



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Islamophobia

Afzal Khan (Labour) [33002] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to adopt a definition of Islamophobia.

Paul Scully: We remain fully committed to doing all that we can to tackle anti-Muslim hatred. We will outline our next steps in due course.

This Government has taken strong steps to support Muslim communities, by supporting TellMAMA with over £4 Million between 2016 and 2022 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred. We have also committed £24.5 Million for the Places of Worship Security Grant in 2022/23, to help protect Mosques and Muslim Communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-08/33002>

Schools: Bullying

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [26926] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help reduce ethnicity-based bullying in schools.

Brendan Clarke-Smith: The government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice, and harassment.

All schools are required to have a behaviour policy by law, with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. The department provides advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

The advice makes clear that schools should make appropriate provision for a bullied child's social, emotional and mental health needs.

The department is providing over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of ethnic-based bullying or hate-related bullying.

We are also making sure that all children in England will learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory Relationships, Sex and

Health Education (RSHE). These subjects are designed to give pupils the knowledge they need to lead happy, safe, and healthy lives and to foster respect for other people and for difference. The statutory RSHE guidance can be found here:

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

We have published 'Respectful School Communities', a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline, available here:

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

This can help to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including ethnicity-based bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26926>

Schools: Bullying

Jim Shannon (DUP) [31884] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to help reduce ethnicity-based bullying in schools.

Brendan Clarke-Smith: Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

The department has clearly communicated to schools that bullying should never be tolerated, and we are committed to supporting schools' efforts to tackle it. State funded schools are required by the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to fostering good relations between those who share a particular protected characteristic and those who do not and to eliminating discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.

All schools are required to have a behaviour policy by law, with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. The department provides advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities. The guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

The department is providing over £2 million of funding, between August 2021 and March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. We have deliberately focused this grant programme on preventing and tackling bullying of pupils with protected characteristics. The training and resources provided cover hate-based bullying, including resources specifically relating to the bullying of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller children. For example, one organisation funded by the department has produced a new eLearning course on 'Bullying and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people' that is available to all schools in England. In addition, the department is ensuring that all children in England will learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). These subjects are designed to give pupils the knowledge they need to lead happy, safe, and healthy lives and to foster respect for other people and for difference. The statutory RSHE guidance can be found here:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/31844>

Joint Committee on Human Rights

Human Rights Act Reform: Government Response to the Committee's Thirteenth Report of Session 2021–22

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/23075/documents/169041/default/>

Senedd Oral Answer

Nutritional Value of Hospital Food

Altaf Hussain (Conservative): ... On two recent stays in hospital, one at the Princess of Wales and the other at University Hospital of Wales, I was shocked at the lack of dietary choice available. As a Muslim, I was not offered halal food. I have been informed since then that vegetarians are often not offered food meeting their dietary needs either. The result: in-patients having to rely on family or friends to bring in food during visiting time, which has not been possible in these pandemic years. Minister, I'm sure you'll agree with me that this is unacceptable and will lead to instances where patients are not getting the right balance of nutrition to aid their recovery. Minister, will you ensure that all hospitals in Wales serve meals that fulfil the dietary requirements of patients as well as being nutritionally balanced? ...

Eluned Morgan: Thanks very much, Altaf, and I'm pleased to say that officials are already working with their NHS counterparts to begin that process of reviewing the standards that include hospital food. However, it is a very significant piece of work and something where, obviously, we're very keen, if we can, to make sure that we include local food in that. Now, what I don't have yet is a set timetable for the publication of the refreshed standards, but what I do accept is that it has been a long time since the last standards were issued, and that's why we will take account of the review and, of course, some of the issues that you pointed out will be considered in that review. ...

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/12903#C443405>

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Israel

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Administration of Justice

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL1347] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the conviction of Mohammad El Halabi, a former head of World Vision's Gaza office, by an Israeli court of financing terrorism; and whether they share the concerns of the UN Human Rights Office about the court's reliance on secret evidence for their verdict.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the verdict on this case and are monitoring closely. During her visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestine Territories in June 2022 the Minister for the Middle East, Amanda Milling, met with human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organisations to discuss the pressures they face. The Minister emphasised the UK's strong support for freedom of speech and media freedom. We continue to value the important role civil society plays in upholding human rights and democracy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-29/hl1347>

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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_0714.pdf

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

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

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

**** Schools Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47410/documents/2152>

Petitions opposing sections of the Bill that relate to home-educated children

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-13/debates/5B1E9D2B-7D16-43BA-873E-314D56A22AA6/SchoolsBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-13/debates/220713100000020/SchoolsBill>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 8 days**

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