



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Death Certificates

Christopher Pincher (Independent) [176652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) guidelines and (b) service level targets her Department has issued to Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages on issuing a (a) death certificate and (b) certificate for burial to a deceased person's next of kin once the death has been registered.

Robert Jenrick: The General Register Office for England and Wales provides written guidance to registrars that details the procedures to follow on the registration of a death.

The statutory timescale to register a death that is not subject to coronial investigation, is five days. Death certificates are available as soon as a death has been registered and, in most cases, they are requested by informants at the time of registration. Similarly, the certificate for burial is normally issued immediately following a registration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176652>

The guidance referred to above is not currently available online

Funerals: Regulation

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [176716] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Conduct Authority on regulation of the funeral plans sector.

Andrew Griffith: In January 2021, the government legislated to bring all pre-paid funeral plan providers and intermediaries within the regulatory remit of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) from 29 July 2022. This has ensured that 1.6 million funeral plan customers are, for the first time, protected by compulsory and robust regulation.

Throughout this process, the government has worked very closely with the FCA to ensure that the regulation of the sector is proportionate and effective. The

government and the FCA continue to engage regularly as we monitor the implementation of regulation in this sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176716>

Blood and Organs: Donors

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [175672] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 24 March 2023 to Question 170758 on Blood: Ethnic Groups, which languages literature relating to NHS blood and transplant donations is available in.

Neil O'Brien: NHS Blood and Transplant produces literature relating to donations in various languages including Welsh, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu, Arabic, Somali, Polish, Romanian, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hebrew, and Yiddish.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175672>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-21/170758>

Despite the Minister's answer, the NHSBT literature referred to above does not appear to include information in Hebrew or Yiddish. This is being followed up with the Minister and with NHSBT and further information will be included in Political Affairs Digest when available. Literature in other languages can be read at

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/uk-laws/organ-donation-law-in-england/resources-and-downloads/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Lord James of Blackheath (Conservative) [HL7078] To ask His Majesty's Government whether the Coronation Oath to be sworn by His Majesty King Charles III will require him to maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion established by law, and to preserve the rights and privileges of the Church and clergy.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Coronation Oath Act 1688 requires that the Sovereign take the oath at his or her Coronation, and the text of the oath is set out in the Act. The precise form of words has been varied over successive coronations to reflect changes to the constitutional position. Except for one instance, the changes to the oath have been made without primary legislation - see the [statement](#)^[1] of Sir Winston Churchill to the House of Commons in February 1953 (HC Deb 25 February 1953 vol 511 cc2091-3).

The text of the Oath will be published in due course and Parliament will be updated on any changes to the wording.

^[1] CORONATION OATH CHANGES HC Deb 25 February 1953 vol 511 cc2091

The Prime Minister: I should now like to make my statement in reply to Question No. 45.

The terms of the Coronation Oath were first prescribed by the Act 1 William and Mary, chapter 6. Since then its terms have been changed at least five times. On one occasion only has the change had legislative sanction, namely the change which was introduced as a result of the Act of Union with Scotland. The Treaty of Union had provided that in Scotland the religion professed by the people of Scotland should be preserved to them and confirmed by every King on his accession, and it was thought proper that similar provision should be made for the protection of the English Church in England. The Coronation Oath was altered and

enlarged accordingly.

For the many subsequent changes, large or small, which have been made in the terms of the Oath there was no legislative sanction. They were made at various times, and, in particular, after the Act of Union with Ireland, after the Disestablishment of the Irish Church, and also after the passing of the Statute of Westminster. On the last occasion the question whether the changes that were necessary to meet the new constitutional position could be made without an Act of Parliament was carefully considered. and the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers of the day advised that they could.

I am advised by my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor that this opinion was clearly correct, and that the changes now proposed, which are, perhaps, less substantial than those made in 1937, but are required to meet the new constitutional position created by the [Indian Independence Act, 1947](#), and other statutes, can also be made without legislative sanction.

Her Majesty's Government propose to follow this long line of precedents. To accept the view that changes in the terms of the Oath which are necessary to reconcile it with a changed constitutional position cannot be made except with the authority of an Act of Parliament would be to cast doubt upon the validity of the Oath administered to every Sovereign of this country since George I.

If, as I am advised, the Coronation Oath can be lawfully administered in the terms now proposed, no useful purpose would be served by legislation. It must be remembered that at Westminster the Queen will be crowned Queen not only of the United Kingdom, but also of other self-governing countries of the Commonwealth. The form of Oath now proposed has been put to each of these countries and none has raised any objection, or has suggested that it is necessary to pass legislation in its own Parliament or in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Indeed, it would not be possible in the time now remaining before the Coronation to arrange for legislation to be passed by the Commonwealth countries concerned.

Mr Atlee: May I say, having had some experience of these difficulties, that I think it is extremely satisfactory that agreement has been obtained throughout the Commonwealth on this Oath, and that we should be well advised to allow this to proceed without legislation?

