



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

**See also the Westminster Hall debate on “Freedom of Religion or Belief: International Conference” that is included in the Foreign Affairs section below.**

### House of Lords Debate

#### Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill, Second Reading

*col 582* **Earl Howe (Conservative):** ...Both students and academics arrive at our universities expecting to be challenged. Yet, we know that fear of censure is increasing and this is having a chilling effect on discourse and debate. There is a growing body of evidence to bear this out: the proportion of students who believe that universities are becoming less tolerant of a wide range of viewpoints has risen to 38%; this figure stood at 24% in 2016. ...

Areas of disagreement do not always have to be met with hostility; there is scope to agreeably disagree. ...

The Bill will protect lawful freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus. The measures will strengthen existing legislation and address gaps in existing law. As I shall explain, these are very much active measures, not just a means to address a problem once a breach of the duties has taken place. New duties will be placed on higher education providers and constituent colleges to take “reasonably practicable” steps to secure freedom of speech within the law for staff, members, students and visiting speakers. They will be duty bound to pay particular attention to the importance of free speech when taking these steps. Importantly, these duties also, for the first time, clearly extend to “academic freedom”. ...

At present, there are no effective means of enforcing the current law if higher education providers are in breach of it. This may explain some individuals’ hesitancy to express their views. To address this, the Bill creates a new statutory tort for breach of specified freedom of speech duties by providers, constituent colleges and student unions. This will enable individuals to seek legal redress for the loss they have suffered as a result of a breach.

*col 583* I finish by emphasising that the Bill is not about allowing unlawful speech. The right

to freedom of speech is not an absolute right and it does not include the right to harass others or incite them to violence or terrorism. This is definitely not a licence to break the law. The Bill is about encouraging varied and thoughtful debate, so that future generations develop the ability to think critically, challenge extreme narratives and put forward new—and sometimes controversial—ideas. ...

**col 584 Baroness Thornton (Labour):** ... The lack of an evidence base is one challenge the noble Earl will have to face as the Bill progresses through your Lordships' House, but there are others. There is an understandable concern that the Bill may undermine existing protections against discrimination. That it introduces a new mechanism that some believe may allow hate-filled individuals to sue a university if they feel that their opinion has not been adequately heard may allow extremists, racists and Holocaust deniers to have a voice and a much-craved platform on our campuses. ...

**col 586 Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat):** ... There is a problem of toleration of dissent by the current student generation in our universities. The Higher Education Policy Institute has just published a survey which indicates that students have become more protective of what they see as vulnerable minorities, less willing to accept that freedom of speech necessarily includes the right to offend and less willing to tolerate university teachers whose views clash sharply with their own. ...

University leadership needs to underline the importance of tolerance of different views among staff and students, but in a free society that role should be played by university leaders and not be imposed by government. ...

**col 587** The question is whether the imposition of a heavy external burden of intrusive regulation, with the introduction of a new tort that will transfer large sums of money from university funds to lawyers through litigation, is a proportionate response to the limited number of unacceptable instances we have seen ...

**col 591 Baroness D'Souza (Crossbench):** ... Can a law adequately define contentious speech and views separately from the context in which they take place? Freedom of expression and its regulation depend on context; students at educational institutions are especially in need of protection because they are usually a captive audience addressed by teachers regarded as authoritative. The conundrum is that precisely because of these factors, students may also need to be protected from language that borders on incitement; for example, pro-Nazi or extreme religious views. The task of distinguishing between offensive talk and a call to action might be a very delicate one. So my inclination is towards non-interference by the state, and this Bill will need careful scrutiny to avoid undue regulation of what is a fundamental right. ...

**col 592 The Lord Bishop of Coventry:** ... Freedom of speech and, by extension, the right to challenge, provoke, disturb, upset and sometimes to offend, are matters which are worth protecting in law. But these imperatives derive their true value from how they sustain the fundamental purposes of higher education: seeking truth and developing wisdom. They are not ends in themselves, but the means by which we pursue the truth, which is to our common benefit. Christian faith is rooted in the person who testified to truth in the tribunals of power and who promised the means to discern truth ... This is a vision of open truth-seeking which the Church has, at its worst, sought to stifle in society, but at its best, has helped to embed in university life. ...

... new Sections 3 and 4 in new Part A1 may be read as posing problems for the provision of premises and facilities that meet the religious and spiritual needs of a range of staff and students ... I am grateful for the assurances given in yesterday's briefing that there is no intention to compromise dedicated faith premises. ...

**col 593 Lord Willetts (Conservative):** ... will the Minister explain whether the aim is that all lawful free speech should be permitted in universities? That would be a very simple and clear starting point, which seems to be what Ministers are saying. However, on the very first day after the legislation was proposed, we already had an example of how tricky this

is when the Minister said that it would enable Holocaust deniers to speak and was promptly slapped down by No. 10 saying that they should not. The Ministers in the Department for Education are currently pressing universities, for very understandable reasons, to endorse the wide-ranging IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Everything covered in that definition is clearly objectionable, offensive and wrong. I am no lawyer, but it is not clear to me that everything which would be in breach of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is illegal. If it is not illegal, would it therefore be protected under this free speech legislation—in which case, why are Ministers currently pressing universities to take and act on a definition of anti-Semitism that seems potentially in conflict with the legislation they are now trying to pass?

