



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Westminster Hall Debate

#### Macpherson Report: Twenty-two Years On

*col 413WH Diana Johnson (Labour):* ... I am sorry that the Home Affairs Committee felt the need to hold this debate. When we produce a report, it is normal to get a response from the Government within eight weeks. In this case, it took eight months. ... We subsequently got a response, and we are disappointed ... that the clear calls that we made on the Government in our very detailed and evidence-based report were not always heeded. ...

*col 414WH* The Committee's inquiry was prompted by concern that in some areas, in the words of Baroness Lawrence, "things have become stagnant and nothing seems to have moved." Our inquiry sought to assess progress against some of the most important Macpherson report recommendations on: community confidence; tackling racist crimes; recruitment and retention of black and other ethnic minority officers and staff; race disparities in the use of stop and search and other powers; and the late Sir William Macpherson's overall aim of "the elimination of racist prejudice and disadvantage and the demonstration of fairness in all aspects of policing."

The Committee found that policing today is very different from 23 years ago. Since the Macpherson report was published, there have been important improvements in policing, including significant improvements in the policing of racist crimes, commitments made to promoting equality and diversity, and good examples of local community policing. ...

Having said all that, I want to be clear that our inquiry also identified persistent, deep-rooted and unjustified racial disparities in key areas, including a decline in confidence and trust in the police among some BME communities, lack of progress on BME recruitment, problems in misconduct proceedings, and unjustified racial disparities in stop and search. ...

*col 415WH* The report noted: "Adults from Black and mixed ethnic backgrounds are less likely to have confidence in the police than adults from White or Asian backgrounds and the confidence gap has widened over the last few years."

Our report also noted that 67% of white adults said they believed the police would treat them fairly "compared to 56% of Black adults. ...

It is of deep and serious concern that black people have much lower expectations than

white people of being treated fairly and with respect by the police.

Data for England and Wales also suggest that the confidence gap between black people and white people in their local police is even greater among young people. ...

Our inquiry also found a lack of data on confidence by ethnicity at a local force level. That makes it much harder to hold local forces to account for concerns about BME communities' confidence in the police. Concerningly, we found that increasing trust and confidence in policing is not being treated as a policing priority, or a ministerial policing priority. ...

*col 416WH* The Macpherson report recommended that police forces be representative of the communities that they serve, and that targets be set for recruitment, progression and retention of minority ethnic police officers. However, the 10-year target set by the then-Home Secretary included a target for overall minority ethnic representation of 7% in the service by 2009. ... even by 2020, BME officers represented just 7.3% of the police service across England and Wales. That figure is now 7.6%, but that is still far below 14%, which is the percentage of the population in England and Wales who identify as BME. Concerningly, under-representation is most marked in senior ranks. ...

*col 417WH* There is a clear racial disparity in the number of officers being dismissed from police forces—BME officers are more than twice as likely as white officers to be dismissed—and in the number of BME officers subjected to internal disciplinary processes. It is extremely troubling that the disparity has been allowed to continue for so long without serious action being taken by police forces to investigate or address the problem ...

At the time the Committee's report was published, Home Office data showed that black people were over nine and a half times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched. The latest Home Office data—to 31 March 2021—show that black people are seven times more likely than white people to be stopped. ...

*col 418WH* At the time of our report's publication, evidence showed that black people were less likely than white people to have used drugs in the past year, but they were 2.4 times more likely to be stopped and searched for drug possession. ...

*col 419WH* **Anne McLaughlin (SNP):** ... The report is about England and Wales, but Scotland, of course, is not immune to these challenges, and the Scottish Government and Police Scotland have also taken decisive action recently to try to tackle them. The Chief Constable of Police Scotland, Iain Livingstone, spoke in March of the need for "practical, firm, progressive, visible action". And he also said that "Words and good intent are not enough." ...

*col 420WH* However, the overall approach to policing in Scotland is a community-based approach, which is built on policing by consent. It is about reducing tensions rather than inflaming them unnecessarily. ...

*col 421WH* In 2018 the Scottish Government commissioned Dame Elish Angiolini to independently review police complaints handling, investigations and misconduct. Her final report was completed 2020; her review made 111 recommendations, the majority of which the Scottish Government accepted. ...

... the Scottish Government's new hate crime strategy, to be published later this year ... will set out our approach to tackling hatred and prejudice in Scotland, and it will complement the implementation of a modernised hate crime legislative framework. It is vital that the legislation is implemented effectively, so that once it is in force it offers strength and protections to those targeted by hatred and prejudice. ...

*col 425WH* **Sarah Jones (Labour):** ... The policing style in Britain is one of consent. The public have to trust the police for the system to work, and at the moment some communities, particularly black communities, do not. The public need to trust the police. Victims need to get the justice they deserve, regardless of the colour of their skin, and our officers deserve to work in a police force that has high standards and a respectful culture. ...

*col 426WH* **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove):** ... The murder of Stephen Lawrence was a heinous crime that shocked

this country to its core. While this is a case that has gone on to assume wider significance for policing and for society more generally, it is important to remember that it all started with the senseless killing of a young man who had his whole life ahead of him. ...

