



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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The Charity Commission

Public trust in charities at ten-year high, new research shows

The Charity Commission, the regulator of charities in England and Wales, has published fresh research that shows public trust in charities at highest level since 2014.

The research reveals that information about how money is spent by a charity is the single most important factor for most people. This is followed closely by knowing that the charity achieves its purpose, that it makes a difference and that it operates to high ethical standards.

Overall, trust in charities is high and continues to recover. Charities now score 6.5 out of 10 for trust, up from 6.3 in 2023, from a low of 5.5 in 2018 following a series of scandals. 58% of people have “high” trust in charities (7 out of 10 or higher), placing it among the most trusted groups in society, second only after doctors.

In a challenging financial environment, the research illustrates a growing reliance on charities for support, alongside a declining percentage of people donating to charities. 47% of people say they donated money or goods, or raised funds for charity, compared with 62% in 2020. By contrast, there has been an increase in people saying they have received charitable services, such as financial help, food or medical support from a charity – 9%, up from 3% in 2020. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-trust-in-charities-at-ten-year-high-new-research-shows>

Public Trust in Charities 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669f65f90808eaf43b50d48c/Public_Trust_in_Charities_2024_print_version.pdf

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Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Restart of negotiations on Gaza ceasefire: Foreign Secretary's statement

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said: We are at a crucial moment for global stability. The coming hours and days could define the future of the Middle East. That is why today, and every day, we are urging for our partners across the region to choose peace.

As the UK made clear at the UN Security Council this week, the situation in Gaza is devastating. The strike on the al-Tabeen school demonstrated that Palestinians in Gaza have nowhere safe to turn.

These talks are an opportunity to secure an immediate ceasefire that protects civilians in Gaza, secures the release of hostages still cruelly held by Hamas and restores stability at a dangerous moment for the region.

The UK will continue to use every diplomatic lever to bring about a ceasefire. In the last week, I have spoken with partners from across the region on the urgent need to bring this conflict to an end and the Prime Minister has spoken to his US, French and German counterparts, as well as the Iranian and Egyptian Presidents.

It's clear from these conversations that a ceasefire would not only protect civilians in Gaza, but also pave the way for wider de-escalation and bring much-needed stability for the Middle East.

It is in the interests of both Israelis and Palestinians for a deal to be agreed, urgently. I urge all parties to engage in the negotiations in good faith and show the flexibility needed to reach an agreement.

I thank Qatar, Egypt, the US and all international partners for their efforts in co-ordinating this vital moment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-the-restart-of-negotiations-on-gaza-ceasefire>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Special Rapporteur on Torture appalled by allegation of sexual torture by Israeli soldiers and calls for accountability

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Jill Edwards, has condemned the latest allegation of sexual assault by Israeli soldiers against a Palestinian man in their custody. This follows her formal [communication](#) with Israel in May about multiple allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against Palestinians detained since 7 October 2023.

"There are no circumstances in which sexual torture or sexualised inhuman and degrading treatment can be justified," Edwards said.

"All alleged crimes committed within the context of this terrible war must be investigated transparently and impartially, and those responsible held accountable by civilian courts of law."

Thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel since 7 October 2023.

"This alleged sexual torture involving multiple offenders is particularly gruesome. In an official meeting with Israeli authorities, I have been informed that several soldiers suspected of involvement have been identified and are currently under investigation."

Edwards called for this process to take place without interference.

"I am troubled by recent attempts by Israeli citizens – including reportedly one member of parliament – to intervene violently after the arrests of soldiers on these abuse charges," the expert said.

"Criminal proceedings into all allegations must proceed unhindered. No one is above the

law. No one is immune from prosecution for torture.”

The Special Rapporteur said she continues to push for accountability for all allegations of torture and/or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment during this war, including in meetings with both representatives of the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

She reiterated her call for the immediate release of all remaining Israeli hostages who are being held unlawfully by Hamas and other armed groups, as well as the swift release of all Palestinians arbitrarily detained. She welcomed the oversight by the High Court of Justice of Sde Teiman military camp, which has been a site of many serious allegations.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/special-rapporteur-torture-appalled-allegation-sexual-torture-israeli>

UNRWA

A very grim milestone at the world's watch: Philippe Lazzarini

40,000 lives reportedly gone in just over 10 months in #Gaza. And possibly, it's even more. Whatever dispute there is over the numbers, there is no dispute over the immense suffering.

This is a direct result of a collective failure to reach a ceasefire. Far too many of those killed are women & children.

Among those killed are over 200 @UNRWA team members, more than 100 journalists & way too many health workers.

Again & again, we call for:

- A ceasefire
- The release of the hostages
- Humanitarian assistance and protection for civilians in #Gaza.

People are desperate, exhausted & anxious in #Gaza, in #Israel + in many parts of the region.

Hear them out, for once

#CeasefireNOW

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/very-grim-milestone-world%E2%80%99s-watch>

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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>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes today**

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/

**** closes today**

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