



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs
Israel

Relevant Legislation
Consultations
Back issues

Home Affairs

House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Metropolitan Police: Casey Review

col 161 **The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** ... The Metropolitan Police Service plays a big role in our country: tackling crime throughout the capital and keeping 9 million Londoners safe; preventing terrorism nationally; and managing significant threats to our capital and country. I back the police. I trust them to put their safety before ours, to step into danger to protect the most vulnerable, and to support all of us at our most fearful, painful and tragic moments. Many of us can never imagine the challenges that regular police officers face every day. ...

But there have been growing concerns around the performance of the Metropolitan police and its ability to command the confidence and trust of Londoners. That follows a series of abhorrent cases of officers who betrayed the public's trust and hideously abused their powers. ...

Baroness Casey's report finds: deep-seated cultural issues in the force; persistent poor planning and short-termism; a failure of local accountability; insularity and defensiveness; and a lack of focus on core areas of policing, including public protection. She also highlights the recent decline in trust and confidence in the Met among London's diverse communities.

col 162 The report underlines the fact that the Met faces a long road to recovery. Improvements must be made as swiftly as possible, but some of the huge challenges for the organisation may take years to fully address. ... Every officer in the force needs to be part of making those changes happen. ...

It is vital that the law-abiding public do not face a threat from the police themselves. Those who are not fit to wear the uniform must be prevented from doing so. ...

I would like to turn to two particularly concerning aspects of Baroness Casey's report. First, it addresses questions of racism, misogyny and homophobia within the Metropolitan police. Baroness Casey has identified evidence of discriminatory behaviour among officers. ... Discrimination must be tackled in all its forms, and I welcome Sir Mark's

commitment to do so. I will be holding the Metropolitan police and the Mayor of London to account by measuring their progress. ...

Secondly, officers working in the parliamentary and diplomatic protection command perform a vital function in protecting our embassies and keeping us, as Members of Parliament, safe on the parliamentary estate. Baroness Casey's report is scathing in its analysis of the command's culture. The whole House will be acutely aware of two recent cases of officers working in that command committing the most abhorrent crimes. ...

col 163 We all depend on the police, who overwhelmingly do a very difficult job bravely and well. It is vital that all officers maintain the very highest standards that the public expect of them. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... The report published today by Louise Casey, commissioned by the Mayor of London, into standards and culture in the Metropolitan police service is thorough, forensic and truly damning. It finds that consent is broken, management of the force has failed and frontline policing,—especially neighbourhood policing—has been deprioritised and degraded ... It finds that the Met is failing women and children, and that predatory and unacceptable behaviour has been allowed to flourish. It finds institutional racism, misogyny and homophobia.

Baroness Casey pays tribute to the work that police officers do and the bravery that they show every day, as we all should, because across the country we depend on the work that police officers do to keep us all safe ... But that is what makes it all the more important that the highest standards are maintained and the confidence of those the police serve is sustained, otherwise communities and the vital work that police officers do are let down. ... The failure to root out officers who have been involved in domestic abuse or sexual assault also applies in other forces. The failure to tackle culture has gone wrong in other forces too ... It is a disgrace that there are still not mandatory requirements on vetting and training, underpinned by law, and that misconduct systems are still too weak. ...

col 164 The findings on institutional misogyny, racism and homophobia are based on evidence and clear criteria that Baroness Casey has set out for measuring change with recommendations. ... The British policing model is precious. The Peel principles, which started in London—policing by consent—said “that the police are the public and that the public are the police”.

They are our guardians, not our guards, but that precious policing model is in peril. ...

col 165 **Peter Bottomley (Conservative):** ... I will give as an example the high-profile case of the Sikh police officer Gurpal Virdi, who 25 years ago was in effect accused of doing something he had not done. We had the Muir report at the end of 2001, which showed what the police ought to do to do things right. We had the report by Sir William Morris, as he then was, in 2004. Before that we had had the Stephen Lawrence inquiry by Sir William Macpherson ... What they recommended has not happened.

col 166 Now we have the Casey report. I say to the commissioner of the Met police, to the Mayor and to my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary: have a review into what happened in the Gurpal Virdi case, including his prosecution eight years ago for a non-offence, where the only evidence exonerated him. Until that is done, people will not have confidence in people putting things right. It may be one case, and many other examples will be given in the next few minutes, but Sergeant Gurpal Virdi has been the victim of more injustice from the police, over decades, than I have ever seen in my life. ...

