540373521632731139>

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## 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>

## \*\* 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\\_0624.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online_rm_pbc_0624.pdf)

## Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

## Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

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

## 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>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

\*\* *closes in 4 days*

**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