



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Other Relevant Information

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Universities: Freedom of Speech

*col 455* **Damian Hinds (Conservative):** To ask the Secretary of State if she will make a statement on freedom of speech in universities.

**The Minister for School Standards (Catherine McKinnell):** ... The Secretary of State wrote to colleagues and made a written statement on 24 July 2024 on her decision to pause further commencement of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 in order to consider options. We have heard concerns from minority groups and others that that Act and its implementation may have unintended consequences and result in disproportionate burdens for universities and student unions. Many are concerned that it could push providers to overlook the safety and wellbeing of minority groups over fears of sanction and costly action. I want to provide the House with reassurance that this Government believe that higher education must be a space for robust discussion that exposes both students and academics to challenging ideas. The decision to pause the Act was made precisely because of the importance of getting this legislation right. The Secretary of State indicated in her written statement that she would confirm her long-term plans for the Act “as soon as possible”. Since then, officials and Ministers have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders on the future of the Act. This includes representatives of higher education providers and academics, including those from the Committee for Academic Freedom, Academics for Academic Freedom and the London Universities’ Council for Academic Freedom. Those officials and Ministers will continue to engage with stakeholders before any final decision is made. ...

**Damian Hinds:** This evening, a Member of this House was due to speak at an event at Cambridge University. That event will not go ahead as planned because of safety concerns. It is absolutely not for us to question operational decision making, but it absolutely is for us to question this Government about legislation and the effects—direct, indirect and chilling—of the decisions they have made since coming to office.

Last year, the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act became law. ... That Act is about protecting free speech on campus, including for visiting speakers, and it is about academic freedom to challenge conventional wisdom and put forward unpopular and controversial opinions. However, in July this year, the new Secretary of State decided—without any parliamentary debate—not to commence that Act. ...

*col 456* Some 600 academics, including seven Nobel prize laureates, have written to the Secretary of State in support of the legislation. ... will she please now do the right thing and commence the legislation that Parliament has passed?

**Catherine McKinnell:** This Government are absolutely committed to freedom of speech. The Secretary of State paused the further implementation of the Act to consider options and ensure we get the legislation right ... The higher education sector, minority groups, and unions representing staff on campus have raised concerns about the Act, believing it to be disproportionate, burdensome and damaging to the welfare of students, and fear that sanctions could result in minority groups' concerns being overlooked. ...

**Graham Stringer (Labour):** Universities and academic freedom are vital to the intellectual and economic health of this country. Free speech was mentioned in our manifesto earlier this year, but there was no mention of this particular decision, which was made 21 days after the Secretary of State took office. ... Can the Minister tell me whether, when she talks about burdensome issues, she means the Chinese Government threatening to withdraw resources from our major universities ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... I can absolutely reassure him that that was not a factor in making this decision. ... It is because we believe in upholding freedom of expression and freedom of speech in our world-class higher education sector that we want to get this legislation right ...

*col 457* **Ian Sollom (Liberal Democrat):** Freedom of speech is fundamentally about the freedom to inquire about and explore ideas, facts and data that are sometimes difficult and sometimes inconvenient, and it was the lack of facts and data ... [The Act] was not based on evidence and it was not proportionate ... However, we should take legitimate concerns seriously, and we should not ignore those that exist within Jewish communities, including in universities. What work is the Minister undertaking to ensure that Jewish staff and students feel safe and welcome in our communities, especially in our universities?

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... The rise in antisemitic abuse on higher education campuses is deeply concerning, and this Government take it extremely seriously. We regularly meet Universities UK to discuss what support universities are offering to Jewish students on campus and how they are tackling antisemitic abuse. We also regularly meet the Union of Jewish Students, the University Jewish Chaplaincy and the Community Security Trust, and we will continue to do so to make sure that we get this right. ...

**John Whittingdale (Conservative):** ... will [the Secretary of State] commit to meeting the delegation of senior Jewish academics led by Professor David Abulafia, who has already written requesting such a meeting?

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... I will certainly pass on his request to the Minister with responsibility for higher education, who leads on this work.

*col 458* **Gavin Williamson (Conservative):** ... The reason that this legislation was brought forward in the first place was that so many academics were fearful of being able to speak in those institutions. They did not believe they had the freedom to express ideas and views, and they were being silenced by other academics. ... It is shocking that an Act of Parliament, passed by this House and given Royal Assent, is just to be cast aside without Members of Parliament first having an opportunity to vote on whether they agree with that. ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... we want to protect freedom of speech and we need to ensure that this legislation, and any legislation, assists in that and does not impede

it. We also recognise and support the existing duty on higher education providers to support and secure lawful freedom of speech ...

**Sean Woodcock (Labour):** In the week that we mark the dark anniversary of 7 October, may I say that I welcome this Government taking these measures to ensure the safety of Jewish students on campus? Does the Minister agree that this shows that this Government truly believe that, regardless of their religion, students should be able to get on with their studies without concern for their safety?

**Catherine McKinnell:** I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend, and I think that the same principle applies through every aspect of education and childhood, and in every aspect of society too. ...

*col 459* **Bob Blackman (Conservative):** Our universities have to be an avenue where individuals can speak and be challenged. ... The sad reality is that Jewish students and Jewish academics feel threatened right now by antisemites—let us call them out for what they are—when they must be free to exercise freedom of speech. Will the Minister, in this consideration, make sure that those rights are upheld in whatever the Government come forward with?

**Catherine McKinnell:** ...I do not disagree with a word he has said. Universities must be a space for robust discussion, and that is why we have paused the roll-out of the Act. He is right that antisemitism and Holocaust denial are abhorrent and there must be no space for them. That is why we have paused the legislation. ...

**Douglas McAllister (Labour):** Previous Conservative Education Ministers are on the record stating that this flawed legislation could allow those spreading hate and extremism to seek compensation under its measures. ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... We are listening to the concerns of minority groups and others that the Act could encourage universities and colleges to overlook the safety and wellbeing of minorities because of a fear of complaints and costly legal action, pushing them towards allowing abhorrent hate speech. ...

*col 460* **Mark Ferguson (Labour):** Student politics is often maligned in this place, and often rightly so. However, in 2006 I attended the conference of the National Union of Students and voted that Hizb ut-Tahrir should be no-platformed. It was the right thing to do. Clearly, the Conservatives agree, because in January this year they proscribed Hizb ut-Tahrir as a terrorist organisation. Does my hon. Friend agree that the Conservatives' position is in fact a charter for Hizb ut-Tahrir, Holocaust deniers and vaccine deniers to wander our universities freely?

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... That is why we are taking the time to ensure that we get this right and uphold lawful freedom of expression and freedom of speech in our higher education system, while not giving space for unlawful speech that goes beyond robust debate.

**Ayoub Khan (Independent):** I recently attended universities in Birmingham and witnessed large protests in relation to the Palestinian issue attended by both people of faith and no faith, including Jewish students. They were protesting peacefully. While we accept that there has been a rise in antisemitism, there has also been a rise in Islamophobic hate at universities. ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... He is absolutely right. ...

*col 461* **Christopher Chope (Conservative):** Is freedom of speech not an absolute freedom and right? Will the Government not do something to bring vice-chancellors to account for their failures to deliver freedom of speech on university campuses? ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... That is why we are talking to people with a whole range of views on the issue to ensure that we get it right.

**Josh Fenton-Glynn (Labour):** Under the Office for Students' draft guidance, some universities have said they will have to revoke their adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism for fear that it might contravene the legislation. ...

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... The Department is absolutely committed to upholding the IHRA definition as well as challenging and educating on issues that a range of hon. Members have raised today. We need to have a robust education system that informs and creates healthy debate on these issues, but it must also be lawful and protect the freedom of speech of those expressing lawful views. ...

**Richard Holden (Conservative):** If the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act had been implemented ... the situation at the University of Cambridge probably would not have occurred, nor would the situation in Durham, in which the university debating society, the Durham Union Society, has been kept out of the students union fair. ...

*col 462* **Catherine McKinnell:** I respectfully disagree. Many concerns were expressed that unintended consequences of the Act would create a disproportionate burden, and that is why we have paused it ... Provisions on freedom of expression still exist in legislation and will be upheld, and we need to make sure that we have the space to have a constructive dialogue on these issues rather than a battleground for ideological clashes. ...

**Jim Shannon (DUP):** Will the Minister outline how the Government will ensure that enshrining freedom of speech means enshrining freedom to believe and to express one's beliefs without fear or favour? How will the Government ensure that students with deeply held faith or who hold true to biological science are entitled to discuss their beliefs on gender, ideology and indeed every facet of student life without fear or favour?

