

Political Affