



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Holocaust

Scottish Parliament Motion

Paul O’Kane (Labour) [S6M-07484] Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 – That the Parliament recognises Holocaust Memorial Day 2023; remembers the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others killed under the Nazi persecution of other minority groups; reflects on and recognises the millions of people who have been systematically murdered since 1945 in genocides perpetrated in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; notes that Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January, marking the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, and that the theme for 2023 is “Ordinary People”; understands that this theme highlights the ordinary people who let genocide happen, the ordinary people who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted; considers that, today, ordinary people are also the ones who drive Holocaust Memorial Day, who lead on community commemorations, and who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects; reflects on how the theme of “Ordinary People” can help people give greater consideration to the role that everyone can play, as individuals, in challenging all forms of discrimination, prejudice and racism, and commits to redoubling efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the genocide to ensure that the lessons of such events are fully learnt.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07484>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

West Bank: Security

Mark Jenkinson (Conservative) [113476] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign,

Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the West Bank, in the context of reports of Palestinian Authority arrests of Palestinians with alleged links to Hamas.

David Rutley: We continue to closely monitor the security situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The UK continues to provide the Palestinian Authority (PA) with professional support in helping develop its security institutions. This provision includes training and other technical assistance to the PA Ministry of Interior and PA Security Forces (PASF), to support the development of capable, responsible security forces that respect human rights and are accountable to the Palestinian people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113476>

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Other Relevant Information

United Nations

The Jewish cemetery of Fez, a symbol of cultural harmony

... Before he died, Johanna Devico Ohana's father asked her to promise him one thing: "if I ever die when I'm in France", he insisted, "bring me to Fez".

He also asked her to take care of the Jewish cemetery, a role that was his responsibility before he passed away. His daughter agreed to both requests, and her father is laid to rest in the cemetery she now maintains. ...

"My father was a lover of Morocco and a lover of Fez", says Ms. Ohana, who was born and raised in the city. "We lived in harmony. There was no tension. We all knew we were Jews, Muslims, or Catholics, and we never had any problems on that side".

Located in northern Morocco, on the Wadi Fez, the city was founded in the ninth century, and was the ancient capital of Morocco for hundreds of years. In the year 809, King Idris II encouraged Jews to move to Fez, so the city could benefit from their skills. ...

It also retains a mix of cultures and identity, and a Jewish neighbourhood, named 'Mellah'. The word literally means 'salt' or 'saline area', in reference to either a saline water source in the area or to the former presence of a salt warehouse, but 'Mellah' is now used as the name for Jewish quarters in other Moroccan cities, including Rabat and Marrakech.

The Jewish cemetery, nestled in the Mellah, is distinguished by its semi-cylindrical tombs, which capture the history of Morocco's flourishing Jewry. ...

Includes a short video: "How a Jewish cemetery in Morocco is being brought back to life". To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132412>

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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/58-03/0209/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0116.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

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>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 5 days**

Assisted dying/assisted suicide (closing date 20 January 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/81/health-and-social-care-committee/news/174845/mps-launch-new-inquiry-on-assisted-dyingassisted-suicide/>

NUS UK Antisemitism Action Plan (closing date 27 January 2023)

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471793/NUS_Antisemitism_Action_Plan_Jan2023.pdf

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