



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Hate Crime Strategy (Online Radicalisation)

**Patrick Harvie (Green)** [S6O-03634] To ask the Scottish Government, as part of the delivery of its hate crime strategy, what action it is taking to tackle online extreme right-wing radicalisation.

**The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown):** Our hate crime strategy delivery plan, which has been informed by people with lived experience of hate crime, is focused on building communities that are cohesive and alert to extreme right-wing divisive narratives, both online and offline, supporting its victims and improving the data to understand hate crime.

The ways in which people can be radicalised are continuously evolving, and we recognise that there is no single pathway or set of factors. That is why we must remain alert and flexible, and ensure that our wider efforts across multiple policy areas build inclusive communities that are resistant to radicalisation and equipped to challenge extremist narratives.

**Patrick Harvie:** The far right is a growing threat across many European countries. It is in government in countries such as Italy and the Netherlands, and it is on the rise in France and Germany. In the United Kingdom, some Conservatives are now openly debating a merger with the far right after the current election.

Does the Scottish Government share the concern about the threat that is posed not only by extremist far-right rhetoric but by the homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, racism and

anti-migrant rhetoric that comes with it, which is now a core part of the business model of a number of social media platforms? What is the Government's view on the role of regulation of those social media platforms?

**Siobhian Brown:** The Scottish Government takes the threat of extremism very seriously and will continue to work with partners to ensure that we can identify and tackle it effectively. We share the concerns that Mr Harvie raised regarding right-wing extremism globally.

On the point about online behaviour, hate crime is hugely damaging and corrosive to families and communities. Our Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 covers online and offline hate crime, and the UK Government plays a role in the reserved matter of the Online Safety Act 2023, which provides protections for children and adults online.

**Bill Kidd (SNP):** Will the minister please tell us whether there is a need for the hate crime strategy to be updated now, given the recently published 2023-24 hate crime statistics?

**Siobhian Brown:** The hate crime strategy was published in March 2023, followed in November by the delivery plan, which sets out our immediate actions over the next two years to implement the strategy.

Recent statistics are a reminder to redouble our efforts to tackle hate and to confront prejudice wherever it occurs. Our strategy remains relevant, and one of our key aims is to seek to improve the availability of data in order to more fully understand the nature, characteristics and extent of hate crime in Scotland, and to use it to inform future policy development.

**Foysoil Choudhury (Labour):** During the most recent meeting of the cross-party group on challenging racial and religious prejudice, the Minister for Victims and Community Safety stated that the Scottish Government was looking to overhaul the reporting of hate crime. Will the minister provide an update on what measures the Scottish Government is planning to make it easier to report hate crimes?

**Siobhian Brown:** I acknowledge that the recording of non-hate crime and hate crimes is an operational matter for Police Scotland. That is unchanged by the implementation of the 2021 act. Police Scotland is aware that the College of Policing has released guidance and, as far as I am aware, it is considering the recommendations.

[https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions\\_M16183E409P745C2604753](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions_M16183E409P745C2604753)

*The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2021/14/contents>

*The Online Safety Act 2023, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50>

*The hate crime statistics referred to above can be read at*  
<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/hate-crime-in-scotland-2023-24/html/>

*The hate crime strategy referred to above can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-scotland/>

*The delivery plan referred to above can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-delivery-plan/>

TOP

## Scottish Parliament Debate

### Palestine

Motion debated:

*Humza Yousaf (SNP) [S6M-13609] That the Parliament notes calls urging the UK Government to join its European neighbours, Ireland, Spain and Norway, in immediately recognising the State of Palestine; understands that 144 member states of the United Nations recognise Palestine as a sovereign state; believes that a two-state solution is the only viable path for peace between Israel and Palestine, and that there can only be a two-state solution if a sovereign Palestinian state is immediately recognised and co-exists alongside Israel; further believes that Palestinian statehood is an inalienable right of the people of Palestine, not a privilege that can be vetoed by others; notes in horror the continued suffering of the people of Gaza; commends aid organisations, and community groups across Scotland, including in Glasgow Pollok, which are donating funds and sending aid to ease the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza; notes the calls urging the Government of Israel to allow unimpeded access to Gaza for humanitarian aid, and further notes the calls for an immediate ceasefire, an end to arms sales to Israel and the immediate release of all hostages.*

**18.25 Humza Yousaf (SNP):** ... In discussions on the issue of Israel and Palestine, there has been significant focus on the dreadful terrorist attacks on 7 October and the atrocious killing of more than 35,000 Gazans thereafter. ...

However, it is important to note that the violence and injustices in that region did not begin on 7 October last year. ... What is indisputable ... is that cycles of violence will continue and many more innocent people will be killed unless we address the root causes. ...

At the core of that failure is a broken promise—a promise that was made as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled by force from their homes 76 years ago. My wife's relatives are just one of the families who had to leave their homes in the West Bank and flee to Gaza, clutching the keys to their home in their hand in the forlorn hope that, one day, they would be allowed to return.

For decades, the promise that the international community has made has been of a two-state solution. Instead of progress towards that goal, however, we have seen the systematic occupation of Palestinian land, the expansion of illegal settlements and, with it, the erasure of generations of Palestinian families. ...

Surely the most basic step towards keeping that promise has to be the formal and immediate recognition of the Palestinian state. ... It is the very height of hypocrisy and duplicity for someone to say that they believe in a two-state solution but for them to only recognise one state. ... It is in no one's gift to veto the right of the Palestinian people. It is only through the immediate recognition of Palestine that we can truly make progress towards a sovereign Palestine and Israel coexisting safely and securely alongside each other.

