



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

BBC: Political Impartiality

Oliver Dowden (Conservative) [1929] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions her Department has had with the BBC board on impartiality in news coverage of the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

Stephanie Peacock: My Department meets regularly with representatives of the BBC on a range of matters.

The BBC is editorially and operationally independent of the Government. As the external independent regulator of the BBC, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring BBC coverage is duly impartial and accurate under the Broadcasting Code and BBC Charter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/1929>

Muslim Council of Britain

John Glen (Conservative) [1669] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether Government ministers plan to meet with the Muslim Council of Britain.

Alex Norris: The Government recognises the importance of engaging meaningfully with faith and belief groups. There has been no change to HMG policy and there are no plans for Ministers to meet with the Muslim Council of Britain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-25/1669>

TOP

Israel

See also Commons written answer 1929 “BBC: Political Impartiality” that is included in the Home Affairs section above.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Ministry of Defence

UK Foreign and Defence Secretaries push for peace and stability in the Middle East

... Defence Secretary John Healey visited Israel today to push for an immediate ceasefire and drive de-escalation in the Middle East ...

The meeting in Tel Aviv with Israeli Defence Minister Gallant follows a call that John Healey had with the Palestinian Authority earlier this week.

The UK is pushing for an end to fighting, and the Defence Secretary spoke in Tel Aviv on the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and to get more aid to Palestinians. He also stressed the importance of a path to a two-state solution. ...

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said: This is a critical moment, there's no doubt about it. ...

The risk that the situation on the ground could deteriorate rapidly is rising. My message to British nationals in Lebanon is clear – you should leave while commercial flights are running.

We also need to see an immediate ceasefire, hostages released and aid getting in in sufficient quantity to alleviate the suffering in Gaza.

Defence Secretary John Healey said: De-escalation must be the first focus in the Middle East.

Meeting with senior leaders across the region, including today in Israel, we urged all sides to show restraint and dial down the tension at this critical moment.

Our government is determined to lead a renewed push for peace. The loss of life we have seen in the region is unbearable and thousands remain in the crossfire.

To set this region on the path to peace, all sides must step back from conflict and step-up diplomacy. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-foreign-and-defence-secretaries-push-for-peace-and-stability-in-the-middle-east>

The Government has called for British nationals in Lebanon to leave now as it bolsters its support for British nationals still in the Middle East.

... The UK continues to advise against all travel to Lebanon and advises British nationals still in the country to leave now while commercial options remain available. British nationals in Lebanon are also advised to sign up to [Register Your Presence](#) to receive the latest information and important updates directly from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Officials have been sent to the region - including Lebanon - to provide additional support to embassy staff as part of government's preparatory planning for a range of possible conflict scenarios, and with regional tensions rising. ...

With the potential for exit routes out of Lebanon - including roads - being affected, limited, or closed, due to events escalating with little warning, teams will continue to urge British nationals to leave while commercial options remain available.

Military personnel are also in the process of deploying to the region to provide Embassies with operational support to help British nationals. This is alongside Landing ship RFA Cardigan Bay and HMS Duncan already being in the eastern Mediterranean to support allies with humanitarian requirements, with the Royal Air Force also putting transport helicopters on standby.

Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, said: Tensions are high, and the situation could deteriorate rapidly. While we are working round the clock to strengthen our consular presence in Lebanon, my message to British nationals there is clear – leave now.

A widening of this conflict is in nobody's interest – the consequences could be catastrophic. That's why we continue to call for de-escalation and a diplomatic solution. ... Defence Secretary, John Healey, said: ... As I told leaders in the Middle East this week, de-escalation must be the primary focus in the region, and we are urging all to dial down tensions. There must be an end to the fighting, an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and a diplomatic path to peace and security.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bolsters-support-to-british-nationals-in-lebanon-as-foreign-secretary-says-leave-now>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

David Lammy Speaking with @SecBlinken @amoshochstein, we agreed it is imperative that tensions do not escalate between Israel, Lebanese Hizballah & Iran. A regional war is in no one's interest. In Gaza our priority remains securing an immediate ceasefire, getting aid in & all hostages out.

<https://x.com/DavidLammy/status/1819869797628215672>

David Lammy All parties must show restraint and avoid further regional escalation in the Middle East. I spoke with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister @Israel_katz this morning and was clear on the urgent need for de-escalation. Our focus must be on an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, the protection of civilians and much more aid.

<https://x.com/DavidLammy/status/1819418029471494525>

Anneliese Dodds This week I met with @UKMed to discuss the urgent need to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including the rapidly deteriorating public health situation. We need an immediate ceasefire, all hostages released, unfettered aid and a pathway to a two state solution. [plus photos]

<https://x.com/AnnelieseDodds/status/1819654578784079879>

United Nations

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, on the Situation in the Middle East

In recent days, I have engaged in critical discussions with the relevant parties and member states in the region, including Lebanon, Egypt and Qatar, in support of regional de-escalation.

I underscored the urgency of addressing the growing risk of a serious escalation, which poses a substantial threat to regional stability. We examined the ongoing efforts to mediate and de-escalate the situation and explored ways to prevent a spillover of the conflict.

I reaffirmed the necessity of urgent, coordinated action to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

It is crucial that we act decisively and collectively to address the immediate threats and lay the groundwork for a lasting peace.

I will continue my active engagement with all the relevant parties to support peace and stability in the region."

<https://unsc.unmissions.org/statement-united-nations-special-coordinator-middle-east-peace-process-tor-wennesland-situation>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3741>

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>

TOP

Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes tomorrow**

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>

**** closes in 7 days**

£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>

TOP