**Catherine McKinnell:** Yes, I give the hon. Gentleman that reassurance. ...

*col 463* **Jerome Mayhew (Conservative):** The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act is not a Government scheme that is being paused, but an Act of Parliament that has received Royal Assent. It is a very serious decision to stop that in its tracks, so it must have been based on serious evidence. Will the Minister set out that evidence? Given the need to defend freedom of speech is now, how long will the process take?

**Catherine McKinnell:** ... We need to have the right foundations in place to secure free speech in the long term in higher education. We will consult all the groups with an interest in ensuring that we get this right. We are listening to those who are concerned about the Act and its implications. We are also listening to those who supported many of the measures in the Act and would like action to be taken to ensure freedom of speech in higher education. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-10/debates/A53213FD-CA70-4F1C-8A26-331CB36D892A/UniversitiesFreedomOfSpeech>

*The statement referred to above by Catherine McKinnell (made on 26 not 24 July 2024) can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-07-26/hcws26>

*The draft guidance referred to above by John Fenton-Glynn can be read at*

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/fsvidljh/regulatory-advice-24-guidance-related-to-freedom-of-speech.pdf>

## House of Commons Written Answer

### Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023

**Claire Coutinho (Conservative) [6573]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the evidential basis is for the statement by her Department's spokesman quoted in the Telegraph of 24 August 2024 that the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 could expose students to harm and appalling hate speech on campuses.

**Janet Daby:** The department has not collected data on individual cases of employment tribunals related to freedom of speech. Cases such as these are rare

and are rightfully seen as a last resort.

The department has heard concerns from many in the sector, including minority groups, that the Act and its implementation may have unintended consequences. Many raised concerns that the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act could push providers to overlook the safety and wellbeing of minority groups over fears of sanction and costly legal action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6573>

The *Telegraph* article referred to above can be read at

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/23/students-hounded-campus-free-speech-law-abandoned/>

## House of Lords Oral Answers

### Freedom of Speech in Universities

**The Minister of State, Department of Education (Baroness Smith of Malvern) read [the Minister for School Standards' answer to a Commons urgent question](#).**

**col 2114 Baroness Barran (Conservative):** ... The failure to commence the legislation that this Parliament passed is resulting, every day, in freedom of speech and academic freedom in our universities being eroded, most recently with an elected MP being unable to speak at a university this evening.

The reasons the Minister repeated relate to the impact on minority groups, so I ask her to confirm that she agrees with those leading lawyers and academics that the new Act does not provide any further protection for those wishing to express hate speech on campus, including Holocaust denial. Can she confirm that it does not change the law in that regard? Will she agree to meet with those Jewish academics who sought a meeting with the Secretary of State and who are calling for full implementation of the Act?

**Baroness Smith of Malvern:** ... I have spoken to some of the legal experts that the noble Baroness cites with respect to hate speech and understand their points. The fact that there is debate about the impact of this piece of legislation is part of the problem that we seek to ameliorate through the options we are considering. What I know is real is the strong concern among minority groups that the reality of the impact of the legislation would be to allow on to campuses people whose views would be reprehensible and would potentially constitute hate speech. That is what has brought the fear about. But this is not, of course, the only reason. There has also been considerable concern from universities themselves and from unions representing university staff about the disproportionate burdens. On the Jewish academics, I have met a lot of people already and I am more than content to meet with that group as well.

**Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I remind the House that the story in today's *Telegraph* about the inability of the Cambridge University Conservative Association to have Suella Braverman visit this evening says that it is on advice of the police, due to another MP's visit to Cambridge, and not that of the university. ...

**col 2115** This is not a new problem. The first lecture I ever gave as a university lecturer, in January 1968, had a large demonstration ... against Vietnam and the then Labour Government. My wife and I, as undergraduates, had taken part in earlier demonstrations about South Africa ...

Does the Minister accept that the urgency of this is rather overstated at present ...

**Baroness Smith of Malvern:** ... I absolutely reiterate that I and the Government believe that there is an issue about freedom of speech and academic freedom on our campuses. It is of fundamental importance, which is why we need to get it right.

**Lord Cashman (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, I welcome the Government's response, and I

say that as a member of a minority and a Member of this House who has expressed concern about the defamation of minorities, which has led to hate crime and hate speech. ...

*col 2116* **Baroness Smith of Malvern:** ... The position of higher education, support for higher education and the embedding of freedom of speech and academic freedom within our universities are serious issues. ...

*col 2117* **Baroness Stedman Scott (Conservative):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that an elected politician was cancelled from speaking at one of our leading universities—supposedly a beacon of free speech? Will she commit to implementing the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act as soon as possible?

**Baroness Smith of Malvern:** As the noble Lord, Lord Wallace, made clear, there might be different views about the causes of the particular event to which the noble Baroness refers. ... I would say that as a student I have been a protestor and as a politician I have been on the receiving end of protests. ... A careful balance needs to be made between the right to protest and the right of freedom of speech, and I think that these things are probably better dealt with in a calm and considered way than in headlines on the front of newspapers.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-10/debates/1388F82F-172B-4957-84A5-6BC0AAE527F1/FreedomOfSpeechInUniversities>

*The Telegraph article referred to by Lord Wallace of Saltire can be read at*

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/10/09/suella-braverman-cambridge-university-postpone-palestine/>

## Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

### **Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner's message for Yom Kippur**

As we come to the end of Rosh Hashanah, I would like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes to our Jewish communities around the country for a meaningful Yom Kippur and renewal in the year ahead.

I know that these High Holy Days, which bring their moments of reflection and celebration, have been particularly pertinent this year in what has been an incredibly challenging time for the Jewish community.

In the midst of the ten days spanning Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we commemorated one year since the horrific October 7th Hamas terror attacks – the darkest day in Jewish history since the Holocaust.

In the 12 months following these attacks, so many people continue to be wracked by pain and anguish: for many, this is from the loss of a loved one and for many more, it is also from the hatred and intolerance they're subjected to for simply existing as a person of Jewish faith.

I would like to take this moment to reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of peace, the safe return of all those still held hostage in Gaza and for a better future for the Middle East. And to our Jewish communities: we stand with you.

I wish you all well over the fast, and that you find strength and hope in each other.

G'mar chatima Tova.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-prime-minister-angela-rayners-message-for-yom-kippur>

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

### Anti-racism in Education Programme

**Humza Yousaf (SNP)** [S6O-03834] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its anti-racism in education programme.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth):** Delivering the work of the anti-racism in education programme is a key commitment in this year's programme for government. We are working with dedicated stakeholders that are key to driving the programme forward. I am pleased that progress continues to be made, including through the recent publication of the new anti-racism action guide, which has been developed to empower employers of teachers to better support their minority ethnic staff. There remains much to do, however, and the Scottish Government will continue to work with stakeholders to drive that important work forward.

**Humza Yousaf:** I thank the cabinet secretary for that comprehensive response. She will be aware that we are now in black history month. Regrettably, Scotland played a leading role in the British empire, which involved the forced transportation of 3.1 million slaves from Africa to British colonies. Some of the wealthiest slave owners were Scottish—as, in fairness, were some of the leading abolitionists at the time. Does the cabinet secretary agree that, if we do not know our history, we are undoubtedly doomed to repeat it? Will she therefore provide an update on the efforts that are being made to ensure that our children are taught Scotland's history in relation to the British empire?

**Jenny Gilruth:** I very much agree with the member's sentiment, particularly given that it is black history month. It is important that our history and our wider social studies curriculum provide a range of opportunities to teach about the British empire, including Scotland's role in it. We are funding professional learning programmes relating to teaching on slavery in Scotland and on immigration and empire. Our anti-racism curriculum principles explicitly address that point through the commitment that our children and young people will "understand and enquire into Scotland's role in historical world events", which is hugely important. That includes transatlantic enslavement and colonial histories and their continuing impact to this day. Education Scotland is working with local councils to support the implementation of anti-racism curriculum principles.

[https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-10-10-2024?meeting=16047&iob=137035#orscontributions\\_M5613E438P774C2621532](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-10-10-2024?meeting=16047&iob=137035#orscontributions_M5613E438P774C2621532)

*The anti-racism action guide referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/increasing-retaining-minority-ethnic-teachers-action-guide-local-authorities/>

TOP

## Holocaust

### House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Business of the House

**Bob Blackman (Conservative):** On 9 July 1944, Lily Ebert arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau with her mother, brother and younger sister, who were all murdered in the gas chambers. Somehow Lily escaped. She dedicated her life to spreading awareness of the horrors of the Holocaust and recounting her story, and hundreds of millions of people around the

world have seen videos of her reciting her story. She died earlier this week. Despite the efforts of the Nazis, she leaves behind 10 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; so the attempts of the Nazis to wipe out her family failed. But we have a problem. Lily dedicated her life to spreading the word about what happened in the Holocaust, and we send condolences to her family. As the Holocaust survivors sadly pass away, it is even more vital that we get the Holocaust memorial and the education centre built alongside this place. The Holocaust Memorial Bill is going through its stages in Parliament. Will the Leader of the House do everything she can to speed up that process, so that before the last Holocaust survivor sadly leaves us, they can witness the monument to making sure that it never happens again?