I was pleased to see the First Minister make that point in a recent letter to both Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer. ...

For me, this has never been a question of being either pro-Palestinian or pro-Israeli; it has been a question of being pro-humanity. I am left asking the question: where is our humanity? With more than 37,000 Gazans, including 14,000 children, killed—not passing away, not dying, but killed—where is our humanity? With more than 86,000 injured, where is our humanity?

The car in which six-year-old Hind Rajab was travelling when she was killed is alleged to have been hit by 335 bullets—335 bullets raining down on a car full of innocent men, women and children. Where is our humanity?

If humanity is our driving force, surely we all agree that the UK Government must end the sale of arms to Israel, and do so immediately. International Criminal Court prosecutors are seeking arrest warrants for Hamas and senior members of the Israeli Government, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The International Court of Justice is considering whether Israel has committed the gravest of crimes—genocide. Sending arms to Israel is, therefore, not only morally unjustifiable; it is complicity. We should have nothing to do with war crimes, which are undoubtedly being committed. ...

If arrest warrants are issued, the UK Government must make it clear that, should anyone against whom a warrant is issued—including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—land on British soil, they will be arrested, so that they can be held to account for the crimes that they have committed. We should be in no doubt that, as the United Nations has recently stated, war crimes are being committed, and it is right that those who are guilty, be they state or non-state actors, are held to account. ...

Hospitals are being obliterated, schools destroyed and UN buildings bombed—and all of that is being live streamed into our living rooms, while political leaders fail abysmally to put an end to the violence.

We must continue to raise our voice and demand a ceasefire; demand the release of all hostages; demand an end to arms sales to Israel; demand an end to the occupation; and demand the immediate recognition of the state of Palestine. ...

**18.33 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative):** ... What has proved to be too difficult for the minds of many in the international community has led to thousands—indeed, tens of thousands—of unnecessary deaths, and the continuation of a hugely intractable, morally indefensible and appalling international position. ...

I am unyielding in my belief in, and support for, the state of Israel. I cannot support the proposed arms ban, because I fear that that would embolden Iran, and I am not necessarily sure what the nature of any conflict might escalate to become, were that to happen.

Nevertheless, I understand why people are concerned. I am unyielding in my support for the state of Israel, and, as I should have said, I am enormously pleased that, through the efforts of Humza Yousaf and so many others, the Jewish community in Scotland has not suffered, as many thought that it might, any opprobrium as a result of what is happening in the middle east.

However, the third leg of the stool is the Netanyahu Government, and I have concerns—as have many in my local Jewish community—about the way in which the Netanyahu Government, from which Benny Gantz has now withdrawn, has prosecuted the conflict. I share the concerns of those who think that there are interests closer to Netanyahu's future that have allowed him to perpetuate the war in the way that he has, which is unacceptable. We are at a point, therefore, nine months on, when we cannot simply all stand by and say, "This can go on for as long as it likes." We need to see the hostages being released, but we also have to accept that there has to be progress towards a two-state solution.

I have noted the comments by Keir Starmer, which are not so very different from those of the UK Government. I think that he has moved to say that it would be possible to recognise a Palestinian state when a process is under way, rather than, as was previously the case, when a process has concluded. That is a pragmatic move—although not one to where Mr Yousaf would like it to be. However, it would require there to be a peace process.

I also approve of all the work that Mahmoud Abbas has done in relation to trying to put in place personalities that will be able to develop that process. For the moment, however, for as long as Hamas is in place, the conflict appears to be intractable. Meanwhile, we see—as Humza Yousaf said—tens of thousands of young people being murdered during the conflict, and that, too, is unacceptable. ...

**18.38 Pauline McNeill (Labour):** ... the question of Palestine is the moral question of our time, and ... where you stand on the injustice of the longest occupation in the world—76 years, in fact—matters. Millions of Israelis believe that too, as do many Jewish people

around the world. ...

The Balfour declaration said, among other things, that the creation of the state of Israel should not undermine the rights of the Palestinian population. More than a hundred years on, however, we are no further forward on that.

As the Palestinian ambassador to the UK, Husam Zomlot, said this week at the Unison conference, the right of Palestine to be an "independent sovereign state" is an inalienable and "long-overdue right" that is not in the gift of the neighbour, who is the occupier.

As Anas Sarwar has said many times, Palestine has a right to exist as a secure state in exactly the same way as Israel should have security and peace. ...

Although the focus is, rightly, on the massacre and decimation in Gaza right now, the failure to hold Israel to account for the violation of international law over 76 years and the pretence that there were serious attempts to reach a political solution must be understood. In talks during that time, the Palestinian representatives accepted having 22 per cent of former Palestine as the basis of the state. I question whether Israel will, on its own, without any pressure, come to the conclusion that there must be a Palestinian state. That is why I believe that the UK must suspend sending arms to Israel until such time as Israel complies with international law. ...

As Humza Yousaf has said, the level of violence in the occupied territories is completely unprecedented. Although the world is, rightly, focused on what is happening in Gaza, we must draw attention to what is happening in the West Bank. ... Palestine exists and will not be ignored.

I make a plea for us not to make the mistake of characterising Benjamin Netanyahu as the problem. Previous Israeli Prime Ministers have failed to reach agreement with the Palestinians. The Palestinians have been repeatedly dehumanised, their rights have been taken away, they have been detained and their houses have been demolished. Why should they live a minute longer under Israeli rule? ...

We must not relent from calling for an immediate ceasefire. We must continue to call for the return of the hostages who are still being held.

One day, Palestine will be free, and I think that this Parliament can say that, when the time was right, we stood up for Palestinians and for the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and for peace for everyone who lives in the region. ...

