



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### The Charity Commission

#### **Regulator investigates aid charity over concerns about links to a terrorism-promoting news outlet**

The regulator is investigating aid charity World Aid Convoy over concerns that the charity has links to a Hamas supporting news agency.

[World Aid Convoy](#) has purposes to provide relief and assistance to victims of war and natural disaster. It was registered with the Charity Commission in 2014.

The Commission began engaging with the charity in March 2024, after concerns were raised that funds were being solicited for the charity through Gaza Now, a news agency that promotes Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. These concerns related to posts shared on social media and private messaging service, Telegram. The charity was referred to in posts shared on Telegram's 'Gaza Now' and 'Gaza Now in English' channels.

During the regulator's engagement with the charity, Gaza Now, and its founder, were made subject to a full asset freeze by the UK Government as it has grounds to suspect that they are involved in terrorism. ...

Initial engagement with the trustees gave rise to further concerns about the charity's management and governance, and the Commission escalated matters to a statutory inquiry in May 2024.

The inquiry is seeking to determine what, if any, links there are between the charity and Gaza Now, if any funds have been provided to Gaza Now either directly or via partners, and if these funds can be fully accounted for. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-investigates-aid-charity-over-concerns-about-links-to-a-terrorism-promoting-news-outlet>

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## Israel

**See also the Charity Commission press release "Regulator investigates aid charity**

**over concerns about links to a terrorism-promoting news outlet” that is included in the Home Affairs section above.**

## House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### **NATO and European Political Community Meetings**

**col 369 The Prime Minister (Keir Starmer):** ... Secondly, I want to turn to the middle east, because that region is at a moment of grave danger and fragility. ... How can we deal with the malign influence of Iran, address its nuclear programme, manage the threat from the Houthis, ease tensions on Israel’s northern border, and work with all partners to uphold regional security?

Fundamental to that, of course, is the conflict in Gaza. I have spoken to the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. I have been clear that I fully support Israel’s right to security and the desperate need to see the hostages returned. I have also been clear that the situation in Gaza is intolerable, and that the world will not look away as innocent civilians, including women and children, continue to face death, disease and displacement. Mr Speaker, it cannot go on. We need an immediate ceasefire. Hostages out, aid in; a huge scale-up of humanitarian assistance. That is the policy of this Government, and an immediate ceasefire is the only way to achieve it, so we will do all we can in pursuit of these goals. That is why, as one of the first actions taken by this Government, we have restarted British funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency, to deliver that crucial humanitarian support.

We received the International Court of Justice opinion on Friday and will consider it carefully before responding, but let me say that we have always been opposed to the expansion of illegal settlements and we call on all sides to recommit to stability, peace, normalisation and the two-state solution: a recognised Palestinian state—the right of the Palestinian people—alongside a safe and secure Israel. ...

**col 371 Rishi Sunak (Conservative):** ... We all want to see progress towards a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace, prosperity and security. However, as we make progress towards that goal, our friend and ally Israel must have the right to defend itself against the threat that it is facing—a threat demonstrated by the drone strike on Tel Aviv at the end of last week by the Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels. ...

**col 372 The Prime Minister:** ... In relation to the conflict in Gaza, the more that we in this House can be united, the better. It is an issue of great complexity, but the approach that has been shown is the right one, and we take it forward in that spirit. ...

**Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat):** ... I also welcome their support for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Clearly, we need to put an end to the humanitarian devastation there, get the hostages home, and open the door to a two-state solution. Upholding international law is also crucial. To that end, I hope the Government will respect last week’s ruling of the ICJ when they consider it.

**col 373 The Prime Minister:** ... we respect the independence of the Court and international law—let me be very clear about that. ...

**col 375 Stephen Gethins (SNP):** ... The international rules-based system is the cornerstone of peace and security. The Prime Minister talks of a ceasefire in Gaza and the application of the rule of law. What measures is he willing to take to make sure that is implemented? ...

**The Prime Minister:** In relation to a ceasefire, obviously talks are under way at quite an advanced stage and we have already urged all sides in the international discussions that I have had to move forward on a ceasefire, because without a ceasefire it is very difficult to envisage the circumstances in which further hostages can come out safely and aid can go in at the scale that is desperately needed. Also, a ceasefire can be a foot in the door for the beginning of a process, however remote

it may seem at the moment, to a two-state solution. ...