**Lucy Powell:** I thank the hon. Member for that very important tribute to Lily Ebert. She did indeed dedicate her life to ensuring that the next generations are educated on the true horrors of the Holocaust, so that they never happen again. The hon. Member has spent most of his parliamentary career educating the rest of us on these important matters, and pushing forward the Holocaust memorial centre here in Westminster. He knows that that Bill continues its passage in the Lords. I was very pleased to ensure that it was included in this Government's King's Speech programme and had early passage in the other place. Hopefully, it will receive Royal Assent at the earliest opportunity, should both Houses wish it to.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-10/debates/D8762E0F-CA0D-451A-92A9-CDF242C732C3/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-2AEBF86F-763D-4C9A-AF0F-97A5159A03CE>

## House of Lords Membership Motion

### Holocaust Memorial Bill

**The Senior Deputy Speaker:** That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the Holocaust Memorial Bill ...

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench):** ... A number of Members of your Lordships' House who have a very strong interest in this Bill were permitted to give evidence to a previous Select Committee dealing with it. The lawyers advising the putative Select Committee are seeking to obstruct all those Members from giving evidence to the new Select Committee which is about to be appointed. This is causing consternation and not a little offence. I would be grateful if those setting up this committee would ensure that the lawyers' efforts to reduce the importance of the Select Committee to nothing were overcome.

**The Senior Deputy Speaker:** ...I am sure that what the noble Lord has said will be considered. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-10/debates/62BAE9E0-354C-43DC-9D96-395D9CD29766/HolocaustMemorialBill>

TOP

## Israel

### House of Commons Westminster Hall Debate

#### Gaza and Humanitarian Aid

*col 193WH* **Ayoub Khan (Independent):** ... I begin by paying tribute to the humanitarian



aid workers in Gaza, who continue their lifesaving efforts and face impossible odds. Despite having every reason to lose hope, they remain steadfast in their mission to provide aid, and are the only source of survival and hope for the people of Gaza. Sadly, at least 289 of those brave individuals have been killed. ...

The horrors facing the people of Gaza are overwhelming, reflecting Israel's efforts to strip away their humanity. Since the attack on 7 October, the collective punishment inflicted on Gaza has been shocking. Ninety per cent. of the population has been displaced, being moved from pillar to post, and 96% face acute food insecurity. There have been over 42,000 deaths in the past year, although that number does not include the thousands of bodies still buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings: loved ones who will never be recovered.

This debate is not about the Israelis' military onslaught of Palestinian civilians in Gaza; it is about those being killed not by weapons, but by the lack of basic humanitarian assistance. Israel has weaponised the denial of aid, pushing the remaining Palestinians to the brink of death. The health crisis in Gaza is devastating. Since 7 October, at least 10 children per day have limbs amputated, many without anaesthesia. Over half a million of the population suffer from diseases such as jaundice, caused by malnutrition and the unsanitary conditions they are forced to live in. That is the size of almost half of Birmingham's population.

Hospitals—the very places that could help—are in ruin; 31 of Gaza's 36 hospitals, and most United Nations healthcare stations, have been damaged or completely destroyed by Israeli airstrikes and ground operations. *The Lancet* estimates that the real death toll could be closer to 186,000, and with flood season approaching, the situation is set to get even worse.

It is not a case of shortage of aid, as we all know—we have all seen the thousands of trucks lined up on the border. This is a deliberate act. Israeli authorities are intentionally limiting the supply of vital aid. They have destroyed civilian infrastructure, such as schools, water stations, mosques and churches, and claimed military necessity. But the humanitarian workers on the ground tell a very different story. These are not military targets, yet the bombs keep falling and critical aid facilities are being obliterated.

Before 7 October, Gaza was receiving 508 aid trucks a day—just enough to keep the population afloat. Now the numbers stand at a mere 52 trucks, according to Oxfam aid workers.

**col 194WH Iqbal Mohamed (Independent):** Throughout the past 12 months, the UK Government have failed to highlight or prevent the Israeli Government's denial of international assistance into Gaza and their clear breaches of international humanitarian law. The UK has also failed to highlight the Israeli Government's not complying with International Court of Justice orders, which require them to facilitate the unimpeded access to Gaza of United Nations and other officials engaged in the provision of humanitarian aid. ...

**Ayoub Khan:** ... Experts say that 2,000 trucks are required to address the current crisis, but only 52 are coming in at the moment. Aid convoys are being blocked not only at the checkpoints by Israeli soldiers; we have all witnessed some of the Israeli civilians blocking aid ... While the Israeli Army are competent to disperse thousands of protesters in Tel Aviv within minutes, they choose not to disperse the fewer than 100 protesters blocking life-saving aid. Even once they get through that blockade, they are shot at by IDF forces, either by snipers, drones or other military means. ...

**Rupa Huq (Labour):** ... it is not just aid workers but those in the media, teachers, doctors and medical staff where we are seeing a discrediting and delegitimisation of the UN? ...

**Ayoub Khan:** ... The biggest problem we have is that journalists are not allowed in. ... If the Israeli Government have nothing to hide, we would expect them to be welcoming journalists into the war zone. ...

This is collective punishment on an enormous scale. There are no red lines for Netanyahu's Government. The actions of the IDF over the past 369 days are not those of a moral army as Israel claims, but actions that have crossed every moral and legal boundary. ...

Column 195WH is located here

*col 195WH* **Adnan Hussain (Independent):** ... questions must be raised as to the absurdity of a situation in which we as a country provide both the aid and the weapons to bomb the besieged people of Gaza ...

**Ayoub Khan:** I agree ...

I welcome the Government's reinstatement of UNRWA funding, but we must do more. ... The only option available now is to enforce a ceasefire through the prohibition of all arms sales to Israel. ... how can we send aid with one hand while providing the weapons of destruction with the other? How can we claim to stand for morality and justice when we are complicit in this collective punishment? ...

This regime of mass murder and destruction is fuelled by the west's unconditional support and its granting of full impunity for breaches of international humanitarian law. ...

**Jeremy Corbyn (Independent):** ... Last night, my hon. Friends the Members for Blackburn (Mr Hussain) and for Birmingham Perry Barr and I attended a film showing by Al Jazeera at a cinema near here. The film showed very raw footage of the behaviour of Israeli soldiers in Gaza. It was about the destruction of life and of the appalling death toll of children, in particular, across Gaza. It showed soldiers cheering when they destroyed an entire Palestinian village. It showed pictures—devastatingly realistic in the horror they showed—of the torture of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons.

Afterwards, we had a question and answer session with a number of lawyers, medical people and so on. A doctor said that when she tried to enter Gaza to act as a doctor, she was restricted to one suitcase and told that she had to bring in three days' water supply, have her own personal security and have a car and a driver with her at all times just to undertake her work. ... Many doctors are now not working in Gaza any more because they simply cannot get in; Israel controls all access and exit. ... The film showed the way in which Israel's occupation has been entirely directed towards the destruction of Palestinian life—Palestinian buildings, schools, roads, hospitals and everything else. ...

*col 196WH* I have never forgotten going to Beech primary school in Jabalia refugee camp many years ago ... We could hear the sadness in their voices when they said, "We are never going to be able to go anywhere. We are never going to be able to travel anywhere. We are forever prisoners in this school and our homes," but at least at that time they had homes and a school. ...

Why are we still supplying arms to Israel, knowing full well that those arms, in contravention of ICJ rulings, are actually being used to bomb civilian targets in Gaza?

War crimes are being committed before our very eyes ... It is up to our Government to show that they believe in international law. If they did, they would halt the supply of weapons to Israel, because they know full well that those weapons are being used to destroy human life, in breach of all aspects of international humanitarian law. ...

**Florence Eshalomi (Labour Co-op):** ... A year on from the tragic terrorist attack by Hamas, with an estimated 101 people still being held hostage ... it is estimated that more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed, more than 90,000 injured and up to 1.9 million internally displaced. ...

*col 197WH* I welcomed the Foreign Secretary's announcement, in his first statement to the House, that the UK would lift the pause on funding to UNRWA, and that an additional £21 million would be made available to support that work; but sadly, that money will be too late for the many people who have already died. ...

... vital aid continues to be blocked. There are an estimated 70 trucks going in, compared with the 400 pre this conflict. Moving aid around Gaza is nigh on impossible, with an estimated 30% of that aid being looted because people are just so desperate. Aid workers

are being attacked.