**18.43 Marie McNair (SNP):** ... Throughout his time as an MSP, Humza Yousaf has shown unwavering support for the Palestinian people and, as First Minister, he showed immense leadership on the matter ... At a time when other party leaders were running a mile from the issue, at best, or tolerating genocide and war crimes, at worst, he was on the right side of history, and he will be remembered for that.

For decades, the Palestinian people have endured prolonged conflict and illegal occupation, which have caused immense suffering and an ever-rising death toll. ...

Recognition of the state of Palestine acknowledges that Palestinians have the right to self-determination and the right to build a future free from occupation and oppression. The prospect of lasting peace has never been more in peril, so we must act urgently. We must secure recognition of the state of Palestine, an immediate ceasefire, an end to arms sales to Israel and the immediate release of all hostages. ...

The next UK Government must recognise the state of Palestine as a matter of urgency. If it refuses to do so, the SNP will force a vote on the matter in Westminster. Instead of the need for that, we are calling on the next UK Government to follow in the footsteps of our neighbours in Ireland, Spain and Norway. ... unless the UK and the US announce their support for Palestinian statehood, little will change.

Recognition of the state of Palestine is in the interests of everyone, and it is necessary for lasting peace. ...

The Irish Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, put it quite simply. He said: "What the people of Palestine ask of us is not outrageous or extravagant. If anything, it is modest. The wish to be recognised as a State like any other,

to control their own affairs and to speak for themselves on the international stage.”  
It is that simple. ...

**18.47 Ross Greer (Green):** ... In 2018, we debated the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Nakba—the catastrophe—which was the campaign of ethnic cleansing that established the state of Israel and shattered Palestinian society. We marked that anniversary at the same time as Palestinians in Gaza marched peacefully to the fence that Israel has used to imprison them since its siege and blockade began. They marched peacefully for their freedom, and they were met by Israeli soldiers who slaughtered them. The peaceful struggle for freedom was met with colonial violence. ...

They were murdered alongside paramedics wearing their uniforms. They were murdered alongside people who were shot dead in their wheelchairs. They were murdered alongside a journalist who was killed by Israeli soldiers and whom the Israeli state then claimed was a senior Hamas operative even though he had been held in prison by Hamas and was an opponent of Hamas who had passed American vetting to receive their support, because, of course, there is no lie that Israel is unwilling to stoop to telling in its constant campaign to destroy the Palestinian people. ...

Save the Children has just published a report on the toll that the past eight or nine months have taken on the children of Gaza. It says that 20,000 children are “lost, disappeared, detained, buried under the rubble or in mass graves”. ...

... psychological support is now needed by every one of the 1 million children in Gaza.

In the 2014 Israeli assault, more than 500 children were killed. In the 10 years since then, world leaders have attended events to commemorate those who have been lost in previous genocides and slaughter, and they have said the same thing: “Never again.” Ten years on from those 500 children being killed, we are now looking at at least 15,000 children who have been killed. ...

Israel is the only country in the world to summarily prosecute children through a military court system—not Israeli children, of course; just Palestinian children. Those who object to Israel being labelled as an apartheid state must explain why Palestinian children and Israeli children are held to such different standards. ...

The Scottish Government could still take further action to support the Palestinian people. It could ban the companies that are listed by the UN as being complicit in the occupation from receiving grants and contracts. ...

**8.52 Bill Kidd (SNP):** ... To date, the conflict has claimed the lives of more than 37,000 Palestinians. The UN’s latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report shows that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians face catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity involving “an extreme lack of food, starvation, and exhaustion”.

The conflict is out of control and is engulfing the West Bank, as shown by the awful images of a wounded Palestinian strapped to the bonnet of an Israeli military jeep speeding past ambulances rushing to the latest scene. The war threatens the entire region, as the bellicose Israeli leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, casually states that Israeli forces will soon move on to the Lebanon border.

This has all got to stop. The collective punishment of Palestinians must end. By denying Palestinian statehood internationally, we are all complicit in that collective punishment. ... We must halt the endless cycle of violence and bloodshed, start a viable path for peace between Israel and Palestine, and immediately recognise a Palestinian state. ... the silence around the UK’s position on Palestine is shameful. ...

The outgoing Prime Minister has given his full backing to Israel’s genocidal response to the 7 October attacks. He is happy to flout the rulings of the globally recognised International Court of Justice by continuing to provide arms and enable Israel to conduct its on-going Rafah offensive, in flagrant breach of the ICJ ruling. Since the ruling, the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and others. Meanwhile, the UK states that the ICC has no jurisdiction ...

Recognising a Palestinian state would remove any of that wilful ignorance. ... Recognising

a Palestinian state would also furnish Palestine with the same rights and obligations of any state, so it would provide Palestine with equality in negotiations with Israel to create a future as an equal partner, demanding of and obligated to peace—a serious peace, a lasting peace and a just peace. ...

**18.56 Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat):** ... We have all looked on in horror at the scenes of devastation that have played out in Israel and Gaza. The terrorist attacks on 7 October and the subsequent conflict in Gaza have seen thousands of innocent people killed, and it has been horrifying. Right now, there is a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza—the health system has collapsed and international institutions are warning of the risk of famine. There is also the tragic on-going hostage crisis, with more than 100 Israelis still being held hostage by Hamas following the atrocities of 7 October. ...

At this dark moment, the UK Government should be doing all that it can to stop the violence, secure an immediate bilateral ceasefire and bring about a two-state solution. One of the strongest cards that the United Kingdom holds is the ability to immediately recognise Palestine as a state, and it is time for us to do so. ...

