



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

Senedd Written Answer

Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Plans

Andrew Davies (Conservative) [WQ86213] Will the Minister provide an update on the publication of the review of community cohesion and hate crime plans as recommended by the Fifth Senedd's Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee in its 'Into sharp relief: inequality and the pandemic' inquiry?

The Minister for Social Justice: We will shortly complete a review of the Community Cohesion Programme, which will influence the programme for 2023/24 and beyond. This will also incorporate our work on Community Cohesion Principles that will guide our work.

We began working on an update of the Hate Crime Framework during the pandemic, following the Committee's report. However, our work in Wales to support hate crime victims must dovetail with work undertaken at the UK level. There have been important developments on which we await clarity on the UK Government's position. These include awaiting a substantive response from the UK Government to the Law Commission's review of hate crime legislation – the review was published in December 2021 – and having sight of the UK Government's planned new Hate Crime Strategy.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/86213>

The Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld13403/cr-ld13403-e.pdf>

The Law Commission review, referred to above, can be read at

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2021/12/Hate-crime-report-accessible.pdf>

Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answer

Religious Education

Jim Allister (Traditional Unionist Voice) [AQW 3571/22-27] To ask the Minister of Education what commitment she can give to retaining the statutory provisions protecting

religious education in Articles 21 and 22 of The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986.

The Minister of Education: I support the right of the many thousands of children of all denominations to have an education which is based on Christian ethos and values. This includes the provision of Religious Education and collective worship in our schools. I will not repeal the legislation underpinning the Christian values and teaching in schools.

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=381366>

The Order referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1986/594/contents>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Occupied Territories: Refugees

Sarah Champion (Labour) [59761] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what services for refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories were commissioned using UK Official Development Assistance spending in the most recent three financial years for which data are available.

Gillian Keegan: We are longstanding supporters of the UNRWA and their work to provide essential services to Palestinian refugees across the region, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). Data on ODA spend in the OPTs, including our support to UNRWA, is available on DevTracker.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59761>

DevTracker, referred to above, can be read at

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/>

Palestinians: Development Aid

Sarah Champion (Labour) [59762] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of the reduction in the level of Official Development Assistance to the UN Relief and Works Agency on the provision of essential services for Palestinian refugees in (a) the Occupied Palestinian Territories, (b) Jordan and (c) Lebanon.

Gillian Keegan: Following the move in 2020 from spending 0.7 % of gross national income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.5%, the FCDO aid budget was allocated in accordance with UK strategic priorities against a challenging financial climate. The UK remains a long standing supporter of UNRWA and values its importance as a vital humanitarian and stabilising force in the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59762>

UNRWA

Sarah Champion (Labour) [59763] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with (a) international partners and (b) the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) on the UNRWA funding model.

Gillian Keegan: We are longstanding supporters of the UNRWA and their work to support Palestinian refugees across the region. At the UNRWA pledging conference in New York in June 2022, we announced a new multi-year funding programme with the agency and will provide £15m in 2022. On 22 September in

New York, Lord Ahmad attended a Ministerial dialogue on UNRWA's financial situation where he reiterated UK support for the agency and the need to be on a more viable financial footing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59763>

Israel and Occupied Territories: Human Rights

Sarah Champion (Labour) [59764] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what diplomatic steps he is taking to promote women's human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Gillian Keegan: Israel and the OPTs remain a human rights priority for the FCDO. Women's rights are a crucial element underpinning the UK's foreign policy. This is why we regularly raise concerns with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, where they exist, regarding violations of women's rights. We continue to urge the Palestinian Authority to pass legislation to protect and progress women's rights in line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Through our programming in the OPTs, the UK has previously supported work to introduce this legislation, as well as providing essential services for victims of gender-based violence and promoting women's political and economic empowerment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59764>

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](#)

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