... we all have to acknowledge the concerted attempt to discredit and undermine the work of UNRWA. As the Foreign Secretary stated: "UNRWA is absolutely central to those efforts; no other agency can deliver aid on the scale needed."—[[Official Report, 19 July 2024; Vol. 752, c. 300.](#)]

However, there are three Bills currently in the Knesset aimed at discrediting UNRWA's operation in East Jerusalem, stripping its status as an aid agency and declaring it a terrorist organisation. ...

**Andy Slaughter (Labour):** ... Earlier this week, six Arab ambassadors came to speak to Members in this House, from not only Palestine and Lebanon, the two main protagonists, but Egypt, Saudi, Jordan and Bahrain ... The message they wanted to get across to Members was that long-term peace and security is attainable in the region; it has been for nearly 20 years now under the Arab peace initiative. ...

*col 198WH* However, what we have seen over the past year is the opposite; there has been the ratcheting up of violence. Now that has happened on both sides and nobody present holds a brief for Hamas or Hezbollah, but because of the asymmetric nature of this war, almost all the deaths post the terrible atrocity of 7 October last year have been predominantly among Palestinians ... The question today is: what will the British Government's response be? ...

We saw today another school attacked and nearly 30 people killed there, and there are attacks on UN positions by Israeli forces. ... There is the forcible transfer of the population. There are breaches of international law happening all the time. There is the collective punishment of the Palestinians, particularly in Gaza. There is famine and disease throughout the territory. ...

**John McDonnell (Independent):** I want to raise again the issue of the evacuation of seriously injured children from Gaza. When the Ukraine war started, we very rapidly put in place a mechanism for the evacuation of injured children from Ukraine to hospitals here, to ensure that they had the appropriate treatment. ...

I am not sure what is happening in Government on this. ... this is a matter of urgency.

*col 199WH* We have had further reports this morning of another hospital being attacked, and we have also heard reports of the doctors being threatened that if they did not evacuate they would be arrested. We have even had ambulance workers arrested this morning as well. They are being forced to choose between evacuating children from intensive care, which is risky, or leaving them behind, and as a result some doctors are risking their lives.

We could do exactly as we have done with Ukraine, by simply establishing a system to ensure that those seriously injured children are evacuated. Clinicians are willing to assist here ...

Children are dying ... and we cannot stand to one side.

**Mary Kelly Foy (Labour):** ... In April, I was honoured to meet Father Gabriel Romanelli, the parish priest at the Holy Family church in Gaza, who informed a group of MPs of the tragedies that had befallen his flock ...

It was the week before Christmas, a Christmas that for Palestinians would be observed under rubble, in ruins and in perpetual fear. Rev. Munther Isaac put that into words when he said: "If Jesus was born today, he'd be born under the rubble of Gaza."

We all know that places of worship should be protected under the Geneva conventions. I say "should be" because in this and many other instances, they are not. ...

What happened at the Holy Family church is a microcosm of the war itself: a war where human rights are ignored, where long-standing conventions are breached and where innocent people like Nahida and Samar are killed. Earlier this year, I asked the former deputy Foreign Secretary, the right hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), whether the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office condemned the attack. He

answered: “We are not clear about the full facts of what happened.”—[[Official Report, 8 January 2024; Vol. 743, c. 46.](#)]

*col 200WH* In contrast, Cardinal Vincent, the Archbishop of Westminster, was unambiguous. He said: “They were shot in cold blood inside the premises of the parish, where there are no belligerents.” He also said: “The people in Gaza...are not given to tell lies.” ...

**Shokat Adam (Independent):** ... there are fewer than 16 hospitals standing in Gaza and there is nowhere for children to be treated. More than 50,000 children require treatment who are not even victims of the war; they are suffering from malnutrition and other ailments. Can we, like some of our European partners, look at avenues and mechanisms to bring those children here or treat them somewhere neutral to give them that much-needed support?

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op):** ... The tragedy of Gaza just leaves us speechless. ... We stand by all those on both sides who are experiencing the trauma of loss, through hostage taking and lives lost. ...

It is immoral and it is man-made. ... Of course, we have to end the sale of all arms, and end those export licences. We have to increase our funding to UNRWA ... and we need to apply greater leverage, including sanctions, to ensure that we can get a political outcome.

I have to question what happened on 18 September at the UN General Assembly. We could have used our influence in that forum in a different way—124 countries, including our allies, France, Spain, Norway and New Zealand, had the courage to call for a ceasefire and to put that on record. ... I just cannot comprehend why we did not use our leverage at that critical point to try and stand by the people who are suffering in Gaza right now. ...

*col 201WH* We must not let perfection be the enemy of good. Even if resolutions are not perfect, we know that they can save lives, they can end the carnage and they can build the hope of having food, clean water and aid to heal wounds and bring pain relief. ...

**Apsana Begum (Independent):** ... I urge the Government today to refrain from the insult of the usual euphemistic phrasing of speaking of too many civilians being killed or broad references to the humanitarian situation without condemning the actions that are so clearly responsible.

This is not about some random natural disaster. It is just beyond disturbing that so many cannot express a simple condemnation of the type of war being conducted by the Israeli military—the unprecedented death toll, the violence against women and children, the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, the blocking of aid and the weaponisation of starvation.

It is just not enough to repeat the lines that Israel must uphold international human rights standards in theory, when it is so clear that they have not and are not doing so, and have effectively been given the go-ahead to continue to not do so. Quite frankly, the UK’s continued support and facilitation of this is absolutely shocking ...

No matter the brutality of the censorship at home, the silencing or the spin, the inescapable truth is that civilians in Gaza, including large numbers of children, are facing healthcare shortages and diseases. This is what happens when hospitals are targeted and health and sanitation and other infrastructure is wilfully destroyed. ... Civilians in Gaza, including large numbers of children, are not only starving, but being starved. ... Civilians in Gaza, including large numbers of children, are not simply dying; they are being killed. ...

*col 202WH* The best way we know to ensure that aid is delivered is to secure a ceasefire. It is important that there is an arms embargo, including of F-35 fighter jets, which are being traded to be used against civilians. ... it has been made very clear that UK and US foreign policy interests are being pursued with an utter disregard for Palestinian life. It is chilling, and the complicity will never, ever be forgotten.

**Barry Gardiner (Labour):** As politicians, we talk of the international rules-based system,

by which we mean the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations, but often we do so only when it suits our position. When it does not, we ignore it. That is why it is crucial that we grasp the legal implications of the decision promulgated on 19 July this year by the International Court of Justice. It settled the law in its advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. ... It is the interpretation of our world's highest court of law as it relates to the occupation of Palestine.

The court ruled that the occupied Palestinian territory is to be considered a single territorial unit, which means that the failure to recognise Palestine as a state is now out of step with international law. On 10 September, Palestine took its seat at the 79th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It is not yet a full member, because it has been blocked by the United States, but it has the right to submit proposals and amendments. The Government of the UK still does not recognise the Palestinian state, and I believe that that is now incompatible with international law.

The court ruled that settlements and outposts in the west bank and East Jerusalem were unlawful. It does not matter that Israeli law considers settlements to be lawful; they are not, and they should be evacuated. The court ruled that Israel's exploitation of natural resources in settled land was also unlawful. The court ruled that Israel occupied Gaza. It ruled that it occupied the west bank and East Jerusalem. It ruled that that occupation was unlawful. It ruled that the occupation must be brought to an end.

That also means that, in its actions, Israel must behave not as a warring nation state against another warring state, but as an occupying force, with all the obligations that entails about its conduct, including ensuring that aid can get through to all who need it. Israel ought to cease its unlawful activities, halt all new settlement activity and provide full reparation for the damage caused by its wrongful acts, which includes returning land, property and assets seized since the occupation began in 1967 and allowing displaced Palestinians to return to their original places of residence.

*col 203WH* The court made it clear that other states also have obligations. It emphasised that all states are required not to recognise the illegal situation created by Israel's actions in the occupied territories. That means that they should not engage in trade, investment or diplomatic relations that would entrench Israel's unlawful presence. ... That is the law. It is clear. It has been authoritatively stated by the court. ...

In the UK we are very fond of saying that we respect the international court and the international rules-based order. My challenge to the Minister is this: show it.

**Adnan Hussain:** I repeat again the absurdity of the situation whereby we give aid with one hand to the besieged population of Gaza and provide weapons with the other, which has created the catastrophic circumstances that have taken the lives of over 40,000. ... Will the Minister assure us, especially in the light of further news today of a school housing displaced civilians in Gaza being bombed? Just weeks ago, a humanitarian safe zone, al-Mawasi, a camp identified by Israel itself, was bombed, with families dissipated in seconds. I therefore ask the Minister once again whether the Government's position on arms sales to Israel will be revisited. Can he also answer whether, given the abundance of evidence already available, arms sales to a country plausibly accused of committing genocide can be morally or legally justified?