The UK has both historical obligations in the region and modern responsibilities under international law. There are those who say that recognising the state of Palestine would be meaningless and that it would not have any practical consequence, but it is important that we do not underestimate the extent to which the UK's voice is listened to in the region. If we and our allies recognise Palestine, we will be able to fully join international institutions such as the UN and the World Bank. That step would provide hope for millions of Palestinians that peace and a Palestinian state are possible. ...

**18.59 Richard Leonard (Labour):** ... We have a direct historic responsibility for the injustice perpetrated on Palestine and on the Palestinians. Therefore, we have a direct and distinctive responsibility for securing justice for Palestine and the Palestinians, for without justice there will be no lasting peace. ...

I say the people of Palestine are in revolt because they can no longer breathe. In 1947, they lost more than half of their land in the UN partition plan, and three quarters of a million Palestinians were displaced at the start of the Nakba. This was not a one-off event; it grinds on and on to this day as many of those who have been dispossessed and displaced by force and their descendants are now forcibly dispossessed and forcibly displaced again inside Gaza.

Since 2008 there have been five—five—major conflicts and wars in Gaza. Settler colonisation in the West Bank has grown at the fastest rate ever; there are now half a million settlers living there. This cannot carry on.

Now the Palestinians are facing dispossession again, are being forced into exile again, are being forced to become refugees again. ...

So, of course, we condemn the attacks of October the 7th, but history did not begin on October the 7th 2023. ...

The plight of the Palestinians is not simply a humanitarian emergency. The question of Palestine can only be answered politically. So let us understand in full this injustice. Let us accept in full the part which our country played in that. Let us face up in full to the future that this is not just a question of power in a post-colonial age; this is not just a question of human and civil rights—this is a question of our moral code, our moral responsibility, our moral duty. ...

**19.04 James Dornan (SNP):** We could spend our allotted time listing the countless cases of the deliberate slaughter of men, women and children during and since the events of 7 October and could easily pretend that all the acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing that have occurred since then are a result of that day.

However, to do that would be to live in a world that denies facts and denies the history of both that region and of the United Kingdom. ...

We are told that Mossad is the greatest intelligence agency in the world and that the Israel

Defense Forces is the most moral army yet, strangely, those two organisations were completely unable to find the culprits who carried out the 7 October terrorist acts. Instead, Netanyahu, a man who hangs on to power solely to stay out of prison, decided that it was time to clear out the people of Gaza once and for all. He set the dogs on the innocents in a pretend attempt to root out the guilty, and he okayed the slaughter of children, women and the elderly because he saw them as being less important than his own future. Do you know what is worse than that? He got international backing to do so. While he was bombing safe havens, hospitals and refugee camps, the UK and the USA happily continued supporting him, including by selling him weapons, all for domestic political purposes. ...

It is fitting that today's debate has been brought to the chamber by my friend and colleague Humza Yousaf. When the events of 7 October happened, he was the first to show support to the Jewish community of Scotland and was joined in that by all the other political leaders. When the genocide began, Humza stood up for the people of Gaza but, that time, he was alone. While other leaders awaited instructions from elsewhere, Humza stood up and stood strong. ...

... Palestine has been slowly and methodically annexed by illegal settlers, backed by the Israeli army, for decades. According to the UN, between 2008 and 2021, 23 Palestinians were killed for every Israeli, of which 22 per cent were children and 10 per cent were women. ... those figures are a sharp reminder of the military imbalance in the area. ...

The situation in Gaza has been a humanitarian disaster, with food convoys being shot at and aid workers murdered by Israeli forces. The first step on the way out of that barbarity is to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state in its own right. ...

**19.09 Carol Mochan (Labour):** ... As a citizen of one of the most powerful countries in the world, I feel desperately ashamed that UK-funded weapons have been used to perpetuate this terrible episode in human history. No amount of gross domestic product is worth being involved in that. ...

As others have done, I have wept as entire families have been killed in Gaza. Children have woken up to find the refugee camps that they are living in with barely enough food or water completely ablaze after bombs were dropped on tents. Aid workers and journalists have been murdered in cold blood for simply trying to help people or to get to the truth. All that is going on as we speak, and it will still be happening tomorrow. How can we do anything other than speak up? We have a moral responsibility to do so.

As others have said, we need to recognise the root causes and address them. That requires us to recognise a Palestinian state and a two-state solution. The reality of the situation as it stands is that innocent people, including thousands of women, children and unborn children are being punished for a crime that they did not commit. ...

**19.13 Maggie Chapman (Green):** ... The on-going conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has roots that go back more than a century. A peaceful resolution, although not simple, is a moral imperative. We come to the debate after the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians, the murder of children and healthcare workers and the destruction of hospitals, universities, libraries and schools. We come to the debate at a time when Israeli occupation forces have used an injured Palestinian as a human shield, strapped to the front of a military vehicle. We come to the debate when Israel is not just bombarding Gaza but restricting services and support across the occupied territories.

Israel has stopped transferring tax that is collected from Palestinians to the Palestinian National Authority, so public sector workers have not been paid for months. Israel was given control over Palestinian tax and customs in the Oslo accords in the 1990s. The Oslo process saw the then Palestinian Liberation Organisation recognise the state of Israel. Indeed, the PLO did what was asked of it in those accords, but it was consistently undermined by the forces of occupation and apartheid, as the Palestinian Authority has been. Education is an inalienable human right, but the education of young Palestinians is



being restricted because the Palestinian Authority has not received the money that it needs to pay teachers' wages, if, indeed, they still have schools to teach in. The same restrictions apply to healthcare, which is another inalienable human right. ...

