



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Holocaust

### Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities

#### **UK Holocaust Memorial passes important milestone**

Construction of the UK's National Memorial to the Holocaust moved a step closer yesterday as the Holocaust Memorial Bill passed an important milestone in Parliament.

A detailed scrutiny process by parliamentary examiners lasting almost 3 months has confirmed that the Bill should be treated as 'hybrid', allowing those who believe they will be affected by the provisions of the Bill the opportunity to put their views to parliament as the Bill is considered. The decision of the parliamentary Examiners resolves uncertainty and brings closer the opportunity for MPs from all sides of the House to express their support for the Memorial.

The Holocaust Memorial Bill seeks to update Victorian legislation and progress the building of a new Memorial and learning centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster.

Located next to the Houses of Parliament, the memorial will serve as a powerful reminder to the whole of society of the Holocaust, its victims and where prejudice can lead if unchallenged.

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Michael Gove said: The Holocaust is history's most appalling example of cruelty, injustice and intolerance: the systematic attempt by a modern state to eliminate the whole Jewish people. It is profoundly important that we remember the facts of the Holocaust and all its victims and that we seek to understand the lessons it teaches Britain today.

We are privileged in this country to have among us many survivors of the Holocaust who have been willing to share their testimony. Sadly, this living testimony will not be with us forever. It is essential that we create this Memorial, at the very heart of our national life, to preserve the memory of what happened for ourselves and for all future generations.

The Government is absolutely determined to complete the Holocaust Memorial. I am pleased that the Examiners have now reached their view on classification of the Bill so that it can now proceed through parliament. I know that a great many MPs from all sides of the House are very eager to express their support and to get the Memorial built.

Welcoming the progress of the Bill, UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Advisory Board Co-Chairs, The Rt Hon Lord Pickles and Ed Balls said: Today's decision by the examiners

marks a vital step forward in delivering on our promise to build the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to the Houses of Parliament in Victoria Tower Gardens. We are hugely heartened by the Government's determination to legislate, with cross-party support, to make this possible. With the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, we are convinced that there is no better place to demonstrate our commitment to remembering and learning from the Holocaust than at the heart of our democracy. We look forward to the Bill receiving Royal Assent so that we can then get on and build.

Holocaust survivor, Manfred Goldberg BEM said: I was 84 when Prime Minister David Cameron first promised us survivors a national Holocaust Memorial in close proximity to the Houses of Parliament. Last month I celebrated my 93rd Birthday and I pray to be able to attend the opening of this important project.

Chief Executive of the Holocaust Education Trust, Karen Pollock CBE said: Following today's announcement, we hope that this important Bill will pass through Parliament in time for the Memorial to be completed in time for survivors to see.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-holocaust-memorial-passes-important-milestone>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israel: Foreign Relations

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [184305] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to foster greater relations with Israel.

**David Rutley:** The bilateral relationship between the UK and Israel has never been stronger. The Foreign Secretary signed the 2030 roadmap for UK-Israel bilateral relations alongside Israeli Foreign Minister Cohen on 21 March. The roadmap serves as a 'living' document, whereby through regular high-level engagement, our bilateral relationship will continue to evolve as a more innovative and forward-looking strategic partnership. We will upgrade the institutional mechanisms that enable us to achieve goals across our mutual priorities, including strategic dialogue, diplomacy, parliamentary, academic cooperation, regional cooperation, and multilateral cooperation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184305>

*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>

#### Israel: Diplomatic Service

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [184306] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he plans to further enhance the UK mission in Tel-Aviv.

**David Rutley:** The Foreign Secretary is grateful for the hard work of British diplomats in Tel Aviv. We have no plans to enhance their presence at this time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184306>

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Robert Buckland (Conservative)** [184643] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to help

deescalate violence in Gaza.

**David Rutley:** On 10 May, the Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, made clear the UK condemns the indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza targeting innocent civilians in Israel, that attacks on civilians are unacceptable, and that violence must stop. The UK welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and militant factions in Gaza, brokered by Egypt. The ceasefire must now be honoured to prevent the loss of further civilian life. The UK will support all efforts to promote dialogue and create a pathway towards sustainable peace.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184643>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/tariqahmadbt/status/1656350618452099094>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Updated Travel Advice: Israel**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

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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>

#### **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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51231/documents/3453>

#### **Nakba Commemoration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461>

#### **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>

## **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

## **Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill**

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

## **Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454>

## **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

**The UK's international counter-terrorism policy** (closing date 12 June 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3120/>

**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>

**Charities tax compliance** (closing date 20 July 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/charities-tax-compliance/consultation-charities-tax-compliance>

**JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey** (closing date not stated)  
<https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023> (UK except Scotland)  
and  
<https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH> (Scotland)

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