**Andy McDonald (Labour):** ... On 2 September, the Government revoked licences for all items used in the current conflict in Gaza that go to the Israel Defence Forces. It did so because there exists a clear risk that they might be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law. ...

*col 203WH* The revocation includes licences for F-35 fighter jet components where they go directly to Israel. They are revoked, but those in the supply chain in the global pool are not. Clearly, the components can still be used to facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law and to frustrate humanitarian aid. So I ask my Government to make it their policy to seek to negotiate an end-use agreement with F-35 programme supply chain and electronic stockpile management system counterparts, to end the re-

export of F-35s to Israel.

The Dutch Government have suspended direct sales but continue to supply the global pool, but surely a discussion must be had with partner nations on managing the programme so that the global pool of spare parts is not used to repair Israeli F-35 jets. ...

**Melanie Ward (Labour):** ... there are alarming reports in the Israeli media that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is considering a proposal from Smotrich and Ben Gvir, the far-right members of his Cabinet, which would effectively prevent aid agencies, including the UN, from operating or distributing aid in Gaza. Instead, it would hand all such responsibility to the Israeli military, reportedly including the running of field hospitals. ...

In January this year, the International Court of Justice ordered “immediate and effective” measures to protect Palestinians in Gaza from the risk of genocide by ensuring sufficient humanitarian assistance and enabling access to basic services. Despite that, the number of aid trucks that entered Gaza last month was the lowest we have seen since the start of the year. This is not an accident; the aid is deliberately obstructed by the Israeli Government. ...

When I left Gaza, I also visited warehouses full of aid items rejected by the Israeli authorities. I checked the list this morning, preparing for this debate. It included: wooden and metal crutches, wheelchairs, green sleeping bags, commodes, solar lamps, first-aid kits, an anaesthesia machine, generators, a bag of UNICEF footballs, bleach, and pots and pans. I could go on. The idea that a Government and military who do this should be allowed to take operational control of a humanitarian aid effort is unconscionable. ...

*col 205WH* Months ago, civilians there were eating grass and animal feed to try to survive, and it is so much worse now. I want to raise alarm at the Israeli military’s most recent forced displacement orders for civilians in the north of Gaza being told to move south. ... This morning I saw footage of intubated children and babies in incubators in the paediatric intensive care unit at Kamal Adwan hospital; they cannot evacuate, and even if they could, there is nowhere safe to go. ...

**Tony Vaughan (Labour):** ... Making sure that enough aid enters and is properly distributed to the people in Gaza is a moral imperative. It is also a legal imperative. In January, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to take measures to prevent genocide, in order to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches Palestinians, but that order is not yet being complied with. ... aid is still being blocked. It is of particular concern that the Israeli military are forcing hospitals—which are full of displaced civilians, medical staff and sick patients, all of whom are protected under international law—to shut down. ...

*col 206WH* **Steve Witherden (Labour):** ... This past year has been marked by indiscriminate loss, with lives tragically taken on 7 October last year and in the ongoing horrors that we have witnessed unfolding since then. ...

The impact on women and children has been particularly severe, with Oxfam reporting last week that more women and children have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli military in the past year than have been killed in any other conflict in the last two decades. ...

Yesterday marked a year since Israel’s Minister of Defence declared a “complete siege” on Gaza, stating that there would be: “No electricity, no food, no water, no gas—it’s all closed.”

The humanitarian crisis that has followed has been beyond comprehension. Approximately 83% of required food aid is blocked from entering Gaza, while the risk of famine becomes more imminent. Over 70% of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, has been destroyed, with more than 500 recorded attacks on medical facilities and hundreds of healthcare workers having been killed. Last month, the United Nations reported that the number of aid workers killed in Gaza in the past year is the highest ever recorded in a single crisis....

We have restored funding to UNRWA and engaged with the United Nations Security Council to ensure that there is a global focus on protecting civilians in Gaza. However,

given the scale of the crisis, our Government should be doing everything in their power to secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire. ...

The decision in September to suspend about 30 UK arms export licences to Israel from a total of approximately 350 marked a crucial step towards achieving a ceasefire for all Palestinians and Israelis. However, by excluding export licences for F-35 fighter jet parts from that announcement, the UK risks complicity in Israel's potential violations of international law. ...

**col 207WH Tahir Ali (Labour):** ... The people of Gaza are being let down by the international community. ...

Palestinian children are suffering the most from the catastrophic restrictions imposed on them. Over 2 million people—more than 90% of the population of Gaza—are living in tents after being forced from their homes by the Israeli Government's actions. This will prove to be a deadly winter, with the danger of hypothermia. Israel's ongoing attack is punishing the Palestinian people by denying them the human right to adequate housing. ...

Israel must be held accountable for the war crimes it is committing, and this Government must now stop all arms sales to Israel. The international community needs to work together and look for viable ways to get vital aid into Gaza.

Finally, we need to push for a full, permanent ceasefire to stop this humanitarian disaster, and give international organisations proper access to Gaza. ...

**Chris Murray (Labour):** ... Before being elected, I worked at Save the Children, and I have worked on migration policy for the past 15 years. I am profoundly worried by the high levels of displacement we are seeing in the middle east. One million people have been displaced in Lebanon. Within Gaza, it is estimated that nine in 10 people have been displaced at some point. ...

**col 208WH** We should be terrified of escalation and miscalculation. That is the biggest threat to the humanitarian situation ... We must be clear: "escalate to de-escalate" is a falsehood, it is misguided and it will strategically misfire for all. ...

**Laurence Turner (Labour):** ... Earlier this week, the House marked the one-year anniversary of the 7 October atrocities. On that day and the days that followed, Hamas and other groups intended to ignite a wider war, and the death and destruction that would follow in its wake. Today, when over 2 million people have been displaced, over 40,000 Palestinians are dead and the threat of wider war looms all too closely, we must redouble our efforts in pursuit of an immediate ceasefire, the return of hostages and real progress—after these long years—towards a two-state solution that upholds the dignity of the Palestinian people and the security and territorial integrity of both nations.

Six months ago, the Israeli Defence Minister said: "We plan to flood Gaza with aid and we are expecting to reach 500 trucks per day."

However, since then the World Health Organisation has warned that lifesaving hospital aid has been cut off, and the UN has warned that starvation has spread throughout Gaza. There were just 52 aid trucks each day in September—a bare tenth of the pre-October rates and far short of the total needed to relieve the extreme distress.

... what representations and protests the UK Government have made to the Israeli Government on the entry of food and aid into Gaza. Secondly, what steps are the Government taking to work with aid agencies and civil society to offer protection to aid workers, including British aid workers, who face unacceptable risk? ...

**col 209WH Blair McDougall (Labour):** I began this week by speaking to commemorate the hostages who were taken on 7 October. I see no contradiction in ending it by recognising the horror of the humanitarian situation within Gaza. It is important to put it on the record that people in Gaza do not choose to be ruled by Hamas. A poll published last month showed that two thirds of people in Gaza support a two-state solution, not the destruction of Israel, and only 6% support Hamas.

... winter is coming. It is about to get colder and wetter, and the lower immunity that people

have due to malnutrition—particularly children—means an increased risk of respiratory diseases, diarrhoea and other common diseases. Along with others, I ask the Minister what more he can do to ensure that more shelter and more hygiene kits are allowed through to reach those who need it.

Secondly, looking beyond the ceasefire that we all want, I want to talk about the long tail of insecurity within Gaza. Dozens of bakeries have been destroyed and about two thirds of agricultural land has been damaged in some way. Fields, greenhouses, polytunnels and irrigation systems have been damaged. The plan for the day after has to start now. What plans do the Government have to ensure that horticulture, livestock farming and fishing are restored and the bakeries and markets rebuilt? Otherwise, this will be not a short-term emergency but a long-term problem.

Finally, after the 2014 Gaza war generous pledges were made by international donors for reconstruction. In some cases, the funds pledged simply did not come through. In many cases, attempts to reconstruct were blocked by the Israeli Government. There were other cases. For example, Fatah accused Hamas of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars of reconstruction aid. In 2014, about 150,000 properties were damaged in some way. This war has far outstripped that. What can the Minister do, working with international partners, to ensure that the failures after the last 2014 war in Gaza are not repeated?

**Brian Mathew (Liberal Democrat):** I speak as someone who knew Gaza in the happy times when, as a young university researcher, I went with my Israeli friends from Kibbutz Re'im to meet their Arab friends in Gaza City to drink coffee and trade. ...