**col 595 Baroness Royall of Blaisdon (Labour):** ... Freedom of speech in universities already gets fulsome legal protection. The Human Rights Act requires universities to protect freedom of expression under Article 10 of the ECHR. Section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 requires universities to “take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers”. That is a great statement that seems to suffice. ...

Today, I learned that Minister Donelan has written to all vice-chancellors suggesting that the Race Equality Charter is “potentially ... in tension with creating an environment that promotes and protects free speech”.

I am speechless. Can the Minister really defend such a suggestion? ...

**col 597 Baroness Deech (Crossbench):** ... Academics have the right to say and debate controversial and provocative things subject only to the laws that prohibit and criminalise certain topics, of which there are surprisingly many, ranging from the prevention of terrorism to defamation and racial discrimination. Universities are not and never have been at liberty to limit freedom of speech beyond the law, which is why it is so shameful to see professors hounded out for, for example, their views on gender. My views in a nutshell are that it is a problem, but that this Bill is not the right way to tackle it. ...

The French revolutionaries, the Cultural Revolution, Nazism and fascism all blocked free speech on the ground that they and they alone possessed the moral truth. Outside of the universities too, there is very limited liberty to say things that do not conform with the prevailing trend, and the consequences can be cancellation, loss of job or even violence. Even here in the House of Lords there have been attempts to silence our individual opinions and words. ...

**col 598** Sadly, I have had significant experience of trying to help Jewish students as a patron of UK Lawyers for Israel. Those students have faced threats to their safety and even refusals of references when trying to assert their rights to free expression. The London colleges, notably LSE, SOAS, KCL and UCL, are often regarded as hostile environments for Jewish students and, right now, Goldsmiths has embarked on a study of anti-Semitism in its college. This new legislation must not undermine the existing protections, flimsy though they are, to stop anti-Jewish racism and Holocaust denial.

The Bill refers to freedom of speech within the law without giving a definition. One can easily imagine a Holocaust denier or a Hamas leader taking legal recourse for being denied a platform. Holocaust denial is not actually illegal, but it has been argued that the Equality Act and Prevent duties will ensure that it is not permitted on campus. Not only has this not been tested, we know that every year extremist Islamist speakers are allowed on campus preaching hate.

Do the universities not also have duties to prevent harassment and foster good relations under their public sector equality duty? Are they doing it? Will freedom of speech trump the other values, not expressed in straightforward law, that universities promote? There is no requirement in the Bill to consider competing freedoms. How does an authority decide between, on the one hand, Holocaust denial as an exercise of freedom of speech, and, on the other, the right of Jewish students not to be harassed and defamed? Will there still be

a duty to prevent serious psychological injury? What about the freedom to speak against transgender issues? Will academic freedom triumph over demonstrably false assertions? What about a lecturer who wants to say that the US election was stolen from Trump or that climate change is a lie? The emphasis in the Bill might in future provide a cover for knowingly malicious and mendacious conduct. ...

How relevant will the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, already mentioned and now adopted by 103 UK and Irish universities, be? The definition is not legally binding, but it addresses modern anti-Semitism, which is dressed up as opposition to the very existence of the only country in the world that offers a safe haven to Jews in a world of rising anti-Semitism. The definition should help universities to understand this. Far from it dampening criticism of Israel and exploration of the Palestine/Israel issues, there is no issue more explored on campus. Just Google and see endless debates and actions relating to boycotts, targeting of Jewish students, violent protests and day in, day out debate about those very issues. Will the Bill prohibit the boycott by institutions and organisations of Israeli academics and universities and, sometimes, the refusal of professors to support Jewish students who want to study Israeli matters or require references? There really is a problem but the Bill may very well make it more complex, more expensive and even worse. ...

**col 601 Lord Johnson of Marylebone (Conservative):** ... The Bill represents a very significant extension of the existing legislation on the statute book in relation to freedom of speech in higher education and ... it will require significant reconciliation with the Prevent duty, the IHRA and other legislation coming through this House in this Session. Some of that tension obviously already exists with the existing legislation, but it will get a lot sharper as a result of the new tort, the statutory complaints system and the creation of the role of the director of free speech within the Office for Students. ...

**col 603 Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat):** ... It is important that young people should be exposed to views contrary to their own, in a caring and learning environment where views should be respected but most certainly challenged where they are prejudiced, ignorant or harmful. No one has a right not to be outraged or offended, although increasingly some young people feel that they should not be exposed to views contrary to their own. ...

Freedom of speech and the free exchange of ideas in pursuit of truth and knowledge are central to our universities' whole purpose, but where is the evidence that there is a problem? This Bill is unnecessary and unclear. There is a real risk that our universities will be subject to vexatious and frivolous claims, which will cause distress and waste time and may make universities more risk-averse and more cautious about whom they invite to speak. ...

**col 606 Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** ... This Bill comes amid a wave of anti-rights legislation and rhetoric. In particular, on-street dissent has been criminalised today by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act and will be eroded still further if the measures copied and pasted from anti-terror law in the Public Order Bill are allowed to pass. ...

**col 607** To add insult to injury, we are speaking less than a week after the Government's introduction of what Amnesty International called the "Rights Removal Bill" and at least one noble Lord opposite called the "Bill of Wrongs". ...

