



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israeli Settlements

**Fleur Anderson (Labour)** [52024] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the potential effect of the Israeli Government's E1 settlement proposal.

**Gillian Keegan:** The UK welcomes the decision to postpone discussions about advancing the E1 settlement plan. We will continue to monitor developments closely. The UK urges the Government of Israel to permanently end its settlement expansion and settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The former Minister for the Middle East raised our concerns with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll on 22 June. The UK continues to raise our opposition to settlement advancements at the UN Security Council.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/52024>

#### Gaza: Armed Conflict

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [46189] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) homes and (b) healthcare centres that were (i) damaged and (ii) destroyed during the hostilities between Islamic Jihad and Israel in Gaza between 5 and 7 August 2022.

**Gillian Keegan:** We have not made this assessment. We continue to monitor the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza. 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 unequivocally condemn the firing of over 1,100 rockets at civilians by Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the ongoing campaign of terror attacks by the group, which has resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians, Israelis and Palestinians alike.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46189>

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## Foreign Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### **International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief**

**Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench)** [HL2183] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief in July resulted in any consensus of action to address the root causes of discrimination against and persecution of those holding different faiths and beliefs.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Conference explored the many facets of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) through seventeen themed panel sessions and gave a platform to those persecuted for their religion or belief. Forty-seven governments, international organisations and other entities made pledges to take action in support of FoRB. Thirty-four countries joined the UK in signing up to one or more of a set of non-legally binding statements protecting and promoting FoRB for all. The statements and co-signatories are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/international-ministerial-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-2022-conference-statements>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2183>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Muslim Council of Britain and Everyday Muslim

**Race, Faith & Community in Contemporary Britain: Essays on Black, African, and African Caribbean Muslims in the UK**

<https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Race-Faith-Community-in-Contemporary-Britain-PMB2022-FINAL.pdf>

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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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47822/documents/2272>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47824/documents/2274>

## **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>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 2 days**

**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/>

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