



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Hezbollah

George Howarth (Labour) [64410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the UK have been prosecuted for belonging or professing to belong to Hezbollah since it was fully proscribed.

Tom Tugendhat: The Government takes proscription offences seriously. On 1 March 2019, the proscription was extended to cover the Hizballah group in its entirety.

Data on arrests, charges and convictions for the section 11 Terrorism Act 2000 offence of belonging or professing to belong to a proscribed organisation is grouped with other proscription offences (sections 12 and 13 of the Act) in the quarterly Home Office publication 'Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000'. Data is not published on the specific proscribed organisation that the arrest, charge or conviction relates to.

The most recent publication up to year ending June 2022, was published on 8 September 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-quarterly-update-to-june-2022>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64410>

House of Lords Written Answer

Teachers: Training

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL2744] To ask His Majesty's Government what support they are providing to facilitate diversity and anti-racist professional learning for school teachers.

Baroness Barran: All teachers are expected to treat everyone fairly. The department wants teaching to be an inclusive profession where talented teachers from all backgrounds are supported throughout their career journeys.

All teachers must satisfy the Teachers' Standards throughout their careers. To be awarded qualified teacher status (QTS), trainees must demonstrate that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level, including Teacher Standard One, which requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils and set goals that stretch and challenge young people of all backgrounds and abilities. Part Two of the Teachers' Standards is also clear that teachers must treat all pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and show tolerance and respect for the rights of others.

Once teachers achieve QTS, they enter into two years of funded support through the early career framework, which requires early career teachers to be trained and supported to develop their understanding of maintaining fair and inclusive school environments.

Beyond training, school leaders are responsible for ensuring their workforce has appropriate training to meet the needs of all pupils, which is in line with the department's position on school autonomy and school leaders being best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and workforce.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/hl2744>

The Teachers' Standards, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040274/Teachers_Standards_Dec_2021.pdf

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Israel

See also written answer 64410 "Hezbollah" which is included in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Palestinians: Development Aid

Steve McCabe (Labour) [63915] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when the UK last reviewed compliance with its partnership principles with the Palestinian Authority.

Steve McCabe (Labour) [65563] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when the Government last reviewed compliance with its partnership principles with the Palestinian Authority.

Leo Docherty: Following a review in December 2021, FCDO's assessment is that the Palestinian Authority (PA) demonstrates a partially credible commitment to the Partnership Principles. There is relatively strong progress on improving public financial management and a continued commitment to delivering effective services and reducing poverty, despite the challenges of occupation. However, cases of abuses of human rights and restrictions on freedom of expression continue and there is potential for greater action to strengthen human rights protection and increase domestic accountability in areas within the PA's control. The UK will continue to monitor these areas closely and raise with the highest levels of the PA.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/63915>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65563>

Palestinians: Terrorism

Steve McCabe (Labour) [65560] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the latest Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Palestinian Authority (PA), what assessment her department has made of a PA spokesperson vowing to continue the policy of paying salaries to the families of terrorists on 30 January 2022.

Leo Docherty: The UK Government strongly condemns all acts of terrorism and has zero tolerance towards incitement of violence. It is critical that the Palestinian leadership continue their efforts to tackle terror and incitement, strengthen institutions and develop a sustainable economy. Our partnership with the Palestinian Authority (PA) includes a commitment from the Palestinian leadership to adhere to the principle of non-violence and to tackle language and actions that could incite violence or hatred. We continue to assess the PA's commitment to peace in line with our Partnership Principles.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65560>

The most recent Memorandum of Understanding available online (published March 2022, dated May 2020) can be read at

https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/90000588.odt

The following two questions both received the same answer

Palestinians: Textbooks

Steve McCabe (Labour) [63914] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for its policies of the Review of 2022 UNRWA-Produced Study Materials in the Palestinian Territories published by IMPACT-se in July 2022.

Steve McCabe (Labour) [65561] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to IMPACT-se's Review of 2022 UNRWA-Produced Study Materials in the Palestinian Territories, published in July 2022, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policy of that review.

Leo Docherty: The UK Government has zero tolerance towards incitement of violence. We are aware of the recent IMPACT-SE report and raised with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) directly. We are longstanding supporters of UNRWA and their work to provide essential services to Palestinian refugees across the region, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We accompany our support for UNRWA with stringent attention to implementation of their neutrality policy, including how they apply this to the learning material UNRWA produces in the OPTs to ensure they reflect UN values.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/63914>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65561>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/Review-of-2022-UNRWA-Produced-School-Materials.pdf>

Palestinians: Textbooks

Steve McCabe (Labour) [65562] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of whether study materials produced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for use in the Palestinian Territories meet UNESCO standards of peace and tolerance in education.

Leo Docherty: We are longstanding supporters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and their work to provide essential services to Palestinian

refugees across the region, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We accompany our support for the UNRWA with stringent attention to implementation of their neutrality policy, including how they apply this to textbooks and other learning material to ensure they reflect UN values.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65562>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Hafez Hureini

Chris Law (SNP) [65838] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made for the implications of his policies of the treatment of 52-year-old Palestinian man, Hafez Hureini, by the Israeli authorities.

Chris Law (SNP) [65839] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department will call for an independent, international investigation into the treatment of Hafez Hureini by the Israeli authorities.

Chris Law (SNP) [65840] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of referring the case of Hafez Hureini to the International Criminal Court's investigation into alleged war crimes committed by the Israeli authorities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Leo Docherty: We are aware of Mr Hureini's case and will continue to monitor developments closely. The UK condemns any incidents of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to address settler violence and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance to bring those responsible to justice and end the culture of impunity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65838>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65839>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65840>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Mohammad El Halabi

Chris Law (SNP) [65841] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made for the implications of his policies of the sentencing of Palestinian World Vision aid worker, Mohammad El Halabi, by the Israeli authorities.

Chris Law (SNP) [65842] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the charges brought against Mohammad El Halabi by the Israeli authorities.

Leo Docherty: The UK is aware of the sentencing of former Gaza World Vision Director Mohammad Halabi. We are aware of issues regarding the trial process and are engaged with the Israeli authorities on these issues. We will monitor Mr Halabi's appeal closely.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65841>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65842>

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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/47164/documents/2373>

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_1026.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>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Mapping Exercise - Youth Workers supporting young people facing racism & antisemitism in Scotland (closing date 14 November)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5YX2C7>

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