



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religion: Education

Simon Lightwood (Labour) [192461] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 2 May 2023 to Question 182481 on Secondary Education: Teachers, whether her Department (a) provides and (b) plans to provide support for non-specialist teachers who do not qualify for an eight-week subject knowledge enhancement course and need to increase their subject knowledge for religious education.

Simon Lightwood (Labour) [192462] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 2 May 2023 to Question 182481 on Secondary Education: Teachers, whether her Department is taking steps to ensure the quality of continuing professional development provision for non-specialist teachers teaching religious education.

Nick Gibb: The number of teachers remains high, with over 468,000 full time equivalent teachers working in state funded schools across the country, over 27,000 more than there were in 2010.

The Department provides funded Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses for 9 subjects, including religious education, for those who have yet to start an initial teacher training course. Eligibility is subject to an applicant meeting the requirements to train to teach in England and the applicant accepting a conditional offer which specifies the requirement to complete a SKE course. Eligible participants can receive a bursary of £175 per week. Religious education courses last 8 weeks.

Once teachers are qualified and working in schools, the responsibility for supporting non specialist teachers rests with head teachers, as they are best placed to assess the needs of their staff and provide appropriate support, such as continuing professional development.

Oak National Academy will provide both specialist and non specialist teachers with access to high quality digital curriculum resources. This includes resources for religious education. Oak will work closely with the sector and utilise sector expertise

when developing these new curriculum resources.

The Department has also transformed the training and support available to teachers of all subjects. An entitlement to at least three years of structured training, support and professional development for all new teachers has been created, to bring teaching into line with other prestigious professions such as law, accountancy and medicine. Underpinning this is the new Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Core Content Framework and the Early Career Framework, and together, these ensure that new teachers will benefit from at least three years of evidence based training, across ITT and into their induction.

Beyond the first few years of teaching, the Department's priority is to help all teachers and head teachers to continuously develop their expertise throughout their careers so that all pupils get the best start in life.

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) are available to education professionals at all levels, from those who want to develop expertise in high quality teaching practice, to those leading multiple schools across trusts. The qualifications have been designed with professionals in mind, using the latest and best available evidence, and can be completed flexibly around existing commitments.

Four specialist NPQs are available, for those who want to broaden their existing knowledge, expertise, and skills in specialist areas of teaching practice including an NPQ in Leading Teaching where participants will learn how to lead the teaching of a subject, year, group or phase.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192461>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192462>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182481>

Animal Products: Labelling

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [192780] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether her Department has had recent discussions with relevant stakeholders on the potential merits of using a traffic light system for animal welfare labelling on food.

Mark Spencer: Defra ran a call for evidence in 2021 to gather data on the impacts of different types of labelling reforms for animal welfare. The evidence provided suggested that there is public appetite for improved welfare information to consumers.

Based on this, Defra has been working with a wide range of stakeholders to explore how we can harness the market to improve food information to consumers and raise animal welfare standards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/192780>

House of Commons Library Briefing

The school curriculum in the UK

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9834/CBP-9834.pdf>

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Holocaust

House of Lords Written Answers

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL8956] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 28 June forecasting the cost for completion of the proposed Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens as £138.8 million (HLWS875), what estimate they have made of the cost at the likely date of completion, whether they will require the charitable contribution to rise to meet the original one-third of the cost, what undertakings they have received so far about charitable contributions, and what plans they have for continuing to fund Holocaust education.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Our estimate of costs at the likely date of completion and our current estimate of charitable donations are set out in the Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government is committed to continuing to support and fund Holocaust education. The Department for Education (DfE) has provided over £5.9 million since 2021 to support the Holocaust Educational Trust with their Lessons from Auschwitz programme, with additional funding of £500,000 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to extend the programme to students in Higher Education; in the same period DfE has provided £1.5 million to the UCL Institute of Education's Centre for Holocaust Education.

In addition DLUHC has supported a broad range of activities across the country aimed at increasing understanding of the Holocaust and its impact on different communities. Recent projects include:

- *Memorial Gestures* – temporary and travelling exhibitions arranged by the Holocaust Centre in Huddersfield, including a programme for schools (£52,500)
- *Kitchener Transport* – a short film made by *Learning from the Righteous* used as an educational resource (£40,000)
- *Roots of antisemitism in England* – exhibition organised by National Holocaust Centre, Nottinghamshire (£138,000)
- *Romani arts* – creating educational materials about the destruction of Roma and Sinti communities (£50,000)
- *Vision Schools* – work with University of the West of Scotland to engage students in exploring the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust (£50,000).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/hl8956>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-06-28/hlws875>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Lord Lee of Trafford (Liberal Democrat) [HL9119] To ask His Majesty's Government how long they expect the construction of the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens will take; and what proportion of those Gardens they estimate will be occupied by the Centre (1) during construction, and (2) on completion.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The construction phase is expected to last around three years. Provision will be made to ensure as much of Victoria Tower Gardens as possible is open to users during construction works.