How can it be a protection of academic freedom to give more and more power over independent institutions of scholarship to the Government's Office for Students and the new director for freedom of speech? Who is going to fund litigation for claims and defences of a breach of the new statutory duty, at a time when civil legal aid is virtually non-existent? How will institutions be protected from vexatious litigation by wealthier interest groups in particular? As to the new provisions relating to foreign funding, who should decide which funding is or is not acceptable in our world-class academy? ...

**col 609 Baroness Fox of Buckley (Non-affiliated)** ... I regret the need for legislation to enforce what should be intrinsic to universities, academic freedom, but I have watched

with horror as the HE sector has tried to balance free speech against an ever-expanding array of institutionalised values and mandated outcomes over recent years: student satisfaction targets; promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives; and external benchmarking schemes in racial diversity, gender identity and environmental literacy. All can and do undermine curriculum freedom. ...

*col 611* The threat of external speakers being banned as a safety risk today is very different from the no-platforming of the far right in the 1980s. It institutionalises the link between words and harm. No wonder people bite their lip. ...

*col 614 Lord Macdonald of River Glaven (Crossbench):* ... I will not run through all the statistics, but some of them are alarming: 79% of students believe that students who feel threatened should always have their demands for safety recognised; 61% say that when in doubt their university should ensure that all students are protected from discrimination rather than allowing unlimited free speech; the proportion of students who agree that if you debate an issue like sexism or racism then you make it acceptable has doubled to 35%; 86% of students support the no-platform policy of the National Union of Students while only 5% say the NUS should not limit free speech or discussion; 39% of students believe that student unions should ban all speakers who cause offence to some students; and the proportion of students who think that academics should be fired if they teach material that heavily offends some students is now 36%, up from 15% in 2016. So the direction of travel is towards a greater censoriousness and the prioritising of feelings and something called “safety” over more traditional free-speech values.

It is noticeable that no-platforming incidents, which newspapers routinely attribute to universities themselves, almost invariably result instead from decisions taken by very small numbers of students at poorly attended student union meetings. ...

*col 620 Lord Stevens of Birmingham (Crossbench):* ... are universities striking the right balance between challenging discussion and inclusive participation? If not, will the Bill help or hinder? Universities have to weigh conflicting goals and legal obligations. Universities are right to try to ensure equal participation for all their students, because in an academic setting, it is the quality of reasoning and evidence that counts, not whether you are Jewish, black, female or gay. White supremacists and religious fundamentalists who regard some students as inherently inferior are, therefore, themselves intrinsically incompatible with the proper functioning of a university.

On the other hand, many academics worry that claims for identity-based protection are increasingly being weaponised, with the risk that universities become so-called sanctuaries for comfort. ...

*col 632 Earl Howe:* ... In October last year, 200 academics wrote to the *Times* to report that they had received death threats and abuse simply for expressing views. They did not feel supported by their universities. One of those academics had expressed an opinion about the need to protect women-only spaces, such as refuges, prisons and hospital wards. However, this brought her into conflict with students and staff, who saw her opinions as transphobic. It also caused her to be compared to eugenicists and white supremacists, in addition to being called a bigot. ...

A 2019 King’s College London report showed that 26% of students think violence can be justified in preventing someone espousing hateful views. A similar proportion reported not feeling free to express their views at university for fear of disagreeing with their peers. ...

There is without doubt a problem with the suppression of free speech on university campuses. ... Students and academics from across the political spectrum have been impacted by the censure of free speech on campuses. From those on the left to those on the right, there is a real fear about airing what might be controversial opinions. The Bill is designed to protect free speech on a diverse range of topics, including minority ones. Freedom of speech and academic freedom are fundamental principles in higher education. This is not about promoting and protecting one political view over another. ...

col/ 635 Certain noble Lords suggested that the Government were presenting a confused picture to universities on such matters as anti-Semitism. The example of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, also referred to by the noble Baroness, Lady Deech, was mentioned. First, it is up to providers as independent and autonomous organisations to decide on whether to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. Secondly, the Government do not see a conflict between protecting freedom of speech and adopting the IHRA definition. I believe the Bill strengthens protections for freedom of speech likely to support Jewish students and staff, who, on a number of occasions, have had their speech shut down by others. However, the Government recognise that the adoption of the definition is necessary but not sufficient, and there is more that providers need to do to make sure that instances of anti-Semitism on campus are not tolerated. ...

col/ 636 A number of speakers, including the noble Baroness, Lady Deech, referred to the vexed issue of Holocaust denial. I wish to be very clear on this point: any attempt to deny the scale or occurrence of the Holocaust is morally reprehensible and has no basis in fact. In many cases, those who deny the Holocaust also have links to neo-Nazi extremism, anti-Semitic violence and intimidation. The European Court of Human Rights has held that Holocaust denial is not protected speech under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and our legislation does not change that. For the avoidance of any doubt, this legislation will not protect those who deny the Holocaust. ...

col/ 638 Freedom of speech in our universities is under threat: unfortunately, a growing trend aims to prevent anyone from airing ideas that some groups may disagree with or find offensive, and we cannot ignore that. Hence, today, I have set out how the Bill will ensure that freedom of speech is both protected and promoted in higher education. It will strengthen existing freedom of speech duties and directly address gaps in the existing law, introducing clear consequences for breaches of the duties. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-28/debates/3ADB3F37-D9C9-499F-86E3-12DB4296D8E7/HigherEducation\(FreedomOfSpeech\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-28/debates/3ADB3F37-D9C9-499F-86E3-12DB4296D8E7/HigherEducation(FreedomOfSpeech)Bill)

## House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Schools: Racial Discrimination**

**Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat)** [21291] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance the Government has issued on racial justice work and workshops in schools.

**Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat)** [21292] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding the Government has allocated to support racial justice work and workshops in schools.

**Robin Walker:** The government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice, and harassment. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

The department has not provided specific guidance or funding to schools to deliver racial justice work and workshops. Schools have flexibility over how they deliver subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs and background of their pupils. The department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, which is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315587/Equality\\_Act\\_Advice\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf)

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies. This includes learning how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. The curriculum offers many opportunities for schools to do this, notably through citizenship education and relationships education, which is now compulsory in all schools and has a clear focus on the importance of valuing difference. The history curriculum also gives teachers the flexibility to include the contribution of black and minority ethnic history into lessons. This aligns with the school's duty to promote and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including race.

Guidance on the implementation and teaching of the relationships, sex and health education curriculum is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health>

The national curriculum content for citizenship can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-citizenship-programmes-of-study>

The department continues to publish information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on the website Educate Against Hate, which is available at:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

One of these resources is the 'Respectful School Communities' toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying. This toolkit is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/respectful-school-communities-self-review-signposting-tool-2/>

It is important that schools take full responsibility for ensuring lessons and materials are age appropriate, suitable, and politically impartial, particularly when using materials produced by external organisations. The department published the guidance, 'Political impartiality in schools', to support schools to meet their duties in this area, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21291>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21292>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Religion: Education**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [21150] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Ofsted research review series: religious education, published on 12 May 2021, what plans his Department has to ensure access to high quality in-service training for leaders and teachers of religious education.

#### **Religion: Primary Education**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [21152] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has to ensure the quality and quantity of primary religious education training in initial teacher training and for early career teachers.

**Robin Walker:** One of the department's priorities is to ensure that we continue to attract, retain, and develop the highly skilled teachers needed, as set out in our Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy in 2019. In the 2020/21 academic year, the department exceeded the postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) target in religious education (129% of target), and in 2021/22 we met 99% of the target.

The department does not prescribe the curriculum content of initial teacher training (ITT) courses. However, courses must be designed so that teacher trainees can demonstrate that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level.

The ITT Core Content Framework sets out a minimum entitlement of knowledge, skills and experiences that trainees need to enter the profession in the best position possible to teach and support all children and young people. The framework is not subject specific but sets out a minimum entitlement to training that accredited ITT providers must incorporate into their primary and/or secondary ITT curricula. It is up to partnerships to make choices around curriculum and sequencing to suit the subject, phase, and age range that trainees will be teaching.

Beyond the first few years of teaching, the department's priority is to help all teachers and school leaders to continuously develop their expertise throughout their careers. We have improved our training support offer to all schools and teachers, to ensure that they receive high quality training and development at every stage of their career, from initial teacher training and the introduction of the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms through to leadership qualifications.

The ECF reforms were introduced to improve support for early career teachers. The ECF itself underpins what all early career teachers should learn about and learn how to do based on expert guidance and the best available research evidence. It is designed to work for all early career teachers of religious education as well as all others regardless of subject, phase and/or school.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21150>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21152>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/786856/DFE\\_Teacher\\_Retention\\_Strategy\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786856/DFE_Teacher_Retention_Strategy_Report.pdf)

*The Standards referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040274/Teachers\\_Standards\\_Dec\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040274/Teachers_Standards_Dec_2021.pdf)

*The ITT Framework referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974307/ITT\\_core\\_content\\_framework\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974307/ITT_core_content_framework_.pdf)

*The EC Framework referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/978358/Early-Career\\_Framework\\_April\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978358/Early-Career_Framework_April_2021.pdf)

### **Religion: Education**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [21151] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department plans to introduce a national professional qualification for religious education leaders.

**Robin Walker:** National professional qualifications (NPQs) are a national, voluntary suite of qualifications, designed to support the professional development of teachers and school leaders.

NPQs are based on the latest evidence of what works and have been developed by teachers, leaders, and education experts, and are designed to allow for practical implementation in their own settings across the country. NPQs provide teachers access to the best possible in-role training and support, both in specialist areas of practice, such as leading the teaching and learning of a subject, key stage, or phase, and in leadership roles, too.

Each NPQ is underpinned by a content framework. The content of the NPQ frameworks build on and complement one another, to deliver a shared understanding of the principles of effective professional development.

While it is not subject-specific, the NPQ in Leading Teaching will enable professionals to develop expert teaching practice within their relevant context

through the use of subject-specific, phase-specific, or domain-specific exemplification materials.

NPQs are also designed to allow professionals to develop expert teaching and leadership practice to apply this to their relevant context.

NPQs can and should be supplemented by a variety of subject-specific professional development, including that which is provided by schools, trusts, subject associations, charities, curriculum hubs, Oak National Academy, and other private training organisations.

The government is committed to delivering 500,000 teacher training opportunities over the next 3 years. As part of this, we are investing in training scholarships so that all teachers and school leaders in state-funded schools can access NPQs for free over the next three academic years.

