



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Faith Schools: Radicalism**

**Baroness Verma (Conservative)** [HL10435] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address religious extremism in faith schools.

**Baroness Verma (Conservative)** [HL10436] To ask His Majesty's Government what further plans they have to stop radicalisation within faith schools.

**Baroness Barran:** All children must be safe wherever they are educated, and the department is committed to ensuring that children are safe from extremism and radicalisation.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a statutory duty for education providers to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The full act is available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents>

Faith schools are subject to the same duty and responsibilities as non-faith schools. To comply with the 'Prevent duty', providers must demonstrate that they have effective policies and procedures in place to safeguard individuals susceptible to radicalisation.

In addition, every school, including faith schools, should actively promote the 'fundamental British values' (FBVs) of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Promoting these values is a way of building pupils' resilience to radicalisation and enabling them to identify and challenge extremist views.

The department has taken a number of steps to prevent extremism from gaining a foothold in our schools across the country, including:

- Guidance on the promotion of FBVs so that schools have a clear understanding of what is required and how best to practically deliver these.
- Powers to take action against individual teachers or governors who act in a way which undermines FBVs.
- Working with Ofsted to strengthen their inspection frameworks, requiring

inspectors to assess how well schools protect pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, and how they promote FBVs.

- A counter-extremism helpline and online referral form to ensure those working in the sector and the public can report extremism concerns directly to the department to be investigated where appropriate.
- The Educate Against Hate website, providing advice, support, and resources for parents, teachers, and school leaders to help them protect young people from extremism and radicalisation. The website is available here: <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/resources/hackney-shared-values-toolkit/>
- Working closely with a network of Prevent Education Officers based in local authorities and the department's Regional Prevent Coordinators who work directly with education settings and local authorities to implement the Prevent duty.

The department keeps its work under regular review to ensure we continue to provide effective support to the sector. This includes implementing the recommendations of the Independent Review of Prevent, which was published on the 8 February 2023. As part of this response, the government published updated statutory guidance for the Prevent duty in September 2023, providing further clarity and good practice for the education sector. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-21/hl10435>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-21/hl10436>

## Home Office

### Hate crime, England and Wales, 2022 to 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023>

#### Data Tables

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6516b48c6dfda600148e38ab/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023-data-tables.ods>

#### Appendix Tables

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6516b49f6a423b0014f4c613/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023-appendix-tables.ods>

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## Israel

### House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat)** [HL10316] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel following the killing of a 15 year-old Palestinian boy who was shot in the back by Israeli forces on 9 September at the entrance to the Al-Arroub refugee camp.

**Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat)** [HL10317] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the 45 Palestinian children who have so far been killed in 2023.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is alarmed by the numbers of Palestinians killed and injured in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In our dialogue with the Israeli authorities we have recognised their legitimate need to deploy security measures to address this violence. We encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension and use appropriate force. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations. The UK remains committed to a two-state solution, as the Foreign Secretary made clear during his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 11-13 September.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-19/hl10316>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-19/hl10317>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### Human Rights Council Holds General Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories

... **State of Palestine** ... said it was regretful that some politicised the work of the Council due to the wishes of the occupying power. Today there were more than six million refugees from the State of Palestine, and thousands of people had been killed by Zionist gangs. The Israeli occupation practices which started in 1967 were becoming more ferocious and barbaric against the State of Palestine. All States needed to confront this methodology in light of the increasing religious Zionist powers in Israel. This year commemorated 56 years of Israel as the occupying power. Civilians, journalists and health workers were being targeted, with 248 people killed this year, and many administrative detention orders issued. The international community needed to shoulder its historic and legal responsibility to put an end to the occupation.

**Syrian Arab Republic** ... pointed to the prolonged apartheid-based colonialism that violated all the norms developed in the field of international human rights and humanitarian law. Settlement, which was the main feature of the occupation, was designed to consolidate it and violate the principle of the inadmissibility of the occupation of territory by force, created by enabling a coercive environment, including the theft of natural resources, displacement, intimidation and repression, and the creation of a geographic situation that prolonged the occupation. The occupation of the Syrian Golan was against international law and tantamount to a war crime. ...