**col 377 Kit Malthouse (Conservative):** ... The Prime Minister has given us fine words about the importance of our membership of international institutions, particularly international courts ... but he will know as well as I that those courts are only as good as the action and consequence that flow from their judgments. Without action and consequence, their judgments just become hot air. In relation to Israel-Gaza, and in particular the occupation of the west bank, can he please assure us that he is considering hard consequences for the very obvious flagrant breach of international law that is taking place daily in that part of the world?

**The Prime Minister:** ... I believe in international law and I think it is very important that we keep to our commitments on international law. We are known for that as a nation, and it matters to the world. In relation to the courts, I respect their independence. Obviously, we will have robust discussion about particular actions, judgments that they might publish, and decisions that they come to, but for those who believe in international law, it is important to be equally clear that we support the independence of the courts. Without that anchor, we do not have the framework that is so important to us, in terms of enforcing international law. ...

**col 380 Jeremy Corbyn (Independent):** ... I am pleased that the Prime Minister has called for a ceasefire in Gaza, but surely if we are to follow international law we need to go a bit further and call for the withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces both from Gaza and the west bank, and an end to our complicity by supplying arms to Israel. ...

**The Prime Minister:** ... The prospect of a ceasefire is there. I am urging all parties to take that opportunity; it is an important foot in the door for the political process, which I believe is the only process that will bring about lasting peace and resolution in the middle east.

**col 381 Greg Smith (Conservative):** The level of infiltration by Hamas of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency is well documented—from UNRWA staff taking part in the pure evil that was the 7 October attack, to UNRWA-funded schools being used to store weapons and harbour terrorists, and to terror infrastructure being found under UNRWA's headquarters in Gaza City. Before the Prime Minister took the decision to re-commit UK taxpayers' money to UNRWA, what advice did he receive on that infiltration, and what steps has he demanded be taken, so that UK taxpayers' money can never be used to fund terror or preach hate?

**The Prime Minister:** As the hon. Member would expect, we took the most careful advice and subjected it to the most careful consideration, because we were concerned, as anyone in this House would be, by the suggestions and allegations in relation to 7 October. We looked at that really carefully, took it very seriously, and gave it the utmost consideration. There has, of course, been an independent review and steps put in place, but there is a vital role for UNRWA. Many other countries have restored funding for UNRWA—it is the right thing to do—but I can give an assurance that the most careful consideration was given before that step was taken, as the hon. Member would expect. ...

**col 383 Oliver Ryan (Labour Co-op):** ... I am proud to hear him recommit us to a two-state solution in the middle east, and to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Does he agree that this conflict is dire, but urgently needs sober and considerate solutions rather than extreme rhetoric from those who might seek to sow further divisions?

**The Prime Minister:** Yes, I do, and I am grateful for that question, because there is the prospect of a ceasefire. It is desperately needed, for the reasons that we have already discussed, but it will only happen if there is international agreement and a sober assessment that provides the framework for the release of the remaining hostages—I shudder to think of the state of some of them—for the aid that is desperately needed to be allowed in at the scale that is needed, and for the beginning of the process, in my view the only process, that will lead to a lasting

resolution of this awful conflict. It is not just in all our interests, but our duty, to do everything we can to ensure that that comes about.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-22/debates/A72DDFCA-5B7B-4D11-925C-3B28078549E9/NATOAndEuropeanPoliticalCommunityMeetings>

*The International Court of Justice opinion referred to above by Keir Starmer and Ed Davey can be read at*

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Visas: Gaza

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [543] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of routes available to people in Gaza to join families in the UK.

**Seema Malhotra:** The Government is determined to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, rapidly increase aid, and the return of all hostages. The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events.

We are assisting British nationals and other eligible people to leave Gaza, liaising closely with the Israeli and Egyptian authorities.

The current position is that Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available to work, study or join family in the UK.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/543>

### Visas: Gaza

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a family reunification visa scheme for people in Gaza.

**Seema Malhotra:** Currently, Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

There are also routes available for dependants of those who are in the UK on a work or student route.

Individuals with protection status or settlement on a protection route may sponsor their partner or child (under 18), to join or stay with them in the UK, providing they formed part of the pre-flight family unit before the sponsor fled their country to seek protection.

When the visa application has been received, consideration will be given to compelling, compassionate and exceptional circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/544>

### Overseas Students: Gaza

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [97] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing people from

Gaza who are studying in the UK to be able to bring their families to the UK.