The department encourages all Religious Education leaders to consider enrolling on a fully-funded NPQ. To do so, they should contact their local Teaching School Hub in the first instance. Further information about NPQs and the content frameworks can be accessed on:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21151>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Video published by Liz Truss including, from 0.07 to 0.11, 2.04 to 3.01, and 7.31, concerns of the Belfast Jewish community in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol

<https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1541418531274776576>

## Scottish Government

### Next steps in independence referendum set out

The next steps on securing a referendum on independence have been outlined by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon during a statement to Parliament.

She said: "Independence is about equipping ourselves to navigate the future, guided by our own values, aspirations and interests. Now is the time - at this critical moment in history - to debate and decide the future of our country. Now is the time to get Scotland on the right path – the path chosen by those who live here. Now is the time for independence. This parliament has a clear, democratic mandate to offer Scotland that choice. The UK government, regrettably however, is refusing to respect Scottish democracy. ...

I can announce, first of all, that the Scottish Government is today publishing the 'Scottish Independence Referendum Bill'.

In common with the 2014 referendum - indeed, in common with the Brexit referendum and the referendum to establish this Parliament - the independence referendum proposed in the Bill will be consultative, not self-executing. ...

The Lord Advocate has agreed to make a reference of the provisions in the Bill to the Supreme Court. ... Obviously, it is this government's hope that the question in this Bill, proposing a referendum that is consultative, not self-executing, and which would seek to ascertain the views of the Scottish people for or against independence, will be deemed to be within the legislative competence of this Parliament.

If that outcome is secured, there will be no doubt whatsoever that the referendum is lawful. And I can confirm that the government will then immediately introduce the Bill and ask Parliament to pass it on a timescale that allows the referendum to proceed on 19 October 2023. ...

But if the law says that is not possible, the General Election will be a 'de facto' referendum. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-in-independence-referendum-set-out/>

### **Scottish Independence Referendum Bill [Pre-Introduction]**

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/06/scottish-independence-referendum-bill/documents/scottish-independence-referendum-bill/scottish-independence-referendum-bill/govscot%3Adocument/Draft%2BBill%2B-%2B27%2BJune%2B2022.pdf>

TOP

## Israel

### House of Lords Written Answers

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat)** [HL891] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel over continuing reports of the killing of Palestinians, including children, by Israeli military personnel.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israeli Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out swift, transparent and thorough investigations and, if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl891>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)** [HL957] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 4 June (HL421), what representations they will make to the government of Israel to deter the expulsion of Palestinians from the Masafer Yatta area of the West Bank.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are monitoring developments at Masafer Yatta closely given the increased risk of the forced transfer of over 1000 Palestinians, and the demolition of their homes. 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. Minister Milling met with Palestinian families affected by the ongoing demolition and eviction orders at Masafer Yatta during her visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and raised our concerns on the impact with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll on 22 June.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-14/hl957>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl421>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

### **A lasting resolution that delivers peace for Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue: Statement by Ambassador James Kariuki at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East**

... Last week, the UK Minister for the Middle East, Amanda Milling, visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Minister met many inspirational Israelis and Palestinians ... However, the visit took place against a backdrop of ongoing violence and instability across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. As the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of resolution 2334 highlights, we are seeing continued negative trends and unnecessary loss of life. The Minister saw for herself last week the pain and suffering evictions and demolitions are causing Palestinians in Masafar Yatta and Sheikh Jarrah. Protecting human rights and ensuring accountability for illegal actions and abuses is essential.

Turning to UNRWA, the Minister observed first hand the critical role the agency plays in helping maintain stability through its delivery of core services and humanitarian and protection assistance to Palestinian refugees. ...

President, we must not ignore the toll this prolonged conflict has taken on the people of Gaza. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to end restrictions on movement, access and trade. Fifteen years of these restrictions have caused significant damage to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians in Gaza. Supporting prosperity for Gazans is firmly in Israel's long-term interests. We encourage a time bound commitment for a durable solution for Gaza.

The ongoing tensions underline that a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and for the Palestinians is long overdue. We urge the parties, supported by the international community, to do all they can to rebuild trust and take the path back to dialogue. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-lasting-resolution-that-delivers-peace-for-israelis-and-palestinians-is-long-overdue>

### **Minister for Asia and the Middle East visits Israel, the OPTs and Jordan**

The Minister for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling, made her first official visit to Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Jordan. ...

... the Minister visited the Peres Centre to learn how Israel became the Start-Up Nation and discussed how the Centre's peace-building projects are bringing young people together. She also met participants from one of the UK's peacebuilding projects, Search for Common Ground, who work to promote peace and help bridge divides between different communities.

The Minister covered how the UK and Israel can deepen science, technology and innovation ties ... In her meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Idan Roll, they discussed the ambitious UK-Israel Bilateral Roadmap, which will define the next decade of UK-Israeli cooperation across a range of sectors, including defence and security, trade, cyber and science and tech. ...

The Minister ... held a series of meetings with the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, Foreign Minister Riyad al Malki and Secretary General of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation Hussein Al Sheikh, reiterating the UK's support for the Palestinian people and a Two State Solution.

