



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Back issues

Home Affairs

House of Commons Oral Answers

Death Registration Process

Imran Hussain (Labour) [902353] What recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on reforming the death registration process.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mike Freer): The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and the General Register Office on the implementation of a statutory medical examiners scheme, which will provide an additional layer of scrutiny on cause of death in non-coronal cases. We are also working with the General Register Office to consider how families might play a greater role in the registration of their loved ones' deaths following an inquest.

Imran Hussain: ... For many of my constituents, a swift burial is a core tenet of their beliefs and faith, but in many cases this swift burial is held back by bureaucratic legal difficulties in formally registering the death, particularly when GPs cannot be reached, there is a bank holiday or it is the weekend. I think the whole House will agree that no one wants their relatives to be held in a mortuary any longer than is absolutely necessary. Will the Minister meet me and colleagues from the Department of Health and Social Care to discuss what can be done to break down these legal barriers and address these issues so that everybody can be afforded dignity in death?

Mike Freer: First, I can reassure the hon. Gentleman that I have discussed this specific issue of how faith communities are dealt with by the coroners service. I have discussed it with the Chief Coroner, and I have a meeting next week with representatives of both the Jewish and the Muslim faiths. Once I have had those meetings, I would be very happy to meet him so that, having looked at the issue in the round, we can discuss how we can move forward.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-22/debates/BE275FEA-C624-4844-BD5E-85407D47A9D5/DeathRegistrationProcess>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [86458] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, for what reason the UK abstained in the UN vote to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories on 11 November 2022.

Leo Docherty: This is an annual UN General Assembly resolution that the UK traditionally supports because it is consistent with our longstanding concerns over the impact of the Israeli occupation on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. However, the UK abstained on the resolution this year because of the inclusion of a referral to the international Court of Justice (ICJ). We support the ICJ, but we do not believe that a referral to the ICJ is helpful to bringing the parties back to dialogue. It is also our longstanding position that it is inappropriate, without the consent of both parties, to ask the Court to give an advisory opinion in what is essentially a bilateral dispute.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/86458>

A report of the meeting referred to above can be read at

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaspd771.doc.htm>

The resolution referred to above can be read at

<https://undocs.org/en/A/C.4/77/L.12/Rev.1>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

James Cleverly Horrific news coming out of Jerusalem this morning. At least 22 injured and a teenager murdered in two senseless bombing attacks. My thoughts are with all those affected. We must see an end to rising violence and instability in Israel and the OPTs.

<https://twitter.com/JamesCleverly/status/1595354576152043521>

United Nations

Marking International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People, Secretary-General Stresses 'Peace Must Advance – the Occupation Must End'

Following is UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed on 29 November:

We commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at a time of diminished hope for peace. I am deeply saddened by the growing number of Palestinian civilians who have lost their lives in the spiral of violence engulfing the occupied West Bank. Each casualty fuels fear and yet more violence. I urge all parties to take immediate steps to reduce tensions and break this deadly cycle.

The long-standing drivers of conflict — including the ongoing occupation, settlement expansion, home demolitions and evictions — heighten anger, despair and hopelessness. Meanwhile, Gaza continues to endure debilitating closures and humanitarian crises. I reiterate my call on the parties to engage to end the closures of Gaza and improve living conditions of all Palestinians.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) remains a vital lifeline for Palestine refugees. I commend the donors for their support and urge all to step up and provide predictable and sufficient funding to

enable UNRWA to fully deliver on its mandate.

The United Nations' position is clear: peace must advance — the occupation must end. We are steadfast in our commitment to realize the vision of two States — Israel and Palestine — living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

Together, let us reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and build a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for all.

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21597.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

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

[TOP](#)

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