War is a horrible thing, and it makes people behave badly, especially when they feel—and, indeed, have been—hurt as the Israelis have been by the events of 7 October last year. There are things that can be done, which we have heard today, including the release of the hostages and the end of the war, but there are also things that must be done in the future to see Palestine's future assured, such as the closure of the illegal settlements in the west bank and the rebuilding of Gaza itself. For that to happen, trust needs to be built, and for that to be built, our Government need to be talking to not just the leadership but the opposition in Israel. ...

*col 210WH* **Monica Harding (Liberal Democrat):** ... We now face a second humanitarian crisis in the region in Lebanon, where hundreds of thousands are already displaced in addition to the many Syrian refugees already living in Lebanon. We cannot afford for Lebanon to become a failed state. ...

Amidst the tensions in the region, we cannot and must not forget Gaza. ...

There is clearly a dire humanitarian need in the strip. Amidst an escalation of the conflict in the region, the flow of essential goods into Gaza has been critically restricted, causing a drop in aid supplies and a critical shortage of commercial goods. Aid entering Gaza has plummeted to its lowest level in months. If the flow of assistance does not resume, more than 1 million vulnerable people will lose the assistance they rely on in October. Three quarters of Gaza's population rely on food aid to survive. ...

First, we call on the UK Government to increase humanitarian support to Gaza. ... There are also specific problems with getting aid into Gaza. Not enough humanitarian aid is getting into the strip, and the Rafah crossing is shut. ...

*col 211WH* Secondly, we know that there are particular problems with the distribution of aid in Gaza, with no deconfliction system in place. We have heard about how aid entering into one part of the strip does not get to its intended destination, because human need is so great along the way. ...

Thirdly, we are now moving into the winter months, and as the temperatures drop they pose particular challenges to the humanitarian situation in the strip. ...

Fourthly, the Liberal Democrats welcome the Government's decision to once again provide UK ODA to UNRWA. Will the Minister update us on what conversations he has had with counterparts in UNRWA, including on the implementation of the Colonna report? It is vital that these recommendations are implemented as soon as possible, thereby ensuring that



all work to support Palestinians in Gaza is of the highest possible standards and integrity. ...

**Harriett Baldwin (Conservative):** ... This week of all weeks, however, we must remind ourselves that on 7 October Israel suffered an appalling attack—a modern-day pogrom. It was the worst loss of Jewish life since the second world war, a horrific display of antisemitism and a brutal reminder of the existential threats that Israel must contend with. We must always state that Israel has the right to defend itself in accordance with international humanitarian law.

As we have heard, so many innocent civilians are suffering not only in Israel, but in Gaza and now Lebanon. This conflict must come to a sustainable end as quickly as possible, starting with the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages captive in Gaza, including the British citizen Emily Damari. ...

*col 212WH* The previous UK Government trebled our aid commitment in the last financial year and facilitated aid flows into Gaza by land, sea and air. ... Can the Minister confirm that these efforts continue under the new Government?

During the previous Government, Israel committed to increasing the amount of aid getting into Gaza, including by allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid through Ashdod and Erez, extending the opening hours of Kerem Shalom, increasing the total number of aid trucks to at least 500 a day, and allowing more types of aid, including fuel for bakeries and hospitals. We welcome the recent pause for polio vaccinations and wish to put on record our gratitude to the World Health Organisation, the British Red Cross, the World Food Programme and UNICEF staff, who are doing vital humanitarian work and should be commended. ...

Protecting humanitarian actors must be a priority, and guaranteed deconfliction for aid convoys and other humanitarian work is essential. ...

*col 213WH* **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Hamish Falconer):** ... As many have said, this week marked one year since Hamas's brutal attack against Israel. It was the worst attack in its history and without doubt the darkest day in Jewish history since the Holocaust. As many have said in this Chamber, my thoughts are with Jewish people around the world and the Jewish community here in the United Kingdom. More than 1,000 people were massacred, hundreds were taken hostage and many are still cruelly detained today, including Emily Damari. I reiterate our commitment to bringing those hostages home; we will not give up until they are, and work is ongoing on that.

However, as has been the subject of most of the interventions, we also look back on a year of devastating conflict and suffering. ...

A year on, close to 42,000 people have now been killed in Gaza, with over half of all bodies identified being women and children. We believe that more than 90% of the population has been displaced, many of them repeatedly. There is now simply no safe place to go. The humanitarian zone covers less than 15% of the Gaza strip, and as has been mentioned, not even that is always safe. ...

Reference has also been made to the severe lack of food which, according to the IPC, means that the whole population is at risk of starvation ... Sixty-six per cent of buildings, including hospitals—as many have mentioned—are damaged or destroyed. Parents cannot feed their children. Children cannot go to school. Families cannot support each other. ... There have been repeated attacks on convoys, evacuation orders have undermined operations and the level is far below Israel's commitment to flood Gaza with aid.

**Andy McDonald:** ...In the past hour or so, the UN has stated on its website: "Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fired on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon early Thursday morning." Two peacekeepers were injured, which is yet further evidence that Israel behaves with complete contempt and disregard for international law and norms. ...

**Hamish Falconer:** They have only just come in, but we are very concerned about reports of attacks on staff of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. ...

*col 214WH* The situation in Gaza is a catastrophe on all counts. ... We are deeply concerned that winter is coming in and the shortage of aid into Gaza means that most of the civilian population is unprepared for the drop in temperature. ...

We are clear that we need a ceasefire; we need a ceasefire in Gaza and we need a ceasefire in Lebanon. ...

We are repeatedly urging our Israeli counterparts ... We are asking them to take three key steps. The first is to take all necessary precautions to avoid civilian casualties, and we have heard many lurid examples of where that has not been the case. The second is to ensure that aid can flow freely into Gaza through all land routes, and many contributors have described how that is not currently the case. The third is to allow the UN and its humanitarian partners to operate safely and effectively. ...

... those points are being made to partners with force, with emphasis and with consistency. ...

*col 215WH* On my first day as a Minister, we lifted the funding pause on UNRWA. We provided £21 million to support its humanitarian appeal in Gaza. No other agency can deliver aid to Gaza on the scale that is needed. We must support UNRWA to do its job effectively. Of course, in delivering, we expect it to meet the highest standards of neutrality, as laid out in Catherine Colonna's independent review ... Of our funding to UNRWA this year, £1 million has gone to support the implementation of its agreed action plan. However, I take note of the reference to some of the discussions in the Israeli Knesset. I want to emphasise the importance that the UK places on UNRWA, on its continued function and its unique role in the area, as well as our full support for the UN Secretary-General.

**John McDonnell:** ... can [the Minister] give me some assurance that he will take back to his colleagues the issue about the evacuation of children? ...

**Hamish Falconer:** ... as an official in 2014, I was working with the mass atrocity prevention hub ... to try to identify children at that time and in that stage of the war. It is incredibly depressing to be in this Chamber 10 years on talking about injured children in Gaza again. At that time, I was tasked with trying to find children who could benefit from UK medical assistance, and I was honestly not able to find children who would not be better served in the region. Having discussed the matter with officials ... we primarily share the view expressed in WHO guidance that children should be treated in the region as much as possible. That will mean in most cases that being treated in Egypt or somewhere nearby is going to be more appropriate than being treated in the UK. However, I will go back to the Department and secure a fuller answer. ...

*col 216WH* **Apsana Begum:** It is absolutely clear that aid and aid workers are being hindered and blocked by Israel. At the same time, the UK considers Israel to be one of its closest allies. How does that make sense in terms of how the UK represents itself at the UN and on the world platform? ...

**Hamish Falconer:** ... I have been clear ... about our frustration that we have not been able to make more progress on the things that we have been calling for. I want to reassure colleagues across the House that the whole ministerial team is working hard day and night on these issues. ...

From the Prime Minister down, we will continue to call on all parties to act in accordance with international humanitarian law. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-10/debates/56D9B82F-DCF3-4B7E-95D7-4B294B5825B2/GazaAndHumanitarianAid>

*The Lancet report referred to above by Ayoub Khan, can be read at*

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)

The International Court of Justice Orders referred to above by Iqbal Mohamed and other MPs can be read at

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

and

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

and

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster's comments referred to above by Mary Kelly Foy can be heard at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBMJdPofS\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBMJdPofS_4)

The UK Explanation of Vote at the UN on 18 September 2024, referred to above by Rachael Maskell, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uks-explanation-of-vote-on-the-un-general-assembly-resolution-on-the-icjs-advisory-opinion-on-israels-presence-in-the-occupied-palestinian-terr>

The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion referred to above by Barry Gardiner can be read at

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

The Colonna Report, referred to above by Monica Harding and Hamish Falconer, 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)

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Gaza: Chevening Scholarships Programme

**Sarah Green (Liberal Democrat)** [6654] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of increasing the number of Chevening scholarships available for students from Gaza.

