



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022

Report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>

Data Tables

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109293/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022-data-tables.ods

Appendix Tables

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109294/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022-appendix-tables.ods

Downing Street

@10DowningStreet G'mar Chatimah Tovah to British Jews and Jewish communities around the world marking #YomKippur.

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1577320836704473088>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

@FCDOGovUK We wish Jewish communities around the world a meaningful #YomKippur. G'mar Hatima Tova.

<https://twitter.com/FCDOGovUK/status/1577285794506903552>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Education (Anti-racism)

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): What is the Scottish Government's response to reports that some ethnic minority teaching professionals have experienced racist online abuse after sharing their plans for more diversity in Scottish education at the Scottish learning festival? Will the First Minister join me in condemning the racist abuse faced by St Albert's primary school in her constituency and the racist graffiti that has been found on the campus of the University of Glasgow in my constituency? Will she further agree with me that anti-racist education is important in ensuring a more diverse and inclusive Scotland?

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I whole-heartedly agree with that and I am sure that the whole chamber whole-heartedly agrees with that. No one should ever experience racism and we all have a duty to stand firmly in solidarity with anyone who does and against those who are racist. The vile racist abuse directed at teaching professionals, staff and children on the back of the Scottish learning festival should be condemned and I condemn it.

I make a particular comment, given how close to my heart the experience of pupils at St Albert's primary in my constituency of Pollokshields is. I know St Albert's very well. It is a fantastic school with a fantastic headteacher, fantastic teachers and outstanding young people. I was privileged to visit the school on Friday, as I have been many times in the past. Racism sickens me, but there is nothing that turns my stomach more than the idea of adults—whether from Scotland or anywhere else in the world—who can look at a photograph of beautiful, clever children and see only the colour of their skin. It is despicable, it is disgusting, it has no place in Scotland and I hope that all of us will unite in utter condemnation of vile racists everywhere.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13927&i=126228#ScotParlOR>

Welsh Senedd Statement of Opinion

Mark Isherwood (Conservative) [OPIN-2022-0303] National Hate Crime Awareness Week – The Senedd:

1. Notes that national hate crime awareness week 2022, a week of solidarity with those affected by hate crime, is between 8 and 15 October.
2. Notes that the national week aims to encourage the authorities (governments, Police and councils), key partners and communities affected by hate crime to work together to tackle local hate crime incidents across Wales.
3. Believes that hate crimes are based on ignorance and prejudice and recognises that the best way to tackle that is through integration, engagement and sharing together.

<https://record.senedd.wales/StatementOfOpinion/303>

Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answers

Health: Pastoral Care

Jim Allister (Traditional Unionist Voice) [AQW 3349/22-27] To ask the Minister of Health how many requests to access a minister of religion from a denomination other than the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland or Methodist churches have been declined in each of Northern Ireland's hospitals since March 2020.

The Minister of Health: The information requested is not held centrally within my Department so each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) were asked for input.

Western, Belfast, South Eastern and Southern HSCT were able to reply within the timeframe given.

Western HSCT have stated that although the figures are not collated, if a patient requests spiritual support from any denomination, the visit is facilitated in line with normal visiting, and any COVID restrictions. The Risk Management and Complaints Departments within the trust have confirmed that there have been no issues raised or complaints received relating to such matters.

Belfast HSCT also stated that their Chaplaincy Department do not collate these figures, nor would it be practical for wards to do so. During the Covid-19 pandemic, visiting has been in line with the Department's visiting guidance and any necessary risk assessments. The Trust does not refuse patients access to pastoral care from a minister of their choice as it recognises the valuable support that patients and families can receive from their minister of religion, faith or belief.

Their Spiritual Care policy (2019) states: "Spiritual care should be sensitive to the rights of individuals to determine their own needs in regard to spiritual care, including their right to be visited (or not visited) by any chaplain, member of the clergy, or faith/community/belief group representative".

This is the general practice, however there may be times where this is assessed as not possible for any external visits e.g. Covid outbreaks, or patient safety. Hospital chaplaincy representatives who are fit-tested will continue to offer visiting during a Covid-19 outbreak. Where in-person visits of the minister of their choice are not possible, virtual visiting using iPads is facilitated. Where it is safe to do so, every effort is made to accommodate visits by ministers of religion or faith/belief representatives, especially in end-of-life situations.

Southern Trust confirmed that they do not believe that any minister of religion from any denomination have been declined a visit in a hospital since March 2020, however this information is not recorded.

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=381015>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Health: Pastoral Care

Jim Allister (Traditional Unionist Voice) [AQW 3348/22-27] To ask the Minister of Health to outline the arrangements to access a minister of religion from a denomination other than the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland or Methodist churches in each of Northern Ireland's hospitals.

Jim Allister (Traditional Unionist Voice) [AQW 3428/22-27] To ask the Minister of Health what consideration has been given to the equality implications of refusing patients access to pastoral care from a minister of their choice.

Minister of Health: All Health and Social Care Trust Hospital Chaplaincies provides religious, pastoral and spiritual care to all persons of faith and none. All Trusts have chaplains representing the main denominations in the Trust catchment area i.e. Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Denominations.

Where the Chaplaincy team does not include a member of a specific faith group trusts have nominated members of the team who with the permission of the patient will contact the minister/religious leader of their choice and arrange for them to attend the hospital.

The Southern Trust has contact details for the Jehovah's Witness Centre, the Islamic Centre and a Jewish minister of religion.

All HSC Trusts recognise the valuable support that patients/families can receive from their Minister of religion or Faith/Belief representative, therefore I do not believe that any minister of religion has been refused access to attend to a patient's pastoral care. On this basis the Department does not have any equality concerns.

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=381014>
and
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=381164>

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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>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

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

**** 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_0907.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>

Scottish Parliament

**** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

Equality and Human Rights Committee: Stage 1 Report

<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/EHRCJ/2022/10/6/d81c72da-4070-4355-aacb-cc58d9c1bc08#Introduction>

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