As parliamentarians we are accustomed to discussing reports, but very few, if any, have such a profound, long-lasting impact as the Macpherson report. It has left an indelible mark on policing. It is no exaggeration to say that the findings were seismic. They continue to reverberate today, with the report remaining a marker against which we can track and measure progress. And over the past two decades, there has been progress. The police service is more diverse than ever before, forces have worked hard to improve community engagement, and we have seen major improvements in the way in which the police deal with racially motivated crimes, but there is undoubtedly more to do. ...

*col 427WH* The Home Office has fundamentally reformed its governance and oversight of policing. In 2019, the Home Secretary established the National Policing Board to bring together key partners, providing strategic direction and strong cohesion across the law enforcement system. ...

Police leaders also have a vital role to play and the National Police Chiefs' Council is central to the effort to drive improvements and embed reforms. ...

We must remember that confidence and trust in the police are impacted by many factors. Many people have very little engagement with policing, and so their perceptions are much shaped by other sources, including social media. ...

We also need to make sure that data can be used to help boost confidence ... The Home Office will continue to work with bodies such as the National Police Chiefs' Council and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to consider how best to support forces in collating data on confidence and making it publicly available. ...

*col 428WH* I am pleased to say that our police forces across England and Wales are more diverse than they have ever been. ... The latest uplift data—to 31 March 2022—shows that there are now 11,172 officers from ethnic minority backgrounds, which is the highest number on record. ...

The Government published “Inclusive Britain” this year. It presents a clear strategy to tackle entrenched disparities, promote unity and build a more meritocratic, cohesive society. ...

*col 429WH* There is no place for racism in the police. The public rightly expect every police officer to act with the highest levels of honesty and integrity. This includes an effective and transparent police culture. That is why policing must take action now. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/C28BB36B-3631-4001-8D29-96683531ACFA/MacphersonReportTwenty-TwoYearsOn>

*The Home Affairs Committee report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7012/documents/89144/default/>

*The Government response to the Home Affairs Committee report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22402/documents/165350/default/>

*The Angiolini report, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/preliminary-report-independent-review-complaints-handling-investigations-misconduct-issues-relation-policing/>

*The Scarman report, referred to above, is not freely available online. An abstract can be read at*

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316227240\\_Scarman\\_Report\\_The](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316227240_Scarman_Report_The)

*Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

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## Holocaust

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Poland: Property

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL1181] To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Poland regarding the restitution of property seized from Polish Jewish citizens during the period of Nazi occupation; and what was the outcome of any such discussions.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK continues to meet its commitments under the Terezín declaration.

Her Majesty's Government (HMG) raised concerns with the Polish Government about legislation introduced last year concerning the restitution of property seized during the Nazi occupation. The UK's Special Envoy for post-Holocaust Issues, Lord Pickles, has followed developments closely and through the British Embassy in Warsaw, we have been acting in consultation with our likeminded partners to engage with the Polish Government. Following the passage of the legislation, which HMG judges will have a negative effect on legitimate claimants, the then Minister for Europe (Wendy Morton) publicly expressed their disappointment and called for legal avenues for claims to remain open.

The UK will continue to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to supporting Holocaust survivors and their descendants. Lord Pickles is chairing a discussion on restitution at the Terezín Declaration Conference on 3 November. Working with like-minded partners and the World Jewish Restitution Organisation (WJRO), the FCDO will continue to urge Poland to fairly, objectively and sensitively deal with Holocaust-era property restitution.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/hl1181>

*The Terezín Declaration, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.lootedartcommission.com/NPNMG484641>

*Information about the conference referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/foreign\\_relations/terezin\\_declaration/index.html](https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/foreign_relations/terezin_declaration/index.html)

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Gaza: Humanitarian Situation

**Andy McDonald (Labour)** [30026] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to help tackle the impact of the humanitarian situation in Gaza on children.

#### Israel: Gaza

**Andy McDonald (Labour)** [30027] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations she has made to her Israeli counterpart on ending the blockade of Gaza in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1860 (2009).

**Amanda Milling:** I [Minister Milling] 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 Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll, and with the Palestinian leadership, including Prime Minister Shtayyeh. 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. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-04/30026>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-04/30027>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Palestinians: Health Services

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL1235] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make representations to the World Health Organisation to (1) collect, and (2) publish, health statistics for Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank; and for Palestinians living in camps outside of these areas.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We do not collect this data. The World Health Organisation Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean regularly share health data on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The UK is a major donor of the World Health Organisation globally. We remain a key supporter of United Nations Relief and Works Agency, who help provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), and access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/hl1235>

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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>

Written statement: Online Safety Bill: Update for Report Stage

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/22070768000011/OnlineSafetyBillUpdateForReportStage>

Written statement: Online Safety Bill: Scope  
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/22070768000012/OnlineSafetyBillScope>

Notice of amendments  
[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety\\_rm\\_rep\\_0708.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0708.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 2022)  
<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

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