The Minister visited Palestinians at risk of eviction and displacement in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood and Masafar Yatta in the South Hebron Hills. The UK continues to oppose evictions and demolitions, which are illegal under international law in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

The Minister also discussed the UK's support to the Palestinian economy with prominent

business leaders, before a discussion on the pressures on civic space in the OPTs with journalists, human rights defenders and representatives of civil society organisations. ... On completing the visit, Minister Milling said: ... I covered a lot of ground in a short space of time in Israel where the relationship has never been stronger. From fascinating examples of Israeli tech and innovation, to the upcoming UK-Israel Bilateral Roadmap, to peacebuilding projects and efforts to promote the two-state solution. Visiting the Occupied Palestinian Territories was a fantastic opportunity to meet a whole range of Palestinians to discuss the UK-Palestinian bilateral relationship and understand the impact of the occupation. I was particularly pleased to meet with Palestinian civil society to reassure them of the UK's unwavering support for media freedom and human rights defenders. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-asia-and-the-middle-east-visits-israel-the-opts-and-jordan>

## United Nations

### **All Parties Must Act Now to Lower Tensions, Reverse Negative Trends Undermining Prospect of Two-State Solution, Middle East Coordinator Tells Security Council**

**... Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process ...**

expressed alarm over the levels of violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel over the past months. Since mid-March, 49 Palestinians have been killed in demonstrations, clashes, Israeli security operations, including in Area A, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis and in settler-related violence. The period has also been marked by the most serious terrorist attacks inside Israel in years, in which 11 Israelis and three foreign nationals were killed. The firing of a rocket from Gaza towards Israel, the first since April, is a reminder of the fragility of the Gaza Strip's situation.

Mr. Wennesland told Security Council members it is crucial that all parties take immediate steps to lower tensions and reverse the negative trends that undermine the outcome of a two-State solution, with a contiguous, independent viable and sovereign Palestinian State. ...

Calling Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, deeply troubling and a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law, he said they undermine the prospect of achieving a two-State solution by systematically eroding the possibility of establishing a contiguous, independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State. He called on Israel's Government to immediately cease the advancement of all settlement activity and end the demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned property. He went on to express his deep concern by the potential implications of the Israeli High Court's ruling on Masfar Yatta and the humanitarian toll on the communities in question if eviction orders are enforced. ...

He said he remains gravely concerned by continuing violence against civilians, which exacerbates mistrust and undermines a peaceful resolution to the conflict. "I am appalled by the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and disturbed by the behaviour of some Israeli security services in the context of her funeral," he said. ...

The situation in Gaza remains fragile and the risk of escalation persists. More needs to be done to alleviate the humanitarian situation and enable the economy to grow, with the eventual goal of a full lifting of the Israeli closures ... The Palestinian Authority's financial crisis — compounded by the constraints of the occupation, the absence of serious Palestinian reforms and unclear prospects for donor support — requires urgent attention. ...

**Richard M. Mills, Jr. (United States)** said the tension on the ground is palpable and dangerous. He expressed outrage over terrorist attacks against Israel and rocket fire from

Gaza, ending a two-month break, noting Israelis near Gaza live in constant fear, a situation that must end. He also condemned settler violence against Palestinians ... Urging that upcoming evictions do not take place, he called on all parties to refrain from unilateral actions. ... he expressed strong support for a two-State solution, with a democratic and Jewish State of Israel alongside a viable Palestinian State. He further called for accountability in the death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, also voicing over concern over the ongoing practice of using human remains as a bargaining chip by both sides. ...

[\[click here to read this speech in greater detail\]](#) **James Kariuki (United Kingdom)** said his country's Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling, visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories last week and met many inspirational Israelis and Palestinians carrying out vital work to improve the situation. Yet, this visit took place against increased violence and instability across the occupied Palestinian territories. ...

**Nicolas de Rivière (France)** expressed his country's concern with the escalating violence in the area and defends the two-State solution in the absence of viable alternatives. ... France will never waver when it comes to Israel's security, however he said it must bring a halt to the extension of settlements. France is also concerned with violence against civilians. Israel must suspend the eviction of Palestinian families, as these evictions foster despair and can lead to violence ... More must be done to improve the lives of Palestinian people. ... Justice must be carried out and in investigation made into the death of Mr. Abu Akleh. ...

**Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation)** observed that, in the past year, Israel approved the creation of more than 12,000 housing units; more than 1,000 Palestinian homes have been destroyed. Also noting that, by 2026, the Israeli Government has plans to double the number of Israelis living in the West Bank and the occupied Syrian Golan, he said that the Russian Federation does not recognize Israel's sovereignty of the Golan Heights. ... On 10 June, the Israeli air force attacked Syrian territory and seriously damaged the Damascus International Airport. ... There is the sense that these unilateral unlawful actions are being taken with the silent consent of Washington, D.C., essentially blocking any possibility for the revival of the peace process. ...

**Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland)** recalled that resolution 2334 (2016) demands that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. ... In 2021, only 10 building permits were granted for Palestinians, compared to 2,526 housing starts in settlements. Further, the Masafer Yatta eviction case increases the risk of the forcible transfer of some 1,150 Palestinians. The establishment of a firing zone is not an "imperative military reason" to transfer a population under occupation. Also noting that during the reporting period, Israeli Security Forces killed nine children, she called for those responsible to be held accountable, while condemning attacks from the Gaza Strip. ... Expressing concern over the tensions in Jerusalem and unacceptable challenges to the status quo in the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, she stressed that the custodian role of Jordan must be respected. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14948.doc.htm>

### **Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2639 (2022), Security Council Renews Mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for Six Months**

The Security Council ... decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan for six months, until 31 December, while requesting the Secretary-General to ensure it has the capacity and resources needed to fulfil its mandate in a safe and secure manner. ...