**Hamish Falconer:** The Chevening programme is currently open for applications and closes on 5 November. Given the difficulty potential applicants from Gaza face and evolving situation on the ground, the FCDO will review exact numbers from Gaza for the 2025/26 academic year in spring 2025 once all applications have been received. The 2024/25 cohort includes 11 Palestinians, of which one is from Gaza. The FCDO recognises the challenging situation facing many Palestinian applicants, and as such, we have offered to defer arrival for specific cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6654>

### Palestinians: Overseas Students

**Sarah Green (Liberal Democrat)** [6655] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of increasing funding for the British Council's Higher Education Scholarships for Palestinians scheme.

**Hamish Falconer:** The Higher Education Scholarships for Palestinians (HESPAL) programme is delivered by the British Council, with funding and support from the Department for Education, UK universities and a range of other UK and international funders. The decision to increase funding lies with these organisations. The HESPAL programme demonstrates UK commitment to education for young Palestinians, helping to create the next generation of senior academics who can maintain international quality standards at Palestinian universities and develop renewed and sustainable links between Palestinian and

UK universities. More information can be found here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.ps/en/study-uk/scholarships/hespal>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6655>

### **Visas: Gaza**

**Sarah Green (Liberal Democrat)** [6657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a sponsorship visa scheme for people in Gaza.

**Seema Malhotra:** The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events in Gaza. 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/2024-10-04/6657>

### **Visas: Lebanon**

**Carla Denyer (Green)** [7627] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to (a) create a Lebanese family scheme visa to enable immediate family members of British nationals to come to the UK and (b) waive (i) family visa income thresholds, (ii) English Language requirements and (iii) fees for such applications.

**Seema Malhotra:** We are monitoring the situation in Lebanon closely and keeping all existing visa pathways under review.

Lebanese nationals who wish to come to the UK should 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.

Those who cannot meet all the eligibility requirements may still be granted permission where there are exceptional circumstances which mean refusal would result in unjustifiably harsh consequences for the applicant or their family.

More information on all routes available for a person to apply to work, study or settle/join family in the UK can be found here: [Visas and immigration](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-07/7627>

### **Export Controls: Israel**

**Siân Berry (Green)** [7273] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether L3Harris held any of the export licences to Israel suspended on 2 September 2024

**Douglas Alexander:** L3Harris did not hold any of the Standard Individual Export Licence or Open Individual Export Licences that were suspended on 2 September 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7273>

### **F-35 Aircraft: Export Controls**

**Siân Berry (Green)** [7274] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether

L3Harris has used the provision under Section 4. part (2) of the open general export licence for exports for the Joint Strike Fighter F-35 Lightning II to export equipment where the end-user is Israel since 2 September 2024.

**Douglas Alexander:** Usage against Open General Export Licences (OGEL) is only recorded and held on an annual basis, and therefore it is not possible to report on the number of times an OGEL has been used from part way through the year.

The Export Control Joint Unit's searchable database allows bespoke searches of published data to be conducted. This includes open licence usage broken down by specified year(s), separated by country; licence type; end user type and usage count. This database can be accessed at

<https://www.exportcontrol.trade.gov.uk/sdb2/fox/sdb/>

Please note that we do not publish open licence usage of specific companies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7274>

### **F-35 Aircraft: Export Controls**

**Siân Berry (Green)** [7275] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether his Department has had discussions with (a) L3Harris on and (b) other UK-based companies using the open general export licence for exports for the Joint Strike Fighter F-35 Lightning II since 5 July 2024.

**Douglas Alexander:** The Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) has regular discussions with UK exporters on Open General Export Licences (OGELs) including the OGEL: exports in support of Joint Strike Fighter: F-35 Lightning II.

Exporters registered to OGELs have specific reporting obligations. More information on how ECJU works with exporters on OGELs can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/open-general-export-licences-ogels>.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7275>

## **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

### **Diplomacy is the way to achieve peace and security for Lebanon and Israel: UK statement at the UN Security Council**

The situation in Lebanon is worsening by the day. Civilian casualties are mounting, and more than a quarter of the Lebanese population has been displaced.

The humanitarian implications of the conflict are devastating and compounding an existing crisis in Lebanon, particularly for vulnerable groups who are unable to move or face considerable challenges in doing so. Israel must do everything possible to minimise civilian casualties.

And Syrian refugees in Lebanon, already displaced from their homes, now face the choice of staying in the face of this conflict, or facing persecution from Assad's regime if they return. For a year, Hizballah have been launching missiles at northern Israel, forcing more than 60,000 Israelis to flee their homes.

They must take their responsibility for ending this cycle of violence rather than recklessly endangering the lives of Israelis and Lebanese alike.

All parties must do everything possible to protect civilians and fully comply with international humanitarian law. The UK is committed to supporting the people of Lebanon and we have announced an additional \$19.5m aid package of to meet their immediate humanitarian needs.

We are gravely concerned to hear that two UN peacekeepers have been injured by Israeli troops and we wish them a speedy recovery. We reiterate that attacks on UN Peacekeepers are unacceptable. All parties must take all necessary measures to protect UNIFIL personnel and premises and allow it to fulfil its mandate.

President, we must not lose sight of the destabilising role of Iran across the Middle East

through their support to militias, including Hizballah, Hamas and the Houthis. Iran must immediately halt its attacks on Israel and its support for its militias to prevent an already tragic humanitarian situation deteriorating further.

A political solution consistent with Resolution 1701 is the only way to restore the sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability of Lebanon. This requires an immediate ceasefire between Lebanese Hizballah and Israel now, and immediate negotiations to re-establish security and stability for the people living on either side of the Israeli-Lebanon border.

My Foreign Secretary has repeatedly and consistently called for an immediate ceasefire and I repeat that call today.

Diplomacy, not violence, is the way to achieve peace, stability and security for Israel or Lebanon. Diplomacy, not violence, will bring wider regional stability.

The risks of continued escalation and spill over into the wider region cannot be overstated. The UK will continue to strive tirelessly for a diplomatic solution to end this cycle of violence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/diplomacy-is-the-way-to-achieve-peace-and-security-for-lebanon-and-israel-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council>

## United Nations

### **Middle East Facing Dangerous Rise in Violence as Israeli Forces Fire on Peacekeepers in Lebanon, UN Political Affairs and Peace Operations Chiefs Warn Security Council**

Briefing the Security Council on the heels of the firing of Israeli forces on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon earlier in the day, senior UN officials warned of a dangerous uptick in violence in the Middle East, as delegates echoed their calls for a ceasefire, de-escalation and diplomacy.

“The conflict in Lebanon, coupled with intensified strikes in Syria and the raging violence in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, points to a region dangerously teetering on the brink of an all-out war,” **Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs**, warned ...

Recent developments on the ground, starting with a dramatic intensification of exchanges of fire between Hizbullah and the Israel Defense Forces, followed by the commencement of Israeli ground operations into Lebanon on 1 October, has created a “humanitarian emergency”, she said, pointing to the “spiralling” number of dead and wounded. ...

“Our collective inability to stop the violence and stem the bloodshed is damning,” she said, outlining alarming developments, including a health sector under immense pressure, due to airstrikes hitting facilities and personnel, and a quarter of Lebanese territory now under so-called evacuation orders by the Israel Defense Forces, who often gave inhabitants less than two hours’ notice to vacate their homes. ...

Against that backdrop, she called on Hizbullah to stop firing rockets and missiles into Israel and urged Israel to stop its bombardment of Lebanon and to withdraw its ground forces. ...

“The safety and security of peacekeepers is now increasingly in jeopardy,” said **Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations**, noting that Israel’s ground operations and intense air bombardment across the country had left much of southern Lebanon — United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon’s (UNIFIL) area of operations — now uninhabited and increasingly uninhabitable. Hizbullah continues to fire across the Blue Line and is now threatening major population centres in Israel with increasingly high-calibre weapons, he said, pointing to the presence of unauthorized armed personnel, assets and weapons south of the Litani River, in grave violation of Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Meanwhile, since the launch of the Israel Defense Forces’ Operation Northern Arrows on

23 September, UNIFIL has, as of 8 October, detected 5,451 trajectories from south to north of the Blue Line and 610 air attacks by the Forces, he went on. ...

In the ensuing debate, Middle Eastern States condemned the situation, with **Lebanon's representative** pointing out that Israel's attempt to invade his country violated the UN Charter and Council resolution 1701 (2006). ... Israel's "killing, destruction and displacement machine" continues its ground invasion, leading to an "indescribable" humanitarian tragedy. ...