Diana Johnson (Labour): The findings of institutional racism in the Met made 24 years ago, the findings of institutional corruption in the case of Daniel Morgan more recently, the homophobia in the botched Stephen Port investigation, the misogyny, homophobia and racism in the Charing Cross inquiry, the criminal misconduct of police officers in the murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, the strip-searching of Child Q, the numerous Independent Office for Police Conduct investigations and damning HMICFRS reports, the abduction, rape and murder by a serving police officer and the case of the

serial sex offender David Carrick were all not enough to provoke real change, so can the Home Secretary say what is now different about this report? Is she confident that the Met can change?

Suella Braverman: It is clear just from the examples to which the right hon. Lady refers and from this report that all the behaviour, including instances of racism, homophobia and misogyny, is completely unacceptable and that standards must improve. Sir Mark has been clear that he is not shying away from the enormity of the challenge. He has a plan in place to ensure that standards are increased, that more rigour is instilled in the Met and that there is a better and more robust response when standards fall short. ...

col 168 **Andy Slaughter (Labour):** Like many London MPs, I deal with constituency cases—from modern slavery to stalking—in which ethnicity, gender or sexuality is a factor, but the victims complain that those factors are not taken seriously by police investigators. What can I tell them that the Home Secretary will do, following this damning report, to give them dignity, respect and, above all, justice?

Suella Braverman: Discriminatory attitudes and homophobic, racist or misogynistic behaviour have no place in policing. All the case studies and references in the report make for shocking reading. The ability of the police to fulfil their duties is essential, but what we have seen is a real impediment preventing chief constables from dismissing and getting rid of officers who are not fit to wear the badge, for a host of reasons. ... if necessary I will change the law to empower chief constables to better control the quality of the officers in their ranks. ...

col 169 **Marsha De Cordova (Labour):** Nearly 25 years after the Macpherson report, it is damning that the Casey review has found that the Met remains institutionally racist, and is now misogynistic and homophobic as well. Its actions can seriously undermine policing by consent, and without wholesale reform it will be impossible to rebuild trust and confidence in our communities ...

Suella Braverman: We are already working with the College of Policing to ensure that there is a statutory code setting out the standards for vetting and recruitment. However, as Baroness Casey makes clear, it is vital that the law-abiding public never face a threat from the police themselves. Those who are not fit to wear the badge should be rooted out, but they should never enter the force in the first place. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-21/debates/ACFF2865-C6A3-4089-8F5F-B101861F47A1/MetropolitanPoliceCaseyReview>

The Casey Review, discussed above, can be read at

<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/baroness-casey-review/update-march-2023/baroness-casey-review-march-2023.pdf>

Information about the Gurpal Viridi case, referred to above, can be read at

<http://policeauthority.org/metropolitan/scrutinies/qviridi/index.html#h1000>

The Muir report, referred to above, can be read at

<http://www.policeauthority.org/Metropolitan/downloads/scrutinies/virdi/virdi-report-01a.pdf>

The Morris report, referred to above, can be read at

<http://www.policeauthority.org/Metropolitan/downloads/scrutinies/morris/morris-report.pdf>

The Macpherson report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

Information about the David Morgan case, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.met.police.uk/notices/met/daniel-morgan-independent-panel-report/>

Information about the Stephen Port investigation, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/investigations/stephen-port-murders-metropolitan-police-service>

The report of the Charing Cross Inquiry, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Operation%20Hotton%20Learning%20Report%20-%20January%202022.pdf>

Information relating to the murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-59474472>

Information about the Child Q case, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-61796798>

A police statement relating to the David Carrick case, referred to above, can be read at <https://news.met.police.uk/news/statement-ahead-of-david-carrick-sentencing-hearing-461431>

House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Baroness Casey Review

[The Home Secretary's statement to the House of Commons](#) was read in the Lords.

col 1721 **Lord Coaker (Labour):** ... there can be no hiding place from this damning report into the culture and behaviour of the Metropolitan Police ... It is so depressing to learn that the Metropolitan Police has not done the institutional work to root out racism, sexism and homophobia. The individual case studies in the reports, and the reports given in evidence, show appalling and shocking behaviour going unchallenged. How will all of this change? Why will it change now, following this report, given that so many other reports highlighted these failings in the past?

Even recently, when change was promised and cultural change was made a priority for the police, what does the Casey report say? As an awful example, it says that, following the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer, there was a "plane falling out of the sky" moment when we should have witnessed real change and reform. Instead, the police failed to understand the gravity and impact of the crimes of a serving police officer, saying that the force preferred to pretend that its own perpetrators were just "bad apples". The report asks what it will take for the police to wake up and change, so I ask the Minister the same question.

