



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Scottish Parliament Motion

Annie Wells (Conservative) [S6M-10222] Celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year 2023 – That the Parliament wishes all those celebrating Rosh Hashanah, which begins at sunset on 15 September and ends at nightfall on 17 September 2023; understands that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and one of Judaism's holiest days; further understands that the festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar; acknowledges that Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement, and recognises that many Jews across Scotland will be celebrating the Jewish New Year by attending synagogue, and after which, returning home for a festive meal steeped in symbolism and tradition, and to spend time with family and friends while reflecting on the year before, the one that has past, and the year ahead, to start afresh.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-10222>

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Israel

British Consulate General Jerusalem

Diplomats Condemn Settler Violence and School Demolition

Representatives from the United Kingdom, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Canada and Norway visited the Palestinian community of Burqa and the site of the recently displaced community of Ras at-Tin amid accelerating rates of settler violence and following the demolition by Israeli authorities of donor-funded humanitarian structures, including a school in the nearby community of Ein Samiya. Ireland

and Denmark also support this statement.

In Burqa, diplomats learned how the community have endured harassment and intimidation from settlers. They also observed the aftermath of Ras at-Tin's displacement due to settler attacks and how these attacks intensified after the establishment of an illegal outpost near the community.

The delegation was extremely alarmed by the growth of settler violence, which alongside demolitions has displaced over 400 Palestinians this year and resulted in several casualties across the West Bank, most recently the death of 19 year-old Qusai Maatan, who was killed in Burqa earlier this month.

The diplomats strongly condemned settler violence. While they noted some steps taken by the Israeli authorities, including arrests, they urged Israel, as the occupying power, to do more to hold to account and prevent those who have made the lives of Palestinians – such as in the communities of Al Qaboun and Al Mughayyir – intolerable. They underlined the prohibition of forcible transfers in International Humanitarian Law, in particular article 49 of Geneva Convention IV. They reaffirmed their opposition to settlements, which are illegal under international law, result in increased settler violence, and undermine the two-state solution and prospects for a lasting peace.

Additionally, diplomats strongly condemned the recent demolition of Ein Samiya school, which was funded by donors as humanitarian relief, emphasizing Israel's breach of international humanitarian law. They called on Israel, as the occupying power, to halt all confiscations and demolitions and to give unimpeded access to humanitarian organisations in the occupied West Bank. They reaffirmed their commitment to Palestinian rights and assisting vulnerable populations in Area C. Through official channels, the consortium of donors have called on Israel to return or compensate for all humanitarian items which they have funded.

The abovementioned representatives condemned the killing of Palestinians and Israelis alike, while stressing the record high number of individuals killed this year in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/diplomats-condemn-settler-violence-and-school-demolition>

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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>

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>

Royal Assent

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/bill-becomes-an-act>

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2023/5/contents/enacted>

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

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/>

UK international development white paper (closing date 16 September 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-international-development-white-paper-call-for-evidence/uk-international-development-white-paper-call-for-evidence>

Drug Use in Ethnic Minority Groups Review (closing date 22 September 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups-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/>

**** Management of burial grounds, application for burial, exhumation, private burial and restoration of lairs: regulation in Scotland** (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-burial-scotland/>

**** Statutory inspection of burial authorities, cremation authorities and funeral directors** (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/statutory-inspection-burial-authorities/>

**** Funeral director licensing scheme for Scotland** (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/licensing-funeral-directors-scotland/>

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