**Seema Malhotra:** The Government is determined to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, rapidly increase aid, and the return of all hostages. The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events.

The current position is that Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available to work, study or settle/join family in the UK.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

Students from Gaza seeking to bring dependants to the UK may do so where they meet the relevant requirements of Appendix Student of the immigration rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/97>

*Appendix Student of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-student>

### **Palestinians: Recognition of States**

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [362] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will immediately recognise the state of Palestine.

**Hamish Falconer:** Palestinian statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people. During the Foreign Secretary's visit to Israel and the OPTs on 14 July, he reiterated our commitment to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to a peace process to deliver a two state solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/362>

### **Israel: Arms Trade**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [95] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the sale of UK arms to Israel on the conflict in Gaza.

**Hamish Falconer:** The Foreign Secretary met with President Netanyahu in Israel on 14 July and pushed for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the upholding of international law, and a rapid increase of aid into Gaza. This government will uphold our international legal obligations and act in line with the UK's Strategic Export License Criteria. We have commissioned new advice and will come to a considered decision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/95>

### **UNRWA: Finance**

**Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru)** [453] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the resumption of funding for UNRWA; and when he plans to reach a decision on the resumption of such funding.

**Hamish Falconer:** As the Foreign Secretary announced in his speech on 19 July, UNRWA is absolutely central to humanitarian efforts in Gaza. It also plays a critical role in the wider region in providing essential services to Palestinian refugees, including healthcare and education. We are confident that UNRWA is taking robust action in response to Catherine Colonna's independent review. Britain is committed to supporting UNRWA's lifesaving work, and will resume funding, releasing £21 million for Gaza and the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/453>



The Foreign Secretary's speech referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-19/debates/CEEB9B68-0D16-45BD-85E3-AA2F02F415DE/IsraelAndGaza#contribution-7C03A336-9D74-412B-AB60-6625EC6B7641>

The Colonna review, referred to above, can be read at

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/unrwa\\_independent\\_review\\_on\\_neutrality.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/unrwa_independent_review_on_neutrality.pdf)

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

### **The UK condemns Houthi attacks against Israel and their wider destabilising activity in the Red Sea: UK statement at the UN Security Council**

The UK is deeply alarmed by the Houthi attack on Tel Aviv which saw an Israeli civilian killed in his home and 10 other civilians wounded. My Foreign Secretary condemned this reckless escalation in his statement to the UK Parliament last week. We call for urgent de-escalation.

Since October 7th, the Houthis have launched UAVs and missiles towards Israel, in dangerous and illegal attacks. These actions risk a further deterioration in the stability and security of the region and we call upon the Security Council to condemn the Houthi attacks against Israel in addition to their wider destabilising activity in the Red Sea. This includes launching over 305 attacks against international shipping, impacting over 100 ships and killing innocent crew. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of the Galaxy Leader and its crew illegally detained by the Houthis since November 2023.

In addition, we must not lose sight of the fact that Houthi actions, enabled by support from Iran, are part of a wider Iranian strategy to destabilise the region with its malign influence and use of proxies. We call upon Iran to cease its nefarious support to armed groups and terrorist organisations in the Middle East which only serve to increase the suffering of ordinary people.

Finally, while we can confirm that there was no UK involvement in the Israeli strikes against the Houthis on 20 July, the UK remains resolute in its support to Israel's right to self-defence in line with international law and international humanitarian law. The Houthis seek to use the situation in Gaza as justification for their reckless behaviour. Let me be clear, there is no justification for these attacks and more broadly there can be no military solution to the conflict in the Middle East. Yemenis are once again paying the price for the destructive actions of the Houthis and further escalation will only worsen an already dire humanitarian situation.

A diplomatic solution in the region is the only way forward. We strongly support the ongoing efforts of Egypt, Qatar and the US to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza, get the hostages out and humanitarian aid in. The deal, as endorsed by this Council in resolution 2735, is the best chance to secure lasting peace. Innocent Palestinians continue to face unfathomable human suffering in Gaza, with a devastating impact on women and children. At least 120 hostages remain in horrific conditions. We urge both sides to show flexibility in negotiations and to recommit themselves to a renewed peace process resulting in a two-state solution. President, I reiterate the UK's call for de-escalation and for meaningful progress to bring about lasting peace and security for the region.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uk-condemns-houthi-attacks-against-israel-and-their-wider-destabilising-activity-in-the-red-sea-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council>

UNSCR 2735, referred to above, can be read at

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735\(2024\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735(2024))