What will the Government themselves do to ensure that the cultural change needed is driven forward? Of course, others have a responsibility, but the Minister has to accept that the Government of our country have a responsibility as well. ...

How will racism be rooted out? Why is nothing being done about the fact that, if you are a black officer, you are 81% more likely to be in the misconduct system than white colleagues? ... What do the Government say to the criticisms made by the noble Baroness, Lady Casey, when she points out the eye-watering use of force against the black community? ...

col 1722 **Lord German (Liberal Democrat):** ... For decades, there has been racism, sexism, misogyny and homophobia in the Metropolitan Police, and, throughout that time, police leaders have wilfully denied it or have been so embedded in the culture that they do not recognise it. Those who stood up to be counted and reported misconduct were labelled troublemakers, ostracised by colleagues and targeted for misconduct investigations themselves. Some of those who were violent and racist were reinstated, even when they had been found guilty and dismissed. ...

col 1723 ... we must recognise that not every black, female, Sikh, Muslim or gay officer has had these experiences. But that does not detract from the fact that there is a corrupting

and unhealthy culture that allows unacceptable behaviour to flourish and grinds down those who stand up for what is right.

Things have changed over the decades. For example, overt racism has been replaced by closed WhatsApp groups, to which only a few trusted colleagues are allowed access. ...

col 1724 Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... It is paramount that public trust in the Met is restored. The Home Secretary is committed to ensuring that the commissioner and the Mayor of London will be held to account to deliver a wholesale change in the force's culture. ...

However ... we should not overlook the many officers working in the Met who carry out their duties with the utmost professionalism ...

On the subject of institutional racism, sexism and homophobia, it is obviously clear from the report that recent cases, including instances of all those things, in parts of the Metropolitan Police are completely unacceptable. It has been made very clear that standards have to improve in this area as a matter of considerable urgency. The Met has to rebuild trust, improve standards and keep all Londoners safe from harm, regardless of their background. ...

I accept that there has been a failure of leadership in the police, of course, but I have faith in Sir Mark ... The police have a lot of work to do to restore trust, and I hope that has been made clear. ...

col 1728 Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): My Lords, does the Minister agree that in the spirit of bipartisanship, on such a dark day for the capital and the country, nobody should double down against the central finding of institutional prejudice? This does not mean that everybody is prejudiced; it just means that there are systemic problems that need to be addressed if we are to tackle these deep-seated problems in the institution. ...

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... As regards the institutional racism and so on, like Sir Mark Rowley I probably would not use that description because it can be misused and risks making it harder for officers to win the trust of communities, but I of course acknowledge the noble Baroness's point. ...

col 1730 Lord Blunkett (Labour): ... Those who have taken responsibility in this area—and, of course, I have—will be aware of the real difficulty of holding the police force to account. Yes, there may have been a dysfunctional relationship ... But what the noble Baroness was pointing out was the real difficulty that any mayor has—and this applies to the Home Secretary as well—in a situation where the force is so defensive. This is illustrated in the report time and again: the force is so defensive that any criticism at all is taken personally, and people go on the defensive to the point where you cannot have a sensible or rational conversation.

... it is time to stop the police hiding behind operational responsibility and to understand that somewhere and somehow they have to be held to account. At this moment in time, we are doing so, but on the back of years of failure. If we are to avoid that in future, we will have to have transparency and honesty in a way that we have not had.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... The fact is that the report also identified an “evasive” culture and a culture that is overly defensive when it comes to perfectly justified criticism. I have confidence that Sir Mark will change that culture and do so very quickly—but, of course, he needs to be held accountable for doing that. ...

col 1732 Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, it is 30 years ago next month that Stephen Lawrence was killed. So there have not been “growing concerns” among young black people in London; they have been telling us for years that things have not changed and we—meaning all of us—did not listen. ...

col 1733 Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... It is clear that the Met must have the confidence of all communities, including black and ethnic groups. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-03-21/debates/04B6A140-579E-4AE8-AF3A-F19C958017D9/BaronessCaseyReview>

The Casey Review, discussed above, can be read at <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/baroness-casey-review/update-march-2023/baroness-casey-review-march-2023.pdf>

Information about the Sarah Everard murder, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-58747614>

House of Lords Written Answers

Meat: Labelling

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative) [HL6457] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce mandatory labelling for (1) domestic, and (2) imported, meat, indicating (a) the method of production, and (b) when stunning of animals has not occurred prior to slaughter.

Lord Benyon: In 2021, Defra ran a call for evidence to gather data on the potential impacts of different types of labelling reform for animal welfare, including considerations around imports, production systems and method of slaughter. We received over 1,600 responses and a summary of these responses is available on GOV.UK.