When the International Court of Justice instructed Israel to ensure that sufficient aid was provided in Gaza, the immediate response was not to make that aid available but to claim that UNRWA was implicated in the 7 October attacks. No evidence of that has ever been produced. More UN workers have been killed in this war than in any other. Hundreds of aid installations have been destroyed and damaged, which has compromised UNRWA's ability to do its life-saving work. ...

We must apply all the international pressure that we can on Israel to stop it from acting in bad faith, and so that the UK and the US reinstate support for UNRWA, stop sending arms to Israel and recognise the state of Palestine. A just peace cannot be achieved by the obliteration of a people and the destruction of their world.

I have a different position to others on the issue of a two-state solution, one that is shared by many workers for peace in Israel and Palestine. The occupation of east Jerusalem makes such a proposal unworkable, I believe, as do the illegal settlements in the West Bank. ... However, that difference does not diminish my support for the immediate recognition of the state of Palestine, for an end to supplying arms to Israel and for a ceasefire. The Palestinian people should be given the power and the means to determine their own future. ...

**19.17 The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson):** ... The Scottish Government has welcomed Ireland, Norway, Spain and Slovenia's recognition of the state of Palestine; they have joined with 141 other states in doing so. Today, we were updated that the Republic of Armenia has done likewise. The First Minister wrote to the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition on 28 May to call on the United Kingdom to do the same. I reiterate that call for the UK to review its position following the recent, welcome decision by our European neighbours. Recognition would offer hope to Palestinians that a just, durable political solution is possible, and it would allow Israel and Palestine to move towards long-term peace and stability, which is in the interest of all parties.

Although it may sometimes seem like a distant prospect, the Scottish Government continues to support the position of the UK and the European Union that there should be a two-state solution that respects the human rights of everyone in the region to ensure that a secure Israel can live peacefully alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. Only through such an outcome can the cycle of violence that is killing and injuring so many innocent civilians be ended.

The Scottish Government has been consistent in condemning unequivocally the abhorrent terrorist actions of Hamas and in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, by all sides, in Israel and in Gaza. ...

I repeat the Scottish Government's demand for Hamas to release immediately and unconditionally all hostages and to cease all missile attacks against Israel. Hamas can have no future in Gaza. The cycle of violence must end, the rockets and bombings must stop, humanitarian and medical facilities must be protected, and civilians must be given unrestricted access to the basic necessities of life, wherever they are. ...

Having been repeatedly displaced, an estimated 1.3 million Palestinians are sheltering in tent camps and cramped apartments, desperate for food, desperate for water and desperate for medical supplies. The health system, along with much of the infrastructure in Gaza, has been decimated. Life-saving aid has been systematically blocked from entering the territory, in contravention of international law. The International Court of Justice has been crystal clear that Israel must ensure unimpeded access to Gaza for humanitarian aid.

I urge all parties to step up their efforts to agree a ceasefire urgently, so that the hostages can at last be reunited with their families, the bombing can stop and the unimaginable

suffering that this conflict has caused can finally end.

The Scottish Government does not believe that there is a case to send more weapons to Israel. The UN Security Council has called for a ceasefire in Gaza, and ministers have made it clear that, by continuing to arm Israel, the UK is in danger of being complicit in killing innocent civilians. The former First Minister wrote to the Prime Minister calling for a ban on arms exports to Israel—a call that has not yet been heeded. We will continue to press the UK Government on that issue.

Today, in this Parliament, we have overwhelmingly agreed that Palestine must be recognised as an independent state. Doing nothing is not an option. The UK should join the international community and do the right thing—recognise Palestine as an independent state and secure a ceasefire and a two-state solution, so that Palestine and Israel can live in peace, security, prosperity and independence.

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136224#orscontributions\\_M3896E381P717C2605025](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136224#orscontributions_M3896E381P717C2605025)

*The First Minister's letter to Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer referred to above by Humza Yousaf and Angus Robertson can be read at*

<https://x.com/JohnSwinney/status/1795342617385017640>

*The UN list referred to above by Ross Greer can be read at*

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/71>

*with an update at*

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session31/database-hrc3136/23-06-30-Update-israeli-settlement-opt-database-hrc3136.pdf>

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report referred to above by Bill Kidd can be read at*

[https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Gaza\\_Strip\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_MaySept2024\\_Special\\_Snapshot.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_MaySept2024_Special_Snapshot.pdf)

*The International Court of Justice ruling referred to above by Bill Kidd can be read at*

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

*The International Criminal Court statement relating to arrest warrants, referred to above by Bill Kidd, can be read at*

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-kc-applications-arrest-warrants-situation-state>

*Humza Yousaf's letter to Rishi Sunak, referred to above by Angus Robertson, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/call-ban-arms-sales-israel-letter-prime-minister/>

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

### Humanitarian Aid (Gaza)

**Kevin Stewart (SNP)** [S6]-03627] To ask the Scottish Government, in relation to its humanitarian aid funding, what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the distribution of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in light of recent developments including Ireland's, Spain's and Norway's recognition of the state of Palestine.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson):** We have continued to urge the United Kingdom Government since October 2023 to use its influence to ensure that the barriers to aid getting into and distributed. Throughout. Gaza, which are in contravention of international

humanitarian law, are removed.

We have also called for the UK Government to recognise the state of Palestine, end the licensing of arms exports to Israel and reinstate funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. It is now critical that all parties step up their efforts to agree to the ceasefire deal that has been tabled by the United States, so that the unimaginable suffering that is being caused by the conflict can finally end.

**Kevin Stewart:** Will the cabinet secretary outline whether he shares the view that distribution of humanitarian aid to Gaza would be easier if Palestine was recognised by all of the international community as an independent state?