The President of the Council noted that Israel was not present in the room.

In the general debate, some speakers expressed serious concern over violations of international human rights law in the occupied Palestinian territory. Deprivation of the right to self-determination, extrajudicial killings, restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly and illegal settlements were some of glaring manifestations of human rights violations of the Palestinian people. ...

Palestinian civilians, including children, continued to be subjected to daily and continuous killings, in addition to the policy of incursions and attacks on Palestinian villages, towns and cities by the Israeli occupation forces and settler herds. Speakers were also concerned about the forced eviction and displacement of many Palestinian families in East Jerusalem, which could amount to the war crime of forcible transfer. ...

A number of speakers also expressed grave concern at the continuing Israeli settlement ... which had changed the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan. ...

Some speakers said these actions affirmed that the Israeli Government continued to commit the crime of settlement expansion and the deepening of "apartheid", with the aim of closing the door to any opportunity to materialise a Palestinian State on the ground. ... Many speakers emphasised their commitment to strengthening efforts, including active engagement in international initiatives, aimed at ending the Israeli illegal occupation. ... A number of speakers rejected the refusal of some States to participate in the general debate on item seven, as the work of this item reflected the commitment of the international community to address Israel's long-standing racist practices and policies against the Palestinian people, in accordance with international values and obligations. It was important to keep item seven on the agenda of the Council, as it was a vital instrument when it came to documenting violations against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying power.

Some speakers said the allegations directed at Israel had been noted for their perceived bias, with item seven standing as the sole item on the Council's agenda addressed to a specific country. The Council had been established to promote and protect universal human rights, yet it had a long legacy of disproportionate focus on Israel, exemplified by the item seven discussion. The Council and the United Nations were continuing a steady drumbeat of demonisation of the world's only Jewish State. The disproportionate focus, targeting and singling out of Israel, highly discredited the Council and the United Nations as a whole. ...

A number of speakers said today's session to demonise Israel was simply rhetoric and had a negative impact on Jewish communities around the world. Jews faced continuous verbal and physical anti-Semitic abuse, regularly linked to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and were attacked by perpetrators who used anti-Israel rhetoric and called for the death of the State of Israel. A speaker also drew attention to the remains of Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul, which were being kept within the Gaza Strip, along with Hisham Al-Sayed and Avera Mengistu, two Israeli civilians with disabilities, who continued to be held in captivity by Palestinian leaders. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/10/human-rights-council-holds-general-debate-human-rights-situation-palestine-and-other>

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## Foreign Affairs

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**UK Statement on religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Delivered by UK's Ambassador to the WTO & UN, Simon Manley.**

Religious intolerance divides societies and rips communities apart. There is no place for hatred including events of Quran burning seen earlier this year. Indeed, we must address all manifestations of religious intolerance wherever they occur.

- Rohingya and other Muslim minorities in Myanmar ...
- The dissemination of malicious anti-Semitic narratives, especially relating to the Covid 19 pandemic
- Uyghurs and Tibetans in China ...
- Baha'is in Iran ...

All these situations, and more, must be part of this debate.

... the right to freedom of expression can only be limited under clear and narrowly defined parameters. Sometimes this will cause offence. But causing offence is not always inciting violence, discrimination or hatred.

Laws should never be used to curtail freedom of expression in ways contrary to international law, nor blasphemy punished by the death penalty. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-hrc54-id-with-high-commissioner-on-religious-hatred>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report:

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2023/10/5/56d50c41-5c14-4f0c-92d6-981ca22ee48a/DPLRS062023R58.pdf>

#### **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>

Scottish Parliament debate: Two-child Benefit Cap

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15480&i=132080#ScotParlOR>

## **Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)**

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

## **Scottish Parliament**

### **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 today**

**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/>

**Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) [Northern Ireland]** (closing date 24 November 2023)

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse-consultation>

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