Based on the evidence provided, Defra committed in the Government's Food Strategy to consult on improving and expanding mandatory animal welfare labelling, covering both domestic and imported products, in 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/hl6457>

The summary of responses referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1100605/animal-welfare-labelling-summary-of-responses.pdf

The Food Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1082026/government-food-strategy.pdf

Animal Welfare: Slaughterhouses

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative) [HL6406] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to use the next stages of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway to ensure that the highest standards of animal welfare are applied in all abattoirs.

Lord Benyon: The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway maps out how farmers and the Government will work together to continually improve the health and welfare of our farmed animals, supported by the best science and evidence. It involves three mutually reinforcing pillars in making this change: financial incentives to help farmers deliver on-farm improvements; stimulating market demand through labelling and mandatory public disclosure to improve the accessibility, availability and affordability of higher welfare products; and, where needed, strengthening regulation to ensure the changes made endure. Following the post-implementation review of our welfare at killing legislation, and as part of our Action Plan for Animal Welfare, we are looking at a wide range of welfare at slaughter improvements that could be made to strengthen the regulatory baseline in slaughterhouses. Welfare at slaughter is a devolved matter, and the Government remains committed to working closely with the devolved administrations on our shared aims for animal welfare.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/hl6406>

The Pathway referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-plan-for-animal-welfare/action-plan-for-animal-welfare>

Scottish Government

Faith and Belief Engagement Strategy

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/03/faith-belief-engagement-strategy/documents/faith-belief-engagement-strategy/faith-belief-engagement-strategy/govscot%3Adocument/faith-belief-engagement-strategy.pdf>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [167053] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if the Government will take steps to encourage G7 allies to commit support for the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace at the G7 Summit in May 2023.

David Rutley: We are in frequent contact with our G7 partners on range of important foreign policy issues, including Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the peace process. Political directors from G7 foreign ministries met in Japan on 8-9 March and discussed steps we can take to calm tensions, reduce violence and keep open opportunities to pursue meaningful dialogue between the Israeli and the Palestinians. We are in close contact with the US about the fund and we are considering options for collaboration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-16/167053>

International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [167055] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution on 14 March 2023, Official Report, column 671, by what metric he measures whether UK support for the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace would be the most effective use of funding allocated towards people-to-people links.

David Rutley: The FCDO aid budget is allocated in accordance with UK strategic priorities against a challenging financial climate. The UK remains a long-standing supporter of the Middle East Peace Process. There is a robust framework in place for allocating Official Development Assistance (ODA). Data on ODA spend in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is available on DevTracker.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-16/167055>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-14/debates/F1ED8FC0-8A54-4AF2-9ED1-4C70AB716251/IsraelAndPalestine#contribution-939BBD87-29EF-4D79-81CD-7E1B92F05DBD>

DevTracker, referred to above, can be read at

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/countries/PS/projects>

International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [167057] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 14 March 2023 on Israel and Palestine, Official Report, column 672, with which international counterparts other than the US he has discussed the potential creation of an international fund for Israeli and Palestinian peace.

David Rutley: To date, we have only discussed the creation of an international fund with the US.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-16/167057>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-14/debates/F1ED8FC0-8A54-4AF2-9ED1-4C70AB716251/IsraelAndPalestine#contribution-0F1D144B-1A22-4B86-AC46-06E10671672F>

International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [165261] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has taken recent steps to support the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

David Rutley: I [Minister Rutley] refer the honourable member to the comments made by my noble colleague, Lord Goldsmith in the House of Lords on 7 March. The UK Government remains in close contact with the US Government about the US Middle East Partnership for Peace Act and how existing peace-building projects and funding can better support the goals of this Act. We share the objective of advancing economic, social, and political connections, and peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians. We stand ready to collaborate and coordinate further, including regarding the Act's Advisory Board, as additional information about its plans and priorities become available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165261>

The comments referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-03-07/debates/4D8A8A9C-2123-40A2-ABA7-CF717B55ACA3/IsraelAndPalestine#contribution-4721B280-33EF-40D3-A32E-E282AE81127D>

Occupied Territories: Violence

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [165260] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential role of the Lions' Den organisation in levels of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

David Rutley: While the FCDO has not made any specific recent assessment of the Lions' Den organisation, we continue to monitor the situation closely and our diplomatic teams in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are in constant communication with their hosts. The Foreign Secretary has made clear that the UK wants to see a de-escalation of tensions in Israel and the OPTs in his phone calls with both the Israeli Foreign Minister Cohen and Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Malki on 7 March, and we continue to encourage all sides to take action which delivers this. The recent agreement in Aqaba is encouraging in that regard. The UK Government will continue to do all it can to support a peaceful, negotiated, two state solution to the conflict, which we believe is in the interest of both Israelis and Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165260>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Foreign Secretary meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen

The Foreign Secretary met Israel's Foreign Minister in London today to sign the 2030 Roadmap for Israel-UK Bilateral Relations. The 2030 Roadmap will deepen cooperation across tech, research and development, security and cyber.

