



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

John Howell (Conservative) [25801] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the debate that took place at the Council of Europe in the week beginning 20 June 2022 entitled Preventing and combating antisemitism in Europe.

Kemi Badenoch: Antisemitism has no place in our society, which is why we became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism and continue to encourage other bodies to do so. We also continue to support the independent adviser on Antisemitism, Lord Mann, to provide expert advice to Government on contemporary Antisemitism, and how best to tackle it.

Online abuse of any kind, including antisemitic abuse, is unacceptable. We want the internet to be a safe space for all users - we are clear that what is unacceptable offline should be unacceptable online. A new regulatory framework will mean that companies will be held to account for tackling illegal activity and content, such as hate crime, harassment and cyber-stalking, as well as that which may not be illegal but is nonetheless highly damaging to individuals and society.

This Government is providing £14 million this year, and has provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to provide protective security measures at all Jewish state, free and independent schools, colleges, nurseries, and some other Jewish community sites, including a number of synagogues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25801>

The transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2022-06-22/am/en>

The Resolution adopted following the debate can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/pdf/dbece4493c71cf009fa013fab2d7b5c8c7c5c218fcedd22bd8594f297b5ee074/resolution%202447.pdf>

Muslim Brotherhood

Ian Paisley (DUP) [24587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status of the Muslim brotherhood is in the UK as of 23 June 2022.

Damian Hinds: The Government keeps under review the views promoted and activities undertaken by the Muslim Brotherhood's associates in the UK in accordance with the five commitments included in the former Prime Minister's statement to Parliament.

The Government will consider any new evidence on the Muslim Brotherhood's activities against the UK's legal thresholds, including whether they meet the test for proscription under the Terrorism Act 2000.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24587>

Muslim Brotherhood

Ian Paisley (DUP) [24588] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she (a) has made a recent assessment and (b) plans to make an assessment of the potential merits of proscribing the Muslim brotherhood.

Damian Hinds: The Government does not routinely comment on intelligence matters, including whether an organisation is under consideration for proscription.

The Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24588>

House of Lords Written Answer

Bevis Marks Synagogue

Lord Triesman (Labour) [HL1177] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken, if any, to protect Bevis Marks Synagogue and its estate, as an historic world centre of Sephardic Jewish worship and scholarship, from risk to its future from real estate development or other factors, including pressures from the City of London Corporation.

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is committed to the protection of our historic environment, including listed buildings such as the Bevis Marks Synagogue, and we have put in place a strong legislative and policy framework to achieve this. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities are under a statutory duty to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. This is supported by national planning policy which, in particular, states that any substantial harm or loss to the significance of a Grade I listed building such as the Synagogue should be wholly exceptional and where there is less than substantial harm, the harm should be weighed against the public benefits. In addition, local planning authorities are required to consult Historic England on any proposals affecting a listed building or its setting.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1177>

Senedd Written Answer

Education: Anti-Racism

Jane Dodds (Liberal Democrat) [WQ85585] Will the Minister provide an update on whether professional standards for teaching and leadership will be updated to include anti-racism, as proposed in recommendation 29 of the final report of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group?

Minister for Education and the Welsh Language (Jeremy Miles): I published an

update on delivering the recommendations made by the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group on 22 June.

Recommendation 29 calls for consideration to be given to making explicit reference to anti-racist practice in the professional standards for teaching, leadership and assisting teaching. We have commissioned an evaluation of the implementation, effectiveness and anticipated impacts of the professional standards for teaching, leadership and assisting teaching in terms of their ability to support the development of a highly-skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of education reform in Wales. The [report](#) on the first year of the project was published in November 2021. Further fieldwork is currently taking place and the final report is due to be published summer 2023. At this point we will be making changes to the standards based on the recommendation of the working group and the findings of the evaluation.

In the meantime, as part of our response, the Diversity and Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL) project has been established to address the professional learning recommendations of the working group. New professional learning for practitioners on diversity and anti-racism will be available from September.

Progress on this issue contributes towards wider change in society through the Welsh Government's Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan. This work is being carried out in collaboration with Cefin Campbell, the Plaid Cymru designated member, as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/85585>

The Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group report referred to above can be read at

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/black-asian-minority-ethnic-communities-contributions-cynefin-new-curriculum-working-group-final-report.pdf>

The update referred to above can be read at

<https://gov.wales/annual-report-implementation-recommendations-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-communities-html>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Iran

Jim Shannon (DUP) [25860] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department is taking steps to support Israel with security from potential aggression from Iran.

Amanda Milling: Our commitment to Israel's security is unwavering. Israel is an important strategic partner for the UK and we collaborate closely on issues of defence and security. This includes regular discussions at the highest levels on the threat posed by destabilising Iranian activity across the region. The Foreign Secretary most recently raised this issue during a call with Israeli Foreign Minister Lapid on 22 June.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25860>

Israel: Palestinians

Cat Smith (Labour) [25906] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the Minister for Asia and the Middle East raised the matter of the blockade of Gaza with the Israeli Government on her visit to Israel on 22 June 2022.

Amanda Milling: I recently visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) where I saw first-hand the challenges of the prolonged conflict and the impact of the occupation. I reiterated UK support for a two-state solution and the need to improve conditions for ordinary Palestinians in my meetings with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll, and with the Palestinian leadership, including Prime Minister Shtayyeh and Foreign Minister Malki. The UK continues to urge the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25906>

House of Lords Written Answers

Gaza: Children and Young People

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL1167] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recent reports from Save the Children and Medical Aid for Palestine, which found that (1) four out of five children living in Gaza are suffering from depression, grief and fear following 15 years of Israeli blockade, and (2) those children and young people's mental health was also linked to a lack of access to services, such as healthcare.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to monitor the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the impact of Israel's movement and access restrictions on civilians. The UK has provided £2 million to UNICEF and over £27 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in 2021 to help the most vulnerable people in Gaza, especially children to continue their education, meet their basic needs, and hopefully to fulfil their potential. We must continue to address immediate humanitarian needs in Gaza, and work towards a longer-term solution for recovery and reconstruction.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1167>

The reports referred to above can be read at

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/gaza_blockade_mental_health_palestinian_children_2022.pdf/

and

<https://www.map.org.uk/downloads/map-al-mezan-access-to-health-online.pdf>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL1168] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) report UNOCHA Protection of Civilians Report 31 May – 13 June 2022, published on 17 June, which lists the (1) killings, (2) injuries, (3) raids, and (4) displacement, of Palestinian people by Israeli (a) forces, and (b) settlers, in the West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the report. We continue to urge thorough and transparent investigations into the deaths of Palestinian civilians, and call for restraint in the use of force. We are clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and forced evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law and we condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. On 22 June Minister Milling travelled to Israel and the Occupied

Palestinian Territories (OPTs) where she discussed the increasing level of violence in the OPTs with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1168>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/31may-13june-2022>

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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_0706.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

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

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

Standards for ethnicity data (closing date 30 August 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-for-ethnicity-data>

**** Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25** (closing date 23 September 2023)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438