



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Home Affairs

Ministry of Justice

Implementation of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April this year. It is planned to come into effect on Monday 27 February 2023.

The Act will raise the age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 in England and Wales to protect children from the scourge of forced marriage.

This means that 16 to 17-year-olds will no longer be able to marry or enter a civil partnership under any circumstances, including with parental or judicial consent from 26 February 2023. It will not be possible for anyone under 18 to marry or enter a civil partnership after this date.

Currently forced marriage is only an offence if the person uses a type of coercion, for example threats, to cause someone to marry, or if the person lacks capacity to consent to marry under the Mental Capacity Act. The Act will therefore also expand the criminal offence of forced marriage in England and Wales to make it an offence in all circumstances to do anything intended to cause a child to marry before they turn 18. It will therefore now be an offence to cause a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances, without the need to prove that a form of coercion was used. The forced marriage offence will continue to include ceremonies of marriage which are not legally binding, for example in community or traditional settings. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/implementation-of-the-marriage-and-civil-partnership-minimum-age-act-2022>

GMB Union

GMB Union Puts Faith in New Branch

One of Britain's largest trade unions has launched a new branch aimed at Jewish faith workers. GMB's new Jewish Faith Workers' Branch had its inaugural launch event this week in Hendon.

Attending the event were the founding members of the new branch which aims to represent Jewish faith workers and improve the terms and conditions of their employment.

At the event Gary Smith, General Secretary of GMB, spoke about the central role in labour movement history played by Jewish workers and how the new specialist branch will help to improve the lives of members who fulfil a religious function in the Jewish community.

The initiative, founded by Rabbi David Mason and Rabbi Richard Jacobi, has been supported by the Jewish Labour Movement over a number of years to successfully launch the ground-breaking branch.

Gary Smith, General Secretary of GMB Union said: "Today marks a remarkable day and a new chapter in both GMB's and the wider labour movements' history. Our union was co-founded by Eleanor Marx in 1889 who, after seeing the dire conditions of Jewish factory workers in London's East End, and led by her sense of justice, fought for a more compassionate world.

"It is in this great tradition that we have listened to our members and supported their efforts to launch a specialist faith branch for those working for Jewish faith employers. Workers' interests are best served when people organise themselves, from the bottom up, not the top down.

Warren Kenny, GMB London Regional Secretary said: "May I thank all the founding members of the new Jewish Faith Workers' Branch who have volunteered their time and effort to get us to this point. Today our bond endures, stronger than ever, written in over 130 years of standing shoulder to shoulder."

Rabbi David Mason, one of the founding members said: "I would like to thank the GMB for building this new branch. There is a long history of the Jewish community being part of the trade union story. This branch will allow that story to continue and give Rabbinic staff across the community an important voice on their workplace conditions. It has been a pleasure to have been part of bringing this to fruition."

Mike Katz, National Chair of the Jewish Labour Movement said: "We're incredibly proud to have been part of establishing this ground-breaking, new branch. It's in our values as an organisation to champion trade unionism in the Jewish community and beyond. Rabbis and Jewish faith workers, just like all workers, deserve trade union representation that advocates for them." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gmblondon.org.uk/news/gmb-union-puts-faith-in-new-branch>

TOP

Israel

United Nations

Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

... An update for you on Gaza, where our colleagues from the humanitarian office report that the ceasefire brokered by the UN and Egypt on Sunday has been holding so far. Humanitarian partners are responding to the needs of affected families through cash assistance and the provision of non-food items.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is providing services as usual, with no disruptions reported. Assessments of damage to critical installations are ongoing.

At the moment, there appears to be no severe damage to water and sanitation systems. And all health facilities remain functional — but some need to replenish trauma and emergency supplies.

Meanwhile, Israel reopened the crossings with Gaza yesterday. The Erez crossing is open

for the passage of Palestinian patients, and the UN and diplomatic personnel. The Kerem Shalom crossing is open for the movement of all authorized goods, including fuel for the Gaza power plant. And the Rafah crossing is open as usual for three days per week. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/db220809.doc.htm>

Welcoming Ceasefire in Gaza, Palestinian Rights Committee Bureau Calls for Immediate Implementation of Two-State Solution

The Bureau of the United Nations General Assembly Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is following with grave concern the latest developments in Gaza. The Bureau condemns the serious escalation of violence between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants started on 5 August, following Israeli air strikes and artillery attacks on densely populated areas, which has so far reportedly claimed the lives of 46 Palestinians, including 4 women and 15 children, and resulted in hundreds of homes destroyed, thousands rendered homeless and a humanitarian emergency.

The Bureau welcomes the Secretary-General's call on all sides to observe the ceasefire and commends Egypt for its mediation role in deescalating the situation, while calling on all sides to exercise maximum restraint to protect civilians and prevent further casualties. The Bureau calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to end practices of collective punishment against Palestinians in Gaza and ensure accountability for persistent rights violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including during military operations.

The Bureau further appeals for the immediate lifting of the siege against Gaza, now in its fifteenth year, as well as for the start of negotiations leading to an end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory and the implementation of two-State solution based on relevant United Nations resolutions and international law.

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/qapal1445.doc.htm>

TOP

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>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

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

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>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

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>

Increasing the use of mediation in the civil justice system (closing date 4 October 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/dispute-resolution/increasing-the-use-of-mediation/>

TOP

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