Pointing to the targeting of a main supply line of the Litani River and Baalbeck, among other sites, he said, "We wonder: what is the military benefit of targeting a vital border crossing, a water station and a historic archaeological site? What is the goal of targeting journalists, relief workers, and medical personnel? Is this the precise surgical military operation they have been talking about?" ...

Similarly, **Iran's delegate**, voicing solidarity for the Lebanese people, who are enduring "endless acts of aggression of the most notorious terrorist regime in the world", condemned the continued complicity of the United States, the United Kingdom and other Western States in enabling Israel's war crimes and genocidal war against the people of Palestine and Lebanon through the provision of advanced weaponry. Israel assassinated Hizbullah's Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah to sabotage any chance of a ceasefire, he said, adding that the "heinous act" proved that Israel's "real objective is only to provoke a full-scale war across the region". ...

Countering those statements, **Israel's delegate** said, "This conflict began with the decision made by Hassan Nasrallah to tie his fate, and Hizbullah's, with Hamas, knowing it would bring suffering on Lebanon and Israel." Recalling that he had, on 20 September, urged the Council to act before it was too late, said, "Your silence has forced our hand." ...

Asserting that Hizbullah had "established a terrorist state in a failed State", he told the Lebanese representative that he should sit next to him, and not the Iranian delegate, adding: "Israel, Lebanon and the free world are on the same side, against the Islamic regime of Iran." Lebanon must banish Hizbullah's destructive influence from its borders, he said, noting the Israeli forces discovery of a Hizbullah tunnel intruding into Israeli territory, containing maps of kibbutzim and terror devices. Israel will continue its operation to degrade Hizbullah's capabilities and diminish its terror network in southern Lebanon, he said, calling on the Council to support his country. ...

For his part, **China's representative** called on Israel "to set aside the obsession with the use of force, make the right political decision, stop violating Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and end its adventurous behaviour that could drag the region into a new catastrophe". ...

"Israel is choosing escalation over diplomacy," underscored **the Russian Federation's representative**, detailing Israeli Defence Forces' attacks despite calls for a ceasefire. ...

Rebutting that, **the United States' speaker** said Iran must be condemned for undermining Lebanon's sovereignty, and Hizbullah for attacking Israel and for putting its narrow interests ahead of the interests of Lebanon's people. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15850.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))

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **UN Commission finds war crimes and crimes against humanity in Israeli attacks on Gaza health facilities and treatment of detainees, hostages**

Israel has perpetrated a concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system as part of a broader assault on Gaza, committing war crimes and the crime against humanity of

extermination with relentless and deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in a new report today.

The Commission also investigated the treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israel and of Israeli and foreign hostages in Gaza since 7 October 2023, and concluded that Israel and Palestinian armed groups are responsible for torture and sexual and gender-based violence.

“Israel must immediately stop its unprecedented wanton destruction of healthcare facilities in Gaza,” said Navi Pillay, Chair of the Commission. “By targeting healthcare facilities, Israel is targeting the right to health itself with significant long-term detrimental effects on the civilian population. Children in particular have borne the brunt of these attacks, suffering both directly and indirectly from the collapse of the health system.”

The report found that Israeli security forces have deliberately killed, detained and tortured medical personnel and targeted medical vehicles while tightening their siege on Gaza and restricting permits to leave the territory for medical treatment. These actions constitute the war crimes of wilful killing and mistreatment and of the destruction of protected civilian property and the crime against humanity of extermination.

Attacks on medical facilities in Gaza, particularly those devoted to paediatric and neonatal care, have led to incalculable suffering of child patients, including newborns, the report said. In continuing these attacks, Israel has violated children’s right to life, denied children access to basic healthcare, and deliberately inflicted conditions of life resulting in the destruction of generations of Palestinian children and, potentially, the Palestinian people as a group.

In one of the most egregious cases, the Commission investigated the killing of five-year-old Hind Rajab, along with her extended family, and the shelling of a Palestinian Red Crescent Society ambulance and killing of two paramedics sent to rescue her. The Commission determined on reasonable grounds that the Israeli Army’s 162nd Division operated in the area and is responsible for killing the family of seven, shelling the ambulance and killing the two paramedics inside. This constitutes the war crimes of wilful killing and an attack against civilian objects.

The deliberate destruction of health infrastructure providing sexual and reproductive healthcare, combined with the lack of access and availability to healthcare, is also a violation of women’s and girls’ reproductive rights and their right to life, health, human dignity and non-discrimination, as well as the crime against humanity of other inhumane acts.

Regarding the detention of Palestinians in Israeli military camps and detention facilities, the report found that thousands of child and adult detainees, many of whom were arbitrarily detained, have been subjected to widespread and systematic abuse, physical and psychological violence, and sexual and gender-based violence amounting to the war crime and crime against humanity of torture and the war crime of rape and other forms of sexual violence. Male detainees were subjected to rape, as well as attacks on their sexual and reproductive organs and forced to perform humiliating and strenuous acts while naked or stripped as a form of punishment or intimidation to extract information. The deaths of detainees as a result of abuse or neglect amount to the war crimes of wilful killing or murder and violations of the right to life.

Child detainees released by Israeli authorities have returned to Gaza severely traumatized, unaccompanied, with limited ability to locate or communicate with their families.

The report found that the institutionalized mistreatment of Palestinian detainees, a longstanding characteristic of the occupation, took place under direct orders from the Israeli Minister in charge of the prison system, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and was fuelled by Israeli government statements inciting violence and retribution.

“The appalling acts of abuse committed against Palestinian detainees require accountability and reparations for the victims,” said Pillay. “The lack of accountability for



actions ordered by senior Israeli authorities and carried out by individual members of Israeli security forces and the increasing acceptance of violence against Palestinians have allowed such conduct to continue uninterrupted, becoming systematic and institutionalized.”

Regarding the Israeli and foreign hostages held in Gaza by Palestinian armed groups, the report found that many were mistreated to inflict physical pain and severe mental suffering, including physical violence, abuse, sexual violence, forced isolation, limited access to hygiene facilities, water and food, threats and humiliation. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups forced hostages to participate in videos with the intent of inflicting psychological torture on the families of hostages, to achieve political aims. Several hostages were killed in captivity. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed the war crimes of torture, inhuman or cruel treatment, and the crimes against humanity of enforced disappearance and other inhumane acts causing great suffering or serious injury. “Palestinian armed groups must release immediately and unconditionally all Israeli and foreign hostages held in Gaza. Hostages must be treated in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law and international human rights law until they are released,” said Pillay.

The Commission urges Israel’s Government to immediately cease targeting medical facilities, staff and vehicles, halt the arbitrary and unlawful detention of Palestinians, including children, and end torture and other ill-treatment of all those who have been arrested or detained.

The Commission calls on the Government of the State of Palestine and the de-facto authorities in Gaza to ensure the protection and safe release of all hostages immediately and unconditionally, and thoroughly and impartially investigate and prosecute violations of international law, including the targeting of medical facilities in Israel.

Addressing the conflict’s root causes, the Commission urges the Government of Israel to comply with the directions of the July 2024 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice to end the unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory, cease new settlement plans and activities, evacuate all settlers and make reparations to victims. It also calls on Israel to comply with provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II(a)-(d) of the Genocide Convention. ...

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-commission-finds-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity-israeli-attacks>

*The International court of Justice Advisory Opinion referred to above can be read at*

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

*The International Court of Justice Provisional Measures referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

and

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

and

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

**Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/79/232>

TOP

## Other Relevant Information

### UK in a Changing Europe

#### **Minorities Report: The Attitudes of Britain's Ethnic Minority Population**

<https://media.ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/UKICE-FOCALDATA-MINORITIES-REPORT-081024-FINAL.pdf>

#### **Appendix**

<https://media.ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Appendix-041024.pdf>

TOP

## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill**

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

#### **Education (Assemblies) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3769>

#### **\*\* Holocaust Memorial Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>

Membership Motion, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-10/debates/62BAE9E0-354C-43DC-9D96-395D9CD29766/HolocaustMemorialBill>

#### **Palestine Statehood (Recognition)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3771>

#### **\*\* Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3765>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10111/CBP-10111.pdf>

### 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-bil>

#### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**Northern Ireland Assembly: Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in Schools** (closing date 29 October 2024)

<https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2022-2027/education/inquiries/inquiry-into-relationship-and-sexuality-education-rse-in-schools/>

**Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027** (closing date 4 November 2024)

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/PfG-consultation>

**Curriculum and Assessment Review [England]** (closing date 22 November 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/curriculum-and-assessment-team/curriculum-and-assessment-review-call-for-evidence/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of practice for services, public functions and associations** (closing date 3 January 2025)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equality/equality-act-2010/code-practice-services-public-functions-and-associations-consultation>

**Burial and Cremation [Law Commission]** (closing date 9 January 2025)

<https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/>

TOP

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