In the year of Israel's 75th anniversary, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the flourishing bilateral relationship between the UK and Israel. New multi-million-pound programmes announced in the Roadmap, including around £20m of joint funding commitments on technology and innovation, will enable both countries to remain at the forefront of the technological revolution.

Noting the need to de-escalate tensions in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of upholding the historic Status Quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Ministers also discussed key regional issues of mutual concern, including Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. As Ukrainians enter their second year living under relentless and full-scale Russian bombardment, the Foreign Secretary stressed the importance of accelerating efforts to ensure Ukraine wins this war and secures a lasting peace.

On Iran, the Foreign Ministers discussed deepening our security and defence co-operation to counter the threat posed by the regime.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/readout-foreign-secretary-meeting-with-israeli-foreign-minister-eli-cohen>

The Roadmap referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2030-roadmap-for-uk-israel-bilateral-relations/2030-roadmap-for-uk-israel-bilateral-relations>

James Cleverly Israel and the UK share a close and historic friendship. Today, @EliCoh1 and I signed an agreement to deepen that relationship. On trade, tech and security, our two countries are taking full advantage of these opportunities [British flag] [Israeli flag]

<https://twitter.com/JamesCleverly/status/1638203633039814657>

Lord (Tariq)Ahmad of Wimbledon Great to welcome my friend Foreign Minister @elicoh1 of [Israeli flag] to the UK [British flag] - excellent discussions on a wide range of issues.

<https://twitter.com/tariqahmadbt/status/1638274779949027343>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-08260] Remembering "Anita" Emilia Anette Damiani Shanley – That the Parliament notes the sad passing of Emilia Anette Damiani Shanley, better known as Anita; understands that, at the age of 10, Anita and her family were removed from their homes in Palestine at gun point and forced to seek refuge in Lebanon, never to be allowed to return to the country of her birth; recognises that Anita lived a remarkably active and accomplished life, first gaining her Masters in Philosophy at the American University of Beirut (AUB), before going into teaching, travelling widely, and speaking at UN conferences worldwide; understands that Anita left Beirut to work in Los Angeles as a reporter and playwright, and that she later went on to study for a PhD in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh, where she met her husband, Myles Shanley; notes that the couple moved to London where she continued to teach, and that Anita then spent two years in Saudi Arabia as a female lecturer before returning to the UK

where she became head of Arabic teaching for the Inner London Education Authority; notes that, in 1992, the family moved to Edinburgh, and that Anita began work as a translator for the NHS and police force, and carried on working until the age of 83; understands that, following her retirement, she wrote and published a book; acknowledges that Anita was a dedicated activist for Palestinian rights and a passionate advocate of Palestinian culture, and was involved in Medical Aid for Palestinians; understands that she also assisted with the Fairtrade Palestinian shop on Edinburgh's George Street, taught Arabic to Palestinian children and was involved in virtually every Palestinian society in Edinburgh, forging connections with other Palestinians in Glasgow and Stirling to ensure that, despite their collective refugee status, Palestinian culture would survive; considers that Anita was a quiet but determined voice promoting unity and a sense of identity among Scottish Palestinian refugees, and sends its deepest condolences to everyone who knew and loved her.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08260>

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>

'Ping-Pong': Lords consideration of Commons amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-03-21/debates/F0FBA99B-3ABE-41F8-B2BF-5BD0C6E843B2/HigherEducation\(FreedomOfSpeech\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-03-21/debates/F0FBA99B-3ABE-41F8-B2BF-5BD0C6E843B2/HigherEducation(FreedomOfSpeech)Bill)

Holocaust Memorial Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>

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>

**** Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-21/debates/92586257-2E3C-49B3-9026-DACC541A1E27/SameSexMarriage\(ChurchOfEngland\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-21/debates/92586257-2E3C-49B3-9026-DACC541A1E27/SameSexMarriage(ChurchOfEngland))

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

Consultations

** new or updated today

Prospective Scheme of Delegation for the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (closing date 15 May 2023)

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-prospective-scheme-delegation-charity-commission-northern-ireland>

TOP

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