Mr E. Fletcher: May I, with respect. put this to the Prime Minister? While no one would wish to throw doubt on the validity of the Coronation Oaths in the past, in view of the fact that the Coronation Oath is a Parliamentary creation, and is intended as a limitation on the Prerogative, is it not desirable, though it may be inconvenient, that any changes that are proposed this year should have legislative sanction, for which, I am sure, there would be no difficulty in making the appropriate arrangements on a non-controversial basis? It is a matter which affects the rights of Parliament, and not merely the rights of the Executive.

The Prime Minister: I think those important and weighty points have been covered by the answer which I have given to the House.

Mr Healy: Could the right hon. Gentleman tell us whether he has considered the speech of an important member of the Irish Government in regard to this matter?

The Prime Minister: is the hon. Gentleman speaking for the Irish Government of Northern Ireland or for the Eire Government, I believe it is—the Government of the Republic?

Mr Healy: The official name is the Government of Ireland, not the Government of Northern Ireland, which is a very small part of Ireland.

Mr Emrys Hughes: Is the Prime Minister aware that there is a strong feeling in Scotland about the Oath being taken to a Queen Elizabeth II on the ground of historical inaccuracy? In view of his great claim to historical accuracy himself, will

he not do something' to meet this very strong resentment in Scotland?

The Prime Minister: I shall be very glad to hear from the hon. Member if he will put his question in the pillar box.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/hl7078>

HM Treasury

Suspected Hizballah financier sanctioned under counter-terrorism regulations

... The UK Government has announced a full asset freeze against an individual suspected of financing the terrorist group Hizballah.

Nazem Ahmad has been sanctioned as part of continued efforts to prevent terrorism in the interests of national security. The move will also protect the integrity of the UK economy from terrorist financing threats.

All assets and economic resources belonging to Ahmad in the UK have been frozen and no UK person may do business with him or any of the companies he owns or controls.

This is the first use of the Treasury-led domestic counter terrorism regime, which is used to target those who HM Treasury has reasonable grounds to suspect are involved in terrorist activity.

Treasury Lords Minister Baroness Penn said: "We will always proactively defend our economy against those who seek to abuse it.

"The firm action we have taken today will clamp down on those who are funding international terrorism, strengthening the UK's economic and national security."

The action is part of a coordinated effort with partners to disrupt an international terrorist-financing operation.

Ahmad has an extensive art collection in the UK and he conducts business with multiple UK-based artists, art galleries and auction houses. Following his designation he will be prevented from trading in the UK art market, and other dealers in high-value items will no longer be able to conduct business with him and his associated companies ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suspected-hizballah-financier-sanctioned-under-counter-terrorism-regulations>

Government Equalities Office and Race Disparities Unit

Inclusive Britain actions delivered to tackle racial disparities and level up communities

... Last spring the government set out the ground-breaking, measurable and deliverable [Inclusive Britain action plan](#), in response to the report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. It set out 74 ambitious, cross-government steps to tackle unjust disparities, promote fairness, build trust, and level up communities.

Minister for Women and Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, said: The concrete actions we have delivered over the last year are improving people's day-to-day lives, but I know that we need to do more to tackle disparities and build people's trust in our great institutions. ... we will continue to deliver on its promises, tackling the complex causes behind racial disparities with data-driven action.

We must all work together to ensure no-one is held back by their race, social or ethnic background. ...

There is more work to be done to tackle disparities and to build trust in institutions. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inclusive-britain-actions-delivered-to-tackle-racial-disparities-and-level-up-communities>

Inclusive Britain update report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

Race Disparities Unit

Government response to the consultation on standards for ethnicity data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-for-ethnicity-data/outcome/government-response-to-the-consultation-on-standards-for-ethnicity-data>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-08551] Celebration of Eid ul-Fitr 2023 – That the Parliament wishes all those celebrating the festival of Eid in Scotland, the UK and around the world a joyous Eid ul-Fitr; understands that the festival follows after 30 days of Ramadan where fasting takes place from dawn till dusk; further understands that this is an opportunity to share the values of Islam, including values of family and charity; believes that, with so many people around the world facing the effects of war, natural disasters and hardships, these values are more important than ever, and acknowledges what it sees as the enormous contributions that Muslims make across Scotland through civic society, the NHS, education, business and politics to enrich communities and the social fabric of the nation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08551>

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Holocaust

Scottish Parliament Motion

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative) [S6M-08555] Yom HaShoah 2023 – That the Parliament acknowledges that Yom HaShoah is the annual Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day and is centred upon remembering the six million Jewish men, women and children who lost their lives during this dark episode in human history; believes that Yom HaShoah offers a vital period of reflection on the horrors of the Holocaust and serves as a reminder of the continual need to tackle and stamp out antisemitism wherever it arises; understands that, each year, Yom HaShoah commences at sunset on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and concludes on the following evening, in accordance with the traditional Jewish custom of marking a day; notes that, in Israel, Yom HaShoah is a national day of commemoration; understands that, to mark the start of the event, individuals, including survivors, their children and wider families, join with the general public to participate in a memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem, the world's Holocaust Remembrance Centre, where six torches, to represent the six million Jewish people whose lives were taken in the Holocaust, are lit; notes that, on the following morning, the ceremony at Yad Vashem commences with the sound of a siren for a two-minute period, during which silence is observed in memory of everyone who perished in the Holocaust and afterwards, and that wreaths are laid at the foot of the six torches; acknowledges that the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration is to be held in Giffnock on 18 April 2023, and recognises what it sees as the pivotal

importance of this key event for the Jewish community in Eastwood.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08555>

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Israel

See also the HM Treasury press release “Suspected Hizballah financier sanctioned under counter-terrorism regulations” which is included in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Commons Written Answers

Trade Agreements: Israel

Mark Jenkinson (Conservative) [177912] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what recent progress she has made on negotiation of a free trade agreement with Israel.

