

Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities*

SCoJeC

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UK Parliamentary Questions

Community Development Foundation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments and grants the Community Development Foundation made in relation to the prevention of extremism since its inception. [43850]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not provided any payment or grant to the Community Development Foundation in relation to the prevention of extremism since its inception.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what individual payments his Department made to (a) the Community Development Foundation and (b) its associated bodies in each of the last three years; and for what purpose in each case. [43851]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government provided £2,500 to the Muslim Council of Britain for a guest table at the council leadership dinner held on 22 February 2010. DCLG has not provided any further funding to the Muslim Council of Britain for the organisation to undertake work or projects.

For an interim period, funding for the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) was routed through the council as one of MINAB's founding members as MINAB had not then acquired independent charitable status, and as a result did not have its own bank account. Funding for MINAB was made directly to them as soon as they became an independent organisation. The funding was to support them to improve standards in mosques (£116,000 in 2008-09 and £58,000 in 2009-10).

Muslim Council of Britain has a large and wide ranging national membership of organisations that are affiliated to it. Of these, DCLG has funded the following organisations through the Community Leadership Fund:

- Muslim Youth Helpline-£30,650 (2008-09), £61,888 (2009-10), £64,767 (2010-11) to build their capacity to extend the reach of their support services to vulnerable young people,
- Karimia Institute-£67,180 (2008-09), £50,000 (2009-10), £50,000 (2010-11) for youth leadership training.
- Islamic Society of Britain-£20,000 (2008-09) for developing the Islamic Awareness Week website to promote positive understanding of Islam to other communities.

- Young Muslims UK-£20,000 (2008-09), £5,000 (2009-10) to promote talent among young Muslims
- Muslim Aid-£5,000 (2009-10) for part-sponsorship of Muslim Aid's 25th Anniversary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhsrd/cm110308/text/110308w002.htm#11030880000015>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Robert Halfon (1551) Funding for the Quilliam Foundation - That this House notes the review of funding of the Quilliam Foundation; believes that ever since Ed Hussain and Maajid Nawaz set up Quilliam it has been a beacon for rational and moderate debate on the interlinked problems of extremist Islamism and Islamophobia; further believes that Quilliam has made an important contribution to social cohesion in the UK and that Quilliam's work is in harmony with the policies of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet; and calls on the Government to continue its financial support for Quilliam so that its vital work can continue.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42584&SESSION=905>

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Israel

UK Parliamentary Question

Israel: Business Initiatives

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 498W, on Israel: business initiatives, what funding his Department is providing to support joint business initiatives between Israeli citizens resident in Israel and Palestinian citizens resident in the West Bank. [45248]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhsrd/cm110309/text/110309w003.htm#11031010000014>

The reply referred to above can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhsrd/cm110217/text/110217w004.htm#11021776000013>

United Nations

Ban calls on Lebanon and Israel to fulfil obligations and consolidate stability

Lebanon's paralysis over forming a government has prevented progress in implementing some of its key obligations in the United Nations resolution that ended the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says in his latest report on the issue.

At the same time he calls on Israel to take the necessary "visible steps" towards implementation of its obligations. ...

... both sides have yet to fulfil all the terms of the resolution. Israel has yet to withdraw from northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line separating the countries, which Mr. Ban urges it to do as soon as possible.

At the same time he voices concern at the almost daily violations of Lebanese sovereignty by Israeli over-flights of Lebanese. ...

... Mr. Ban terms the continued presence of Hezbollah and other groups "a serious challenge" the State's ability to exercise full sovereignty and control over the territory. ... He notes Israel's assertion that Hezbollah continues to build up its military presence and capacity, including within the UNIFIL area, but writes that to date "UNIFIL has neither been provided with, nor found, evidence of the unauthorized transfer of arms into its area of operations."

Citing Israeli "allegations of significant breaches of the arms embargo across the border" between Lebanon and Syria, he adds: "While the United Nations takes these allegations seriously, it is not in a position to verify this information independently."

But he also notes that Hezbollah "asserts that it maintains a substantial military arsenal separate from that of the Lebanese State for defensive purposes against Israel." ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37720&Cr=leban&Cr1=>

Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=s/2011/91>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Charities Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/charitieshi.html>

Daylight Saving Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/daylightsaving.html>

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/am040-d.htm>

**** Localism Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbill/s126/amend/pbc1261003m.325-331.html>

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/policereformandsocialresponsibility.html>

Protection of Freedoms Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/protectionoffreedoms.html>

Scottish Parliament

**** Certification of Death Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Stage 3 amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-11/bb-03-10g.htm>

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Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes today**

Review of Crime Statistics (closing date 10 March 2011)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-reviews/national-statistician-s-review-of-crime-statistics.html>

Marital Property Agreements (closing date 11 April 2011)

<http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/cp198.pdf>

National Curriculum Review (closing date 14 April 2011)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1730&external=no&menu=1>

Equality Act: Draft Code of Practice for Schools in England and Wales and

Draft Code of Practice for Schools in Scotland (closing date 22 April 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

More effective responses to anti-social behaviour (closing date 3 May 2011)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-2010-antisocial-behaviour/>

Protection of Freedoms Bill (closing date 10 May 2011)

<http://publicreadingstage.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

Localism Bill (no closing date listed)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2011/january/localism-bill-second-reading/>

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