



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Islamophobia**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [187002] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group about trends in Islamophobic hate crime.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [187005] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on changes in the levels of Islamophobic attitudes in society.

#### **Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [187003] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, when officials in his Department last met with the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

**Dehenna Davison:** This Government is committed to tackling the scourge of anti-Muslim hatred head-on through a coordinated cross-departmental effort. From ensuring the safety of worshippers in mosques to community engagement and supporting the victims, swift action has been taken to address anti-Muslim hatred and institute safeguards. For example, Tell MAMA has been provided with nearly £5m between 2016 and 2023 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

We are taking a broad approach to religious hatred which will develop on the work of the previous Working Groups; seeking the views and perspectives of British and international experts in this field to explore how religious hatred is experienced by British communities, and how it affects different faiths and individuals. This engagement will explore the breadth and depth of religious hatred and will consider the question of terminology and definitions for hatred across and within religious communities, including anti-Muslim hatred. In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187002>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187005>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187003>

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## Holocaust

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative)** [186805] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what the earliest estimated date is for the completion of the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

**Felicity Buchan:** Subject to approval of the Holocaust Memorial Bill, and to obtaining planning consent when the designated Minister re-takes the decision, we aim to open in 2027.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/186805>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Caroline Ansell (Conservative)** [186736] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department is taking steps to engage with moderate Palestinian actors who renounce violence and will take part in a peace process with Israel; and if he will make a statement.

**David Rutley:** We urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to engage in meaningful dialogue to further the cause of peace at every opportunity. We continue to monitor the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza and welcome the recent ceasefire brokered by Egypt. When the Minister for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon met with Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riad Malki on 5 May, he reaffirmed the UK's commitment to the Middle East peace process. The UK also continues to engage at the highest levels within the Palestinian Authority (PA) through the British Consulate General Jerusalem.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186736>

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Caroline Ansell (Conservative)** [186737] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department is taking steps to help (a) reduce tensions between Israel and the (i) Gaza Strip and (ii) West Bank and (b) facilitate peace efforts; and if he will make a statement.

**David Rutley:** The UK Government supports all efforts to promote dialogue and create a pathway towards sustainable peace. As the Foreign Secretary said in his 14 May statement, we welcome the current Egyptian-brokered ceasefire and urge all sides to de-escalate tensions. The ceasefire must now be honoured to prevent

the loss of further civilian life. The Foreign Secretary also wrote to his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen on May 10 to affirm the UK's support for Israel's right to self-defence, but also to note UK concern at reports of civilian fatalities in Gaza, and to emphasise that all actions taken must be proportionate, calibrated to avoid civilian casualties, and in line with international humanitarian law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186737>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ceasefire-in-israel-and-gaza-foreign-secretary-statement>

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## Other Relevant Information

### United Nations

#### **Marking International Day for Countering Hate Speech, Secretary-General Calls for Renewed Efforts Promoting Peaceful, Just Societies**

... Hate speech is used to stoke fear and division, often for political gain, and at immense cost to communities and societies. It incites violence, exacerbates tensions, and impedes efforts to foster mediation and dialogue. It is one of the warning signs of genocide and other atrocity crimes.

Hate speech is often aimed at vulnerable groups, reinforcing discrimination, stigma and marginalization. ... Social media platforms can amplify and spread hate speech at lightning speed.

Misguided and ambiguous responses to hate speech — including blanket bans and internet shutdowns — may also violate human rights by restricting freedom of speech and expression. They may even silence some of those best placed to counter hateful narratives: human rights defenders and journalists.

But we are far from powerless in the face of hate speech. We can and must raise awareness about its dangers and work to prevent and end it in all its forms. ...

Education initiatives, positive speech campaigns, research to understand and address root causes, and efforts to promote inclusion and equal rights all have an important role. Religious, community and business leaders can all play their part. ...

As we mark the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, let us renew our efforts to prevent and end this toxic and destructive phenomenon, while promoting inclusive, just and peaceful communities and societies and protecting the rights and dignity of all.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sqsm21828.doc.htm>

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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>

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Orders Committee: Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51533/documents/3550>

## **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

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

## **Online Safety Bill**

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

## **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

**\*\* closes tomorrow**

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

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

**\*\* closes in 4 days**

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

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

**\*\* closes in 7 days**

**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>

**Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill** (closing date 23 June 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3146/>

**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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