### **Preventing Region-Wide Escalation Crucial, Top UN Officials Tell Security Council In Wake of Houthi Attack against Tel Aviv, Israeli Strike on Yemeni Port**

... **Rosemary Dicarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs** ... highlighted an uncrewed aerial vehicle attack on Tel Aviv on 19 July by the Houthis in Yemen, resulting in civilian casualties and significant property damage. The Houthis claimed the attack was a retaliation for the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and announced Tel Aviv as a primary target for a new drone called “Yafa”. The Israel Defense Forces identified the uncrewed aerial vehicle as a modified Iranian Samad-3 drone from Yemen. ... she detailed other developments that made the situation “more precarious”. This included the 20 July air strikes launched by Israel around Hudaydah port in Yemen, targeting Houthi military sites — which the Israel Defense Forces spokesperson characterized as “necessary and proportionate” in response to previous Houthi “terror attacks” — and resulting in at least 9 deaths, over 80 casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, according to preliminary figures from the de facto Houthi Ministry of Health. ... Describing the Hudaydah port as a “lifeline for millions of people in Yemen,” she stressed that it should be “open and operating”. ...

Citing the Secretary-General, she warned that “one rash move, one miscalculation could trigger a catastrophe that goes far beyond the borders, and frankly, beyond imagination.” Turning to the situation in Gaza, she called for a sustainable ceasefire, the unconditional release of hostages and a recommitment to a two-State solution. On the Blue Line, she echoed the Secretary-General in calling on the parties “to urgently recommit to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).” ...

**Michael Beary, Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee and Head of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA)** ... reported that, on 20 July, UNMHA “registered loud explosions lasting over 10 minutes” as multiple air strikes targeted Hudaydah’s ports, fuel storage and port cranes two kilometres north of UNMHA headquarters. Soon after, Israeli officials publicly confirmed carrying out air strikes in Hudaydah, and he also reported that “fire and thick smoke” from Hudaydah’s ports and fuel storage are still ongoing and visible from the Mission’s compound.

... UNMHA ... observed the impact of the air strikes, including damaged fuel storage and cranes, ongoing firefighting activities and four vessels docked or berthed in the port — including a vessel from the World Food Programme (WFP) that “fortunately sustained only minor damage from a falling crane” ...

Echoing the Secretary-General’s concern over further escalation in the region, he joined calls on all concerned to avoid attacks that could harm civilian populations or infrastructure. ...

**The representative of the United States**, condemning the Houthis’ recent attacks on Israel, said that these actions demonstrate the clear threat to international peace and security posed by the Houthis and their backers in Tehran. ... The only appropriate response is to condemn these attacks, he said, supporting Israel’s right to self-defence. Equally important is holding Iran to account, as it fully enables Houthis to launch deadly attacks on Israel and other countries in the region. ...

**The representative of France** strongly condemned the attack by the Houthis, reaffirming his country’s commitment to regional stability and Israel’s security. ... Also voicing concern about ongoing clashes on the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, he urged the sides to “show the greatest restraint”. Turning to the situation in Gaza, he emphasized the urgent need for a ceasefire and demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, while voicing supports to the United States-proposed ceasefire plan.

**The representative of the United Kingdom** called on the Security Council to condemn the Houthi attacks against Israel in addition to their wider destabilizing activity in the Red Sea ... She also highlighted Iran’s support for the Houthis as part of its wider strategy to

destabilize the region with its malign influence and use of proxies. ... Her country was not involved in the Israeli strikes against the Houthis on 20 July. Yet, it remains resolute in its support of Israel's right to self-defence in line with international law and international humanitarian law ... [\[click here to read this speech in full\]](#)

**The representative of China** voiced deep concern ... urged all parties to respond to the overwhelming consensus of the international community and promote an immediate ceasefire. Moreover, Israel must immediately implement the relevant Council resolutions, cease all military operations in Gaza and stop its collective punishment of Palestinians. Noting Israel's continuous erosion of the foundation of the two-State solution, he called on that country to immediately put an end to its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory. ...

**The representative of Switzerland**, condemning both the Houthi attack on 19 July and Israel's response, stressed that "the humanitarian impact of these strikes is considerable". ... "Only a political solution can bring peace and security to the entire region," he added. Further, a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to armed groups' attacks in the region are urgently needed, and Council resolutions must be implemented immediately. ...