Nigel Huddleston: Since launching negotiations between the United Kingdom and Israel last summer for an upgraded, innovation-focused Free Trade Agreement (FTA) we held a first round of negotiations in September 2022 and held technical discussions on the financial services chapter in January this year. The Secretary of State since travelled to Israel in March to meet with the Israeli Economy Minister to evaluate progress towards a modern, ambitious agreement.

We are working towards hosting Round Two of negotiations with Israel in spring this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177912>

Palestinians: Development Aid

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [177878] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has taken steps to (a) implement policies and (b) provide funding to help support (i) sustainable development, (ii) peace and (iii) self-determination in Palestine.

David Rutley: The UK is committed to making progress towards a negotiated two-state solution and recognises the role of development in building the Palestinian Authority's capability for this. We continue to support The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides education to more than 533,000 children a year, half of which are girls, and access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees. We also continue to work with the Palestinian Authority to improve its financial management and security sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177878>

Israel: Palestinians

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [177879] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions with his Israeli counterpart on recent reports of (a) attacks on Palestinian healthcare personnel and facilities and (b) demolitions of Palestinian homes and infrastructure.

David Rutley: The UK strongly condemns all forms of violence towards healthcare workers, who should be able to go about their work without obstruction. Demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians, call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution, and in all but the most exceptional of cases, demolitions by an occupying

power are contrary to international humanitarian law. The Foreign Secretary met with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on March 21 in London and made clear the need to avoid actions which escalate tensions and violence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177879>

Occupied Territories: Health Services

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [177901] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations he has made to his counterpart in Israel following reports of attacks on health workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

David Rutley: We strongly condemn all forms of violence and incitement to violence directed towards healthcare workers. British Embassy Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of regularised access to healthcare with the Israeli authorities. We recognise that under international humanitarian law, Israel, as the occupying power, has a duty of ensuring and maintaining public health to the fullest extent of the means available to it. The wounded and ill in Gaza and the West Bank should be able to access the urgent medical care they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177901>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Palestinians: Schools

Caroline Ansell (Conservative) [177850] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on the use of the official Palestinian Authority school curriculum in schools in the West Bank and Gaza; and if he will make a statement.

Palestinians: Development Aid

Caroline Ansell (Conservative) [177851] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on aid contributions to (a) the Palestinian Authority and (b) the United Nations Relief and Works Agency; and if he will make a statement.

Andre Mitchell: We are longstanding supporters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise that UNRWA needs to be on a more secure financial footing to ensure that Palestinian refugees' basic needs are met. On 22 September 2022 in New York, The Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, attended a ministerial dialogue on UNRWA's financial situation where he reiterated UK support for the agency and the need for the international community to support it to be on a more viable financial footing. 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. We also regularly raise the issue of textbook content with the Palestinian Authority directly. Lord Ahmad also reinforced this message during his visit to a UNRWA school on 12 January.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177850>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177851>

House of Commons Library

Human rights protections for Palestinians

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2023-0083/CDP-2023-0083.pdf>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Andy McDonald (Labour) [1064] 20th anniversary of shooting of Tom Hurndall – That this House notes that April 2023 marks twenty years since 22 year old British photojournalist, Tom Hurndall, was shot in the head by an Israeli army sniper as he tried to rescue Palestinian children from the line of gunfire in Gaza; further notes that he died in January 2004 after being in a coma for nine months and that his killer was released after serving just six years in prison; notes that the lenient sentence and the cursory nature of the military investigation which preceded were examples of a culture of impunity in the State of Israel's use of illegal extra-judicial killings; notes that this culture of impunity remains evident in the actions of illegal settlers and the Israeli army in the Occupied Territories today; and urges the Government to uphold the principle of accountability for war crimes committed in Israel and Palestine no less diligently than it does in relation to those committed elsewhere by reversing its opposition to the International Criminal Court's investigation into those crimes.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60773>

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Other Relevant Information

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a Time of Crisis: Findings from the Evidence for Equality National Survey

<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/display/book/9781447368861/9781447368861.xml>

Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry and ADL

Antisemitism Worldwide Report for 2022

<https://cst.tau.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Antisemitism-Worldwide-Report-for-2022.pdf>

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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>

**** Holocaust Memorial Bill**

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

Memorial to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, complaining of non-compliance with the Standing Orders of both Houses of Parliament

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50700/documents/3286>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50709/documents/3298>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)

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

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

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

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>

Supporting earlier resolution of private family law arrangements (closing date 15 June 2023)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/private-family-law-consultation/>

Review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 (closing date 18 June 2023)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997>

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