The cabinet secretary has given us a flavour of the asks that he has already made of the UK Government. Can he outline what the Scottish Government's will ask of the new UK Government in relation to Gaza and Palestine?

**Angus Robertson:** The distribution of humanitarian aid to Gaza could be more efficient and effective if Palestine were universally recognised as an independent state, because that would facilitate more robust diplomatic relations and establish clear legal frameworks for the operation of international agencies. It could also provide a Palestinian state with more control over its borders and open the door for direct development aid and investment from other countries.

We will continue to push the next UK Government to use its influence to bring about an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages and unfettered access for humanitarian aid going into Gaza.

[https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions\\_M5106E423P759C2604703](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions_M5106E423P759C2604703)

### **Edinburgh International Book Festival (Viability)**

**Sue Webber (Conservative)** [S6O-03622] To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Edinburgh International Book Festival, in light of reports that the Fossil Free Books campaign has threatened its viability.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson):** The Scottish Government has on-going dialogue with all our major arts festivals, including the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The decision to withdraw from corporate sponsorship is a matter for the festival itself. However, as I have stated publicly on a number of occasions, sponsorship plays a crucial role in supporting culture in Scotland. ...

**Sue Webber:** ... the First Minister highlighted the damage that disinvestment campaigns are doing to the arts sector ...

Other than financial help, what specific support might the cabinet secretary be looking to offer to the book festival and the fringe festival to give them the security that they need, so that they will not feel the pressures of some of those campaigns?

**Angus Robertson:** The issue of disinvestment and the risk of contagion ... are detrimental to the cultural and arts sector. ... I do not think that there is a simple solution, but we are open-minded. ...

**Maggie Chapman (Green):** Baillie Gifford holds billions of pounds' worth of investments in fossil fuel industries and in companies with links to Israel's occupation and its genocide of Palestinians. Fossil Free Books is a collective of more than 800 book workers, including authors and illustrators, whose campaign seeks to persuade Baillie Gifford to divest from those destructive companies. ...

Will the cabinet secretary join me in recognising the work of Fossil Free Books and applauding it in its aim of highlighting how cultural events and institutions are used to launder corporate reputations? ...

**Angus Robertson:** ... I have concerns about climate change, and I have very severe concerns about what has been happening to Israeli hostages and to the

people of Gaza. However, I do not think that disinvestment from cultural events such as the Edinburgh international book festival furthers those aims. ... We need to find a way of giving assurance to people who are concerned about issues such as climate change and the situation in Gaza, but we need to do that in a way that does not fundamentally undermine our arts and culture sector.

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions\\_M16185E422P758C2604670](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-26-06-2024?meeting=15958&iob=136193#orscontributions_M16185E422P758C2604670)

## United Nations

### **Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict at Record High; Speakers in Day-Long Debate Explore Ways to Bolster Norms to Protect Them from Harm**

**Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict**, presenting the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict (document S/2024/384), said that the information ... "has been obtained in contexts of great hardship and under incredibly difficult circumstances, during a deadly year for United Nations personnel and aid workers". In the 25 countries and one regional situation covered by her mandate, the UN verified 32,990 grave violations against 22,557 children in 2023 — the highest figures in almost 10 years. Across the globe, "children bore the brunt of multiplying and escalating crises", she said, adding that they experienced horrific violence in combat zones, displacement camps, urban areas and their homes and schools. A staggering 5,301 children were killed and another 6,348 maimed and/or injured in 2023, marking a shocking 35 per cent rise over previous years, she reported. ...

Over 190 UN and other humanitarian staff were killed in Gaza, where nearly all critical civilian infrastructure was destroyed. The highest numbers of grave violations during 2023 occurred in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan. ...

**Ted Chaiban, Deputy Executive Director of Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, reported that the UN verified 32,990 grave violations against children in 2023 — the highest number ever recorded during the children-and-armed-conflict mandate, and a 21 per cent increase over 2022, "which previously held the title of worst year ever".... "Children in Israel and the State of Palestine continue to endure incomprehensible suffering," he stressed — "particularly in the Gaza Strip, where the scale of death and destruction is staggering".

Stating that 4,312 Palestinian and 70 Israeli children were verified as killed or maimed in 2023, he noted that this represents 37 per cent of all such verifications included in the Secretary-General's report. Most casualties were caused by explosive weapons in populated areas. However, more than 23,000 reported cases of children killed or maimed in 2023 have yet to be verified due to insecurity, movement restrictions and significant risks to humanitarian personnel operating in Gaza. The bodies of thousands of missing children remain buried under rubble, and none of this includes the thousands of violations reported so far in 2024. "After nearly nine months of horrible conflict, UNICEF and other humanitarian actors are still struggling to reach those in need," he said, pointing to continued obstacles that "are directly related to the increasing number of acutely malnourished children". ...

**Ban Ki-Moon, Former United Nations Secretary-General and Deputy Chair of the Elders**, said ... the UN has verified more than 8,000 grave violations against 4,247 Palestinian and 113 Israeli children in 2023. ...

Underscoring the importance of identifying those responsible for violations, he said that the inclusion of Israeli armed and security forces and Palestinian armed groups on the list

is an important step. ...

**The representative of the Russian Federation**, detailing the situation in Gaza, said that this is the international community's "main challenge in the protection of children". While the violence that Israeli children endured on 7 October 2023 has no justification, he underscored that "these victims do not justify Israel's violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza". Verified cases in the report alone far surpass indicators in other conflict situations, and even more appalling are the 23,000 violations yet to be verified. "We trust that the UN will focus all efforts and resources to restore the full picture of what is transpiring," he stated. He went on to stress that "the delivery of Western weapons is one of the most serious factors behind the outbreak and spread of conflict". ...