**The representative of the Russian Federation**, Council President for July, spoke in his national capacity to point out that "drones, missiles and other types of weapons are launched towards Israel by opponents of its actions in Gaza almost daily". While "in no way trying to minimize" the recent incident in Tel Aviv, he stressed that "the escalation is on a completely different level" less than 100 kilometres south of that city. There, in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces continue to ferociously clear out one of the most densely populated regions in the world. "The Strip is literally in ruins," he said, stating that "all the while, Israel is still — with the obvious indulgence of Washington, D.C., — continuing to ignore" all Council resolutions and peace initiatives. Asking those who called today's meeting why they did not do so when Israel struck targets including refugee camps, he said: "In indulging Israel's actions, you are only becoming complicit in an extremely dangerous escalation, which is ever more clearly becoming a regional one."

**The representative of Israel** said that, since the beginning of the war in Gaza, his country has had to fight to defend itself on several fronts. Attacks have been launched by Hamas in Gaza, Hizbullah in Lebanon, Shia militias from Iraq and Libya, the Houthis from Yemen and Iran directly. Since 7 October 2023, Hizbullah has launched over 6,500 rockets, 1,100 anti-tank missiles and 250 explosive drones on the people of northern Israel. In the south, Israel faces attacks by the Houthis, whose military arsenal has grown in the past year thanks to the training provided by Iran and Hizbullah. In the last few months, the Iranians directed their newest proxy — the Houthis — to increase their activity, obstruct the shipping in the Red Sea and launch attacks against Israel. Since the beginning of the Gaza war, the Houthis have launched over 220 ballistic missiles and explosive drones on Israel.

On the 19 July Houthi attack on Tel Aviv, which killed a civilian and injured 10 others, he said that the drone used was an Iranian weapon. In response, Israel decided to exercise its inherent right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, he said, noting that "the Houthis are acting in the name of radical Iranian ideology". On Israel's retaliatory attack, he said that the Hudaydah port is a legitimate military target, which is being used for terrorist purposes — it receives arms shipments directly from Iran, including the unmanned aerial vehicle fired at Tel Aviv. "Iran arms, trains and finances the Houthis," he stated, urging the international community to increase pressure — including in the form of sanctions — on that country. "Israel will continue to protect its civilians against any threat," he asserted.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15773.doc.htm>

*UNSCR 1701, referred to above, can be read at*



[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1701\(2006\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1701(2006))

The UN Charter, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **UN Commission of Inquiry welcomes International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion stating that Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is now illegal under international law**

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel welcomes the historic [advisory opinion](#) issued Friday by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) stating that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is now illegal under international law.

“The Court was clear and unambiguous, and the advisory opinion entails international legal obligations not only for Israel, but for the UN and all States,” said Navi Pillay, the Chair of the Commission. “The maintenance and promotion of the international rules-based order will depend on compliance with this advisory opinion.”

In September 2022, in its report to the General Assembly ([A/77/328](#)), the Commission concluded that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory was unlawful under international law owing to its permanence and to actions undertaken by Israel to annex parts of the land de facto and de jure. The Commission stated that the permanent occupation and annexation by Israel could not remain unaddressed.

The Commission recommended that the General Assembly request an advisory opinion from the ICJ on the legal consequences of the prolonged occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and on the obligations of third States and UN.

The Commission [welcomed](#) the General Assembly’s referral to the ICJ a few weeks later for an advisory opinion, and issued a detailed [position paper](#) on the subject in September 2023.

In its advisory opinion on Friday, the ICJ - the highest court in the UN system - authoritatively set forth the law of occupation and the duties and obligations of an occupying power. The Court reiterated the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by the use of force, and the inalienable right of a people to self-determination. It then applied that law to the situation of Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory since 1967.

Israel’s policies and practices of establishing settlements and annexing territory, resulting in the forcible transfer of Palestinians from their lands, confiscation of Palestinian land and property, exploitation of natural resources and discriminatory legal regimes in occupied territory are all in violation of international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law. ...

To assist the General Assembly and the Security Council in determining appropriate modalities and actions, the Commission will report on the implications of this advisory opinion for the responsibility the State of Israel, the State of Palestine, third States, and where appropriate business entities, and the UN. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/un-commission-inquiry-welcomes-international-court-justice-advisory-opinion>

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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

#### **Independent review into civil unrest in Leicester 2022** (closing date 5 August 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester-2022/independent-review-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester-2022>

#### **£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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