



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Welsh Government

#### **First Minister says the Welsh Government is focussed on 'what matters most in people's daily lives' as he announces legislative programme**

The First Minister, Vaughan Gething, has today (Tuesday, July 9) set out his legislative priorities saying he wants to ensure the Welsh Government is building "an ambitious future for a fairer, stronger, greener Wales."

Legislation to be introduced in the remainder of this Senedd term includes ...:

- A Bus Bill, which will enable all levels of government in Wales to work together to design one joined up bus network ...
- A Building Safety Bill ...
- A Disused Tips (Mines and Quarries) Bill ...
- A Homelessness Bill, which will include a package of significant reforms to help people in Wales remain in their homes and prevent anyone from experiencing homelessness.
- A Visitor Accommodation (Regulation) Bill, which will see anyone who lets out visitor accommodation have to meet a relevant set of standards ...
- An Environmental Principles and Biodiversity Bill ...
- A Bill to give local authorities powers to introduce a visitor levy ...

Furthermore, towards the end of this Senedd term, a Bill will be brought forward to simplify and modernise the planning law in Wales ...

The First Minister also confirmed the Welsh Government would consult on a draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Bill. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.wales/first-minister-says-welsh-government-focussed-what-matters-most-peoples-daily-lives-he-announces>

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# Israel

## House of Commons Library Briefing

### UK arms exports to Israel

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9964/CBP-9964.pdf>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**David Lammy** The reports of civilian casualties following an Israeli strike near a school in Abassan in Gaza are appalling. The devastating violence in Gaza has gone on far too long and we want to see urgent measures to protect civilians, an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages.

<https://x.com/DavidLammy/status/1811080161607262517>

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## Other Relevant Information

### European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

#### **Jews in Europe still face high levels of antisemitism**

Antisemitism persists in the EU, affecting Jews both online and offline. Concerns over safety and frequent experiences of harassment force many to conceal their Jewish identity. These alarming insights come from the latest survey by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). ...

The survey pre-dates the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 and Israel's military response in Gaza. But the report includes information about antisemitism collected from 12 Jewish community organisations more recently. Jewish people have experienced more antisemitic incidents since October 2023, with some organisations reporting an increase of more than 400%.

The survey results point to:

- **Rising antisemitism:** 80% of respondents feel that antisemitism has grown in their country in the five years before the survey.
- **High levels of antisemitism online:** 90% of respondents encountered antisemitism online in the year before the survey.
- **Antisemitism in the public sphere:** in the year before the survey, 56% of respondents encountered offline antisemitism from people they know and 51% in the media.
- **Harassment:** 37% say they were harassed because they are Jewish in the year before the survey. Most of them experienced harassment multiple times. Antisemitic harassment and violence mostly take place in streets, parks, or shops.
- **Safety and security concerns:** Most respondents continue to worry for their own (53%) and their family's (60%) safety and security. Over the years, FRA research has shown that antisemitism tends to increase in times of tension in the Middle East. In this survey, 75% feel that people hold them responsible for the Israeli government's actions because they are Jewish.
- **Hidden lives:** 76% hide their Jewish identity at least occasionally and 34% avoid Jewish events or sites because they do not feel safe. As a reaction to online antisemitism, 24% avoid posting content that would identify them as Jewish, 23%

say that they limited their participation in online discussions, and 16% reduced their use of certain platforms, websites or services.

The EU and its Member States have put in place measures against antisemitism, which have led to some progress. These include the [EU's first ever strategy on combating antisemitism](#) and [action plans in some EU countries](#). The report suggests concrete ways for building on that progress:

- Monitoring and adequately funding antisemitism strategies and action plans ...
- Securing the safety and security of Jewish communities ...
- Tackling antisemitism online ...
- Encouraging reporting and improving recording of antisemitism ...

Almost 8,000 Jews aged 16 or over took part in the online survey from January to June 2023. This is the third survey of its kind, following those of [2013](#) and [2018](#).

**Quote from FRA Director Sirpa Rautio:** “Europe is witnessing a wave of antisemitism, partly driven by the conflict in the Middle East. This severely limits Jewish people’s ability to live in safety and with dignity. We need to build on existing laws and strategies to protect communities from all forms of hate and intolerance, online as well as offline. In an increasingly polarised society, we urgently need to spread the message of tolerance and ensure respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all.”

**To read the full press release see**

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/jews-europe-still-face-high-levels-antisemitism>

### **Jewish People’s Experiences and Perceptions of Antisemitism**

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2024-experiences-perceptions-antisemitism-survey\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2024-experiences-perceptions-antisemitism-survey_en.pdf)

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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

**\*\* closes 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/>

**\*\* closes in 6 days**

**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>

**\*\* Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2028** (closing date 3 October 2024)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/our-work/our-strategic-plan-consultation-2025-2028>

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