**The representative of China**, stressing that Israel should stop its collective punishment of the Palestinians, welcomed the listing in the Secretary-General's annual report of the perpetrators of grave violations against children in the Gaza conflict. ...

**The representative of the United States** said that this year's report provides "a sobering snapshot" of the devastating impact of conflict on children ... Underlining the urgency of achieving a ceasefire in Gaza — where children have borne far too much of the war — she urged Hamas "to take the deal without delay". ...

**The representative of the United Kingdom** described the Secretary General's report as "horrifying" and emphasized the crucial role of the children and armed conflict mandate, which "must continue this vitally important work". Spotlighting the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, he called for an end to the fighting to stop the suffering of children, adding: "The fastest way to do this is for Hamas to accept the terms of the deal on the table." ...

**The representative of Egypt**, aligning himself with the Arab Group, said that "the world, all over, is witnessing Israel's destructive war against the Gaza Strip". This includes a "multiplication of violations against children", he stressed, as well as the targeting of education and health facilities and the restricting of access to food aid. Calling on the international community to address double standards in the treatment of global crises and violations of international law, he urged States to pressure Israel to end its war in Gaza, lift obstacles to aid delivery and "adopt a comprehensive ceasefire to spare further escalation in the region". ...

**The representative of Indonesia** said: "Genocide is unfolding in Gaza, with children being the biggest casualty." Those who have died there "may have been the lucky ones", he added, as those who survive exist in a "living hell" while the world ... while "many seem to have turned a blind eye to Palestinian children's right to live" — he stated that the world must stop the double standards in protecting children against grave violations of human rights. ...

**The representative of the European Union** ... detailing grave violations committed against children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory on and after 7 October 2023 ... stressed that "preventing further loss of life is an absolute priority", while urging an "immediate ceasefire". ...

**The representative of Germany**, associating himself with the European Union and the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, voiced alarm by the steep increase in grave violations in Israel and Palestine. He condemned Hamas' practice of abusing schools and hospitals for military activities and once again called on Israel to conduct military operations strictly in line with humanitarian law. ...

**The representative of Saudi Arabia**, speaking for the Arab Group, said that Israel is committing "genocide" in Gaza, targeting civilians in their homes and tents despite international calls to protect Palestinian civilians. Israel also strikes hospitals, schools, humanitarian convoys and medical teams in blatant violation of international law and uses starvation as a weapon of war. He therefore called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and pressure on Israel to stop its war against the Strip — "a war that has proved to be a war against Palestinian civilians". Further, Israel must allow humanitarian aid to flow fully,

rapidly and unimpeded ...

He also renewed the call to open all land crossings to provide food and medicine to the Palestinian people and allow evacuation of the injured. Israel must also release all Palestinian children it has arrested, and he welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to include Israeli military and security forces on the "blacklist" for their crimes. For its part, the international community must bear its responsibility to protect Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and force Israel — as the occupying Power — to comply with its obligations in this regard. Adding that Israel's violent practices are "something that no human can accept, that no ethics can accept", he underscored that Israel must be held accountable. ...

**The representative of Israel** noted that Secretary-General's report fails to acknowledge Hamas' systematic use of civilian infrastructure for military purposes and, thus, "obscures [the] real culprits of this conflict". The report's failure to include Israel's humanitarian actions further distorts the reality on the ground. For years Israel been concerned about the report's methodology, he said, observing that this year's report has "sunk to the new low". The decision to include Israel to the annex of the report — alongside terrorist organizations — is counterproductive for protecting children. This approach erodes the credibility of the children and armed conflict agenda and fails to address the realities of asymmetric warfare, he stressed, adding that by failing to address these crimes, the UN creates safe havens for terrorists. "The UN's disregard for this modus operandi of terrorist organizations places children all over the world — today and in the future — in great danger", he added. ...

**The representative of Lebanon** highlighted the severe impact of Israeli aggression on children in the south of Lebanon since 7 October, with 12 children killed, more than 75 injured and over 30,000 children fleeing to the north of the country. Welcoming the designation of the Israeli army and security forces on the list of perpetrators of grave violations against children in armed conflict, he stressed the importance of "holding the perpetrators accountable". The Secretary-General's latest report mentioned six Lebanese children killed or maimed by the Israeli army in 2023, he observed, voicing hope that the next year's report will include updated figures. "We are worried of the long-term impact of this aggression on the safety, health, and education of our children," he said, calling for increased international pressure on Israel to end its aggression and to seek diplomatic solutions. ...

**The representative of Jordan** ... noting that the "barbaric" Israeli war against Gaza has killed around 38,000 Palestinians, with children accounting for one third ... described the blacklisting of the Israeli army and security forces for grave violations against children, as evidence of that country's "deliberate killing of civilians, including children" and its tactic to use starvation as a weapon. He called for immediate action from the Security Council and the international community to stop the aggression, lift the siege on Gaza and protect civilians from further violence, starvation and humiliation. ...

**The permanent observer for the State of Palestine** expressed profound regret that it took a "genocidal war" against his people to finally add Israel to the "list of shame" this year. He highlighted the devastating toll in Gaza, where nearly 16,000 Palestinian children were killed and another 21,000 are missing. Gaza, once a vibrant place where children set world records in sports, has now been reduced to a graveyard. He condemned the erosion of morality witnessed globally during eight months of conflict, as images flooded social media showing Palestinian children starving, injured with severe burns or no limbs, fighting for their lives. "Where is your humanity?", he asked, calling for "collective resolve and responsibility to pressure Israel to stop the madness". "Enforce a ceasefire now, save our and your humanity now," he added. The persistent "political appeasement and double standards" made Israel believe it was exempt from the rule of law, he said, dismissing the "lie" about "the Israeli army" as the "most moral army in the world". There is nothing moral in using attacks against civilians, including children, as a weapon of war, as a tool for

political pressure in negotiations, or a catalyst to stay in power, he emphasized.