The design uses around 7.5 per cent of the area of Victoria Tower Gardens.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9119>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2022

P30 Post-Holocaust Issues

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170047/human-rights-and-democracy-the-2022-foreign-commonwealth-and-development-office-report.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Cat Smith (Labour) [192346] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations he is making to his Israeli counterparts on the protection of Palestinian (a) healthcare and (b) civilians in the West Bank from Israeli military operations.

David Rutley: Israel must abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of proportionality, distinction and necessity. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of regularised access to healthcare with the Israeli authorities. Israel, as the occupying power, has a duty to ensure and maintain public health to the fullest extent possible. During his call on 4 July with the Israeli chargé d'affaires in London, the Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, urged Israel to safeguard access to healthcare and take proactive steps to guarantee the safety of civilians during Israeli operations in the West Bank. The Foreign Secretary emphasised the importance of the proactive protection of civilians during his call with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on 5 July.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192346>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Report

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2022

pp69-71 Occupied Palestinian Territories

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170047/human-rights-and-democracy-the-2022-foreign-commonwealth-and-development-office-report.pdf

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-09943] **Palestinian Children in Israel Military Detention** – That the Parliament notes with concern new research from Save the Children that reports that Palestinian children in the Israel military detention system face physical and emotional abuse with, it understands, four out of five of them being beaten, 69% being strip-searched, and nearly half being injured at the point of arrest, including gunshot wounds and broken bones, while there are also reports of sexual violence and some children being transferred to court or between detention centres in small cages; understands that the research also showed how children's care and hope for the future

dramatically decreased from 96% in 2020 to 68% in 2023; believes that there is no justification for beating and stripping children and that, based on the reported evidence from Save the Children, this is a child protection crisis that can no longer be ignored; agrees with Save the Children reported view that these practices are a major and longstanding human rights concern, and supports its calls for the government of Israel to end the detention of Palestinian children under military law and their prosecution in military courts.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-09943>

The research referred to above can be read at

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/defenceless_the_impact_of_israeli_military_detention_on_palestinian_children_0.pdf/

European Parliament Resolution

Relations with the Palestinian Authority

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0283_EN.pdf

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Israel: UN experts condemn forced eviction of east Jerusalem families

The forced eviction and displacement of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family and many other Palestinian families in east Jerusalem may amount to a war crime of forcible transfer and must be immediately reversed, UN experts said today. ...

Israeli police forcibly evicted Nora Ghaith and Mustafa Sub Laban from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem in the early hours of 11 July. The Ghaith-Sub Laban family, who had a protected lease on the house since 1953, reportedly faced constant harassment and lawsuits from Israeli authorities and settlers seeking to seize their home under an inherently discriminatory law that applies to Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

“As we have repeatedly [said](#), forced evictions of Palestinians in east Jerusalem are part of Israel’s apartheid machinery at work, designed to consolidate Jewish ownership of Jerusalem and racially dominate the city’s population,” the experts said.

They stressed that the case of the Ghaith Sub-Laban family is not unique but is representative of a widespread and systematic practice by Israel to forcibly evict and displace Palestinians from east Jerusalem and “de-palestinize” the city. ...

“Israel’s transfer of its own population into the occupied territory is a gross violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime,” the experts said. “Nothing speaks more blatantly of its intention to annex and colonise the occupied territory in violation of international law.”

“Israel must immediately cease these deliberate acts, which not only deliberately violate Palestinians’ rights to self-determination, non-discrimination, development, adequate housing and property, but also traumatise the affected family and the entire Palestinian community living defenceless under Israeli rule, and violate the fundamental norms and principles of international law,” they said. “It is the duty of other States to put an end to the unrelenting assaults on the system of international law.” ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/israel-un-experts-condemn-forced-eviction-east-jerusalem-families>

Save the Children

Defenceless: The Impact of Israeli Military Detention on Palestinian Children

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/defenceless_the_impact_of_israeli_military_detention_on_palestinian_children_0.pdf/

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475>

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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-12/debates/166C8F0B-D314-4AF6-A7FB-341766931E1F/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52233/documents/3808>

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 in 7 days**

Charities tax compliance (closing date 20 July 2023)

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

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2023/july-2023/economic-activity-of-public-bodies-overseas-matters-bill-call-for-evidence/>

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>

The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales (closing date 26 October 2023)

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/>

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