It stressed the obligation of both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, calling on them to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, while underlining

that UNDOF remains an impartial entity. ...

Members further called on the parties to provide all necessary support to allow for the full utilization of the Quneitra crossing by UNDOF, in line with established procedures, and to lift COVID-19 related restrictions as soon as sanitary conditions permit. ...

In addition, the Council underscored the importance of progress in the deployment of appropriate technology, including counter-improvised-explosive-device capabilities and a sense-and-warn system, as well as in addressing civilian staffing needs, to ensure the safety and security of UNDOF personnel and equipment.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14947.doc.htm>

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## Foreign Affairs

### Westminster Hall Debate

#### **Freedom of Religion or Belief: International Conference**

*col 17WH Fiona Bruce (Conservative):* ... Across the world, people are losing their jobs, education, homes, livelihoods, families, freedom and access to justice, and even life itself, simply on account of what they believe. ...

We must actively protect free societies, and FORB is essential to that. When FORB goes, so many other basic human rights fall away too—yes, freedoms of speech, expression and association, but also access to healthcare, food and work, and even liberty and life itself. Discrimination damages democracies. ...

When FORB is respected, societies are more likely to be stable and secure, and to flourish economically. They are less prone to extremist attacks. So it is not to put too fine a point on it to say that in promoting FORB we are promoting peace. ...

*col 18WH* At the ministerial conference on freedom of religion or belief, we will welcome hundreds of delegates from over 60 countries, around half of which will be represented by Government Ministers. We will also welcome faith and belief leaders and representatives, civil society activists, academics and—importantly—FORB abuse survivors with their powerful accounts to tell. ...

We cannot afford for that conference to be merely a talking shop; it has to lead to increased global action and help drive forward international efforts to protect and promote FORB for everyone, everywhere. ...

*col 19WH* Freedom of religion or belief needs to be mainstreamed by Governments globally. It is not a side issue for individuals, communities or countries; Governments need to recognise the importance of including FORB in foreign and other policymaking ...

We will be asking questions such as ... How can we address the lack of religious literacy about FORB among policymakers ...? And how can FORB, and the reasons why it matters to everyone and to whole societies, not just those with religious beliefs, be introduced into education syllabi to inform young people and, hopefully, to inspire a whole new generation of FORB champions to spread the word about its importance, just as they have about climate change? ...

*col 20WH* The ... all-party parliamentary group for international freedom of religion or belief ... is now the largest APPG in Parliament, with almost 160 parliamentarians as members. ...

*col 21WH* I will finish ... with the wording of the statement on Ukraine, which I issued as chair of IRFBA:

“As members of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance, we commend the courage, dignity and determination of the people of Ukraine and their leadership. ...

Ukraine is a strong democracy whose diverse population includes Orthodox Christians, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, non-believers, and members of other religious groups. With its multiplicity of faith perspectives, Ukraine has been a strong and active defender of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, and was one of the earliest countries to commit to membership of the IRFBA and its principles. ...

We denounce President Putin's cynical attempt to misuse, for his own ends, the history and suffering of people during the Holocaust and World War II, including Ukrainian Jews. His baseless claim that Ukraine is a hotbed for neo-Nazism is just one of the many pretexts fabricated for his war of choice. This is not the first time the Kremlin has falsely accused its neighbours of neo-Nazism and fascism as a cover for its own provocations and human rights abuses. ..."

**col 22WH Jim Shannon (DUP):** ... I am a Christian and, in this country, I have the right to go to church as and when I like. That should not be a privilege; it should be a right, but for some it is not. We are all born with a capacity to have a relationship with God, and we should be free to exercise or choose not to exercise that ability accordingly. ...

In a world of increasing division and hostility, I am glad to say that those of us who work to promote freedom of religion or belief in this House work across political divides and from a host of different faith and belief backgrounds. We put differences aside to recognise the similarities that unite us ...

**col 25WH Edward Leigh (Conservative):** ... The fact is that more Christians are being persecuted in the world, either through outright persecution, such as in North Korea or parts of north Africa, or by having their human rights severely limited, as in countries such as Saudi Arabia. ...

**col 30WH Brendan O'Hara (SNP):** ... the need for groups such as ours to shine a light on FORB abuses has never been greater, which is why we in the SNP are delighted that next week's ministerial conference in London is taking place. We will support any moves to push for greater global action to support FORB, and we stand in solidarity with those beleaguered communities and those brave individuals whose fundamental human right to worship, or not, as they wish is under sustained attack. ...

**col 32WH** We have a fantastic opportunity to use the powers we have to bring the international community together and to highlight and call out abuses of freedom of religion and belief when we see them, without fear or favour, even when it is our own friends who are doing it and it is not perceived to be in our economic interest to do so. ...

**col 33WH Fabian Hamilton (Labour):** ... Freedom of religion or belief is under threat, especially from people's own Governments, which is something we should be deeply concerned about. ...

The hon. Member for Strangford said ... that on average 13 Christians are killed every day in Nigeria just for being a Christian. That is a shocking statistic and it mounts up to an appalling loss of life. I am sorry to say that it will be the same for other faiths, too. ...

More Christians are now persecuted than ever before, but let us not forget the Muslims.

