



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Crown Prosecution Service

Antisemitic TikTok terrorist jailed for encouraging terrorism and sharing material

A terrorist who used social media platforms such as TikTok to encourage terrorism has been jailed for four years.

Hamza Alam, 22, disguised himself before posting videos on TikTok.

A number of his posts included hostile references to Jewish people alongside a video that encouraged viewers to attack and kill Jews following the Gaza and Israel conflict. Another post celebrated the 9/11 attacks.

One of his TikTok accounts, which was public, had 126 videos that had amassed 31,000 likes.

Alam also created a shareable folder which included Islamic State propaganda and videos containing images of public floggings.

Today at Woolwich Crown Court he was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and a further year on licence thereafter. He was previously found guilty of three counts of disseminating a terrorist publication and one count of encouraging terrorism following a trial at the same court which concluded in April. ...

Bethan David, Head of the Crown Prosecution Service's Counter Terrorism Division, said: ... "Posting such extreme and illegal material online poses a high risk of serious harm to the public through encouraging and inciting others into extremist activity, and it is only right that Alam has been brought to justice today. The CPS will always seek to prosecute such appalling online criminal behaviour to keep the public safe." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/antisemitic-tiktok-terrorist-jailed-encouraging-terrorism-and-sharing-material>

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Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office In Israel, Foreign Secretary @DavidLammy spoke with families whose loved ones were murdered and taken hostage by Hamas. The UK continues to push for the immediate release of all hostages. [plus photos]

<https://x.com/FCDOGovUK/status/1812788801187520644>

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office In the West Bank @DavidLammy met Palestinian community members, where he heard the impact on communities suffering from settler violence and settlement expansion. Settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and harm prospects for a two-state solution. [plus photo]

<https://x.com/FCDOGovUK/status/1812792943037600152>

UNRWA

Statement of Shared Commitments on UNRWA

... 118 Member States, including all members of the UN Security Council, have signed up to these commitments, which are an expression of solidarity and support to UNRWA.

The initiative comes at a critical time as UNRWA undergoes unprecedented attacks and systematic attempts to dismantle it. It is a tribute to our staff working across the region, including on the humanitarian front lines in the Gaza Strip. ...

We acknowledge and appreciate the work of the United Nations system under the leadership of the Secretary-General in the region of the Middle East. In this regard, we particularly emphasize the vital role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in accordance with its General Assembly mandate in providing life-saving assistance to generations of Palestinian refugees through the provision of essential education, health, relief and social services programmes and emergency assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. In this regard we commit to continue:

- Recognizing the important and indispensable role of the Agency in its 75 years of existence and work in assisting the Palestinian refugees and contributing to regional stability, and expressing support for UNRWA to effectively uphold its mandate in all fields of operation;
- Emphasizing the role of UNRWA as a pillar of regional stability and a lifeline of hope and opportunity for the millions of Palestinian refugees it serves, including children and women, and in this regard recognizing serious humanitarian, political and security risks that would result from any interruption or suspension of its vital work;
- Highlighting concerns about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency,
- Recognizing the efforts of donors and host countries to respond to the Agency's financial crisis, and the importance of sufficient, predictable and sustained funding support to the Agency;
- Underlining the importance of cooperation of all States and other UN bodies with UNRWA;
- Drawing attention to deliberations at the United Nations in order to further advance the visibility of and support to UNRWA's important work.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/un-unrwa/statement-shared-commitments-unrwa>

The United Kingdom is a member of the UN Security Council.

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Statement by Scott Anderson, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza

Visiting the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis yesterday, I witnessed some of the most horrific scenes I have seen in my nine months in Gaza. This overstretched health facility admitted well over 100 of yesterday's severe injuries. With not enough beds, hygiene equipment, sheeting, or scrubs, many patients were treated on the ground without disinfectants. Ventilation systems were switched off due to a lack of electricity and fuel, and the air was filled with the smell of blood.

I saw toddlers who are double amputees, children paralyzed and unable to receive treatment, and others separated from their parents. I also saw mothers and fathers who were unsure if their children were alive. Parents told me in despair that they had moved into the 'so-called humanitarian zone' in the hope that their children would be safe there.

My colleagues from the humanitarian community are doing everything possible to increase medical capacity in Gaza, where the health system has long been on the ropes. Yesterday, we provided referral services, as well as additional tents, beds, stretchers, disposables, and medications. But impediments to humanitarian operations prevent us from supporting people anywhere near the scale necessary.

Civilians must be protected at all times. We urgently need a ceasefire, the release of all remaining hostages, respite for the people of Gaza, and a meaningful opportunity for healing to begin.

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/statement-scott-anderson-deputy-humanitarian-coordinator-and-director-unrwa-affairs-gaza>

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Other Relevant Information

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Discriminatory advert guidance updated

Britain's equality watchdog, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, has today updated its guidance for those placing or publishing advertisements, to help them ensure such adverts are lawful and do not discriminate.

A discriminatory advert is one which restricts jobs, goods, services or facilities to people with a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010. They are unlawful except in very limited circumstances where the Equality Act specifically allows such a restriction.

The refreshed guidance provides greater clarity around 'occupational requirements', under Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010, where an employer can require a job applicant or employee to have a particular protected characteristic if it is necessary for the role.

The EHRC is aware of evidence that some employers have incorrectly applied occupational requirement exceptions. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/discriminatory-advert-guidance-updated>

Guidance on discriminatory adverts

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/guidance-discriminatory-adverts>

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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 tomorrow**

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/

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/

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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