



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [21160] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [21161] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many people have been supported as part of the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme, by region.

Kemi Badenoch: The Government's 2020/21 Faith, Race and Hate Crime (FRHC) Grant Scheme supported 9 organisations to run various innovative projects that championed our commitment to building a diverse and tolerant society for all faiths and races

Collectively, 48,300 young people and adults directly participated in the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21160>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21161>

House of Lords Written Answer

Broadcasting: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL1016] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish an independent racism reporting body for the broadcasting industry.

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Her Majesty's Government believes that there is no place for prejudice or discrimination in the media or anywhere else and is committed to supporting the broadcasting sector to ensure it is a place which offers opportunities for people from all backgrounds to contribute and succeed. This can only be achieved through a diverse workforce which reflects modern Britain.

Ofcom, as the independent communications regulator, has a duty to promote equality of opportunity in relation to employment in the broadcasting sector and has powers to ask broadcasters to provide information about their diversity policies and the make-up of their workforce. Her Majesty's Government is committed to working together with the industry and with Ofcom to support greater diversity and inclusion. Her Majesty's Government has no plans to establish an independent racism reporting body for the broadcasting industry.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/hl1016>

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House of Lords Written Answers

Syria: Airports

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL994] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reports that the bombing of Damascus International airport was directed by the government of Israel; and what representations, if any, they plan to make to the government of Israel about the incident.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All countries, including Israel, have a legitimate right to self-defence, and the right to defend their citizens from attack. In doing so, it is vital that all actions are proportionate, in line with International Humanitarian Law, and are calibrated to avoid civilian casualties. We call on Israel to adhere to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/hl994>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL993] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, published on 9 May; and in particular, the findings that Israel (1) has "no intention of ending the occupation", (2) is pursuing "complete control" over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, (3) needs to end the occupation, and (4) needs to ensure equal human rights for Palestinians.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry report on 9 May. The UK is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We firmly believe a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue. We will continue to press Israel and the Palestinians strongly on the need to refrain from taking actions, which make peace more difficult.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/hl993>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/337/18/PDF/G2233718.pdf?OpenElement>

Occupied Palestinian Territories: Flags

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL995] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the right to freedom of expression concerning flags in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to reiterate the importance of all forms

of freedom of expression and free speech to both the Government of Israel and Palestinian Authority. We continue to appreciate the vital work that human rights defenders and civil society play in holding the authorities to account.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/h1995>

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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/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0630.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

**** closing date extended**

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 22 July 2022)

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

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