**The representative of Belgium** observed that “2023 was an awful year for children in armed conflict”, which was most evident in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. He therefore urged all parties to immediately stop grave violations against children in Palestine and Israel, and welcomed the Israeli Government’s recent offer to develop an action plan with the UN. “Gaza is by no means the only place where intolerable violence against children took place last year,” he stated. Pointing to the high number of violations registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo “year after year” and MONUSCO’s future withdrawal, he urged national authorities to “do more” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15745.doc.htm>

**Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/78/842>

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### **As More Governments Recognize State of Palestine, Crucial to Keep Focus on Political Horizon, Implementing Ceasefire, Permanent Observer Tells Rights Committee**

As more States recognize the State of Palestine and agree that it should become a full member at the United Nations, it is crucial to keep an eye on the political horizon, even amidst the current violence, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People heard today.

Riyad H. Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine ... highlighted the collective effort of the last nine months in trying to bring an end to the genocidal war against the people of Gaza. “We did not succeed yet in having a permanent ceasefire,” he said; nevertheless, a significant resolution was adopted recently, which begins with a six-week ceasefire and exchange of prisoners, detainees and hostages. This should be the first stage of a permanent ceasefire and should lead to the total withdrawal of Israel from every part of Gaza, he said. ...

Also addressing the Committee today was Paul S. Reichler, public international law expert and Counsel to the State of Palestine at the Hague. Stating that there are three critical pending cases related to Palestine, he noted the case brought by South Africa against Israel, as well as the International Criminal Court Prosecutor’s request for arrest warrants against leaders of Israel and Hamas for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 7 October 2023. The third pending case ... was initiated in December 2022 by the General Assembly when it sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice concerning the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

This case has a much broader scope than the other two in “territory, time and actions,” he pointed out. It concerns not just Gaza, but the entire territory of occupied Palestine, he said, adding that its timeline begins in June 1967. The scope of actions is also broader, covering the entirety of the occupation, from human rights violations to annexation, settlements and the implementation of a system of racial discrimination that sets up two classes of human beings: Israeli Jewish settlers, who enjoy full rights, and Palestinians, who are indigenous to their own land and enjoy no internationally guaranteed human rights. This can only be accurately described as “apartheid” he stressed, noting that both South African Bishop Desmond Tutu and former President Nelson Mandela — whose authority on the question of apartheid cannot be questioned — described the situation thus. ...

Several States, he said, highlighted Israel’s refusal to negotiate and the current Prime Minister’s emphatic declarations that he will never accept the existence of an independent

Palestinian State. They also emphasized that a clarification from the Court on the legal rights and obligations of the parties can only help, not hinder, good-faith negotiations. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/gapal1469.doc.htm>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Protection and dignified management of the dead in war and peace are cornerstones for preventing unlawful killings: UN expert**

A UN expert said today that the recovery, protection, documentation, identification and investigation of bodies and human remains of victims of unlawful deaths are not an option but an obligation under international law and inherent to the non-derogable right to life, recognised by all States around the world, both in war and peace times.

In his report to the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions explored the universal concept, deeply rooted in societal, religious, cultural and legal traditions, according to which the deceased and their human remains deserve respect, protection, and dignified treatment.

“Dignity does not cease with death. Bodies of the deceased and their human remains must also be treated with respect and be protected,” Dr Tidball-Binz said.

Despite detailed obligations on the protection of the dead under the international humanitarian law, contemporary emergencies such as natural disasters, pandemics, migration, and armed violence, causing mass fatalities, have revealed an urgent need to provide the same level of protections for all individuals unlawfully killed, under any circumstances, without exception or discrimination.

“Inequalities, discrimination, and injustices which occur in life are sadly replicated in death, causing extreme suffering to families of deceased minorities due to marginalization and inadequate protection, documentation and investigation,” he said. ...

“Having clear protocols to establish the truth is not an option but a duty to fulfill the right of families to truth, justice and reparation,” Dr Tidball-Binz said. “A balance should be found between preserving the integrity of investigations to ensure accountability for every unlawful killing, and the importance of returning the bodies to bereaved families.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/protection-and-dignified-management-dead-war-and-peace-are-cornerstones>

### **Protection of the dead: Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Morris Tidball-Binz**

*p17 includes reference to “the aftermath of the 7 October 2023 attacks in Israel”*

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/56/56>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Holocaust Memorial Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>



## Scottish Parliament

### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-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

### **Review of the RSHE statutory guidance** (closing date 11 July 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

### **Petitioning against the Holocaust Memorial Bill** (closing date 17 July 2024)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8481/petitioning-against-the-holocaust-memorial-bill/>

House of Lords: Guidance on the right to be heard

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55634/documents/4871>

House of Lords: Guidance on submitting your petition

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55632/documents/4869>

### **£20k registration threshold for charities in Northern Ireland** (closing date 11 August 2024)

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-ps20k-registration-threshold-charities-northern-ireland>

### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 16 August 2024)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/)

### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum** (closing date 16 August 2024)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/)

### **Gaps in Equality Legislation [Northern Ireland]** (closing date 6 September 2024)

<https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/committee-for-the-executive-office/gaps-in-equality-legislation-inquiry>

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