**col 34WH** I have good reason to speak in this debate, not just because I am the appropriate shadow Minister but because my family has experience of religious persecution. My father escaped the increasing persecution of Jews in Europe to come to safety in this country in 1934, as a 12-year-old boy. We know what happened after 1934. His own parents were trapped in occupied Europe. Thankfully, his father was in Spain when France fell to the Nazis, but his mother was in occupied Paris, and it was only thanks to the generosity of the Portuguese authorities that she was able to get a Portuguese passport and therefore escape the persecution that her brothers had to suffer—one of them was murdered during the second world war. So this issue is very close to my heart. ...

**Afzal Khan (Labour):** ... I want to draw his attention to the issue of racism that exists even today—the antisemitism and Islamophobia that exists in the UK. Does he agree it is vital that all parliamentarians lead by example and reaffirm their commitment to religious

tolerance and freedom of belief? Perhaps the Minister can also touch on this issue; maybe it is a good time to accept the definition of Islamophobia. The Government have had three years to adopt the definition that all the other political parties have adopted. Why have they not done that when nearly half of religious hate crimes every year are committed against Muslims?

**Fabian Hamilton:** ... When we see persecution still rife across the world, it is more important than ever that we, as parliamentarians from all the sides of the House, reaffirm our commitment to the values and principles set out in the 2021 G7 summit communiqué, which specifically referenced freedom of religion or belief for the first time. As my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton (Afzal Khan) pointed out, we have our own problems at home, with several forms of racism throughout society—whether it is antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other prejudice—but freedom of religion or belief must also be at the heart of our foreign policy. ...

... almost every religion around the world has been persecuted or subject to repression as a result of an individual's faith, but we must not forget the people who are being persecuted for being non-believers ... The fact that at least 13 countries still have the death penalty for blasphemy or apostasy is extremely worrying, but in many more countries people have been murdered for simply choosing not to believe. ...

*col 35WH* The Government say they are “deeply concerned about the severity and scale of violations and abuses of FoRB in many parts of the world. Persecuting people, or discriminating against them, because of their religion or belief is often closely linked to other foreign and development policy challenges.”

With that in mind, will the Minister outline what measures the Government have taken recently as a result of the abuses of FORB?

Finally, I pay tribute to Rodney Ross and Alan Fell for their work in documenting and commemorating the contribution of British Jews during the first world war. Sadly, it is an often forgotten subject and I am delighted that their project will become a permanent record of the lives of the Jewish community in Leeds and throughout the country from 1914 to 1918. I commend their website to anyone interested in the subject.

***col 36WH* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Vicky Ford):** ... Let me be clear that the Government are unwavering in our commitment to promote freedom of religion or belief for everyone, everywhere. Next week, we will demonstrate that commitment by hosting the UK's first ministerial conference on the issue. It will bring together more than 500 delegates from more than 60 countries around the world. Representatives will include Ministers, but also representatives from Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Baha'í and non-religious communities. ...

All countries have an obligation to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief. We will share knowledge and build coalitions to take forward work on important areas, including gender equality, conflict and digital technology. ...

The internet has given people a new platform to express their beliefs, but it also provides a tool for harassment and persecution. We will use the conference to advance ideas to protect religious belief groups online. Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief is a global issue that transcends borders. We will use the conference to encourage our international partners to join us in making new commitments around those key policy areas. ...

*col 37WH* The Government's work to promote freedom of religion or belief broadly splits into three strands: action at home, collaboration with international partners and taking action on cases of concern around the world. To have influence abroad, we must set an example at home, so Government-funded programmes in the UK protect the rights of members of all communities to live free from fear, hate and violence. Our Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks programme enables people to report anti-Muslim hate crimes easily. Our support for the Community Security Trust helps to combat racism and antisemitism

towards British Jews. Our commitment to turn our Online Safety Bill into law will also help to protect religious and belief groups online.

The second strand of our work is fortifying international efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, including through the UN, the G7, the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance and the international contact group. ... The third strand of our work is raising cases of concern and bringing other countries with us on this journey. ...

col 39WH I close by repeating the Government's firm belief that no one should suffer because of what they believe in. ... the Government are looking forward to continuing to work with all interested parties to advance freedom of religion or belief for all. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-28/debates/ABCB07CE-E068-4E82-B089-9C1982C2AE5A/FreedomOfReligionOrBeliefInternationalConference>

*The communiqué referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1001128/Carbis\\_Bay\\_G7\\_Summit\\_Communique\\_PDF\\_430KB\\_25\\_pages\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001128/Carbis_Bay_G7_Summit_Communique_PDF_430KB_25_pages_.pdf)

*The website referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.jewsfww.uk/>

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## Other Relevant Information

### UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/HRC/50/61&Lang=E>

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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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-28/debates/3ADB3F37-D9C9-499F-86E3-12DB4296D8E7/HigherEducation\(FreedomOfSpeech\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-28/debates/3ADB3F37-D9C9-499F-86E3-12DB4296D8E7/HigherEducation(FreedomOfSpeech)Bill)

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/220121.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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-27/debates/2F5FFE2D-A8E6-4456-BDAA-0F71B7EEAA0B/SchoolsBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-27/debates/2F5FFE2D-A8E6-4456-BDAA-0F71B7EEAA0B/SchoolsBill(HL))

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47064/documents/2044>

Bill as amended in Committee

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47054/documents/2038>

## **Scottish Parliament**

### **\*\* Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

Evidence session, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-22-06-2022?meeting=13847&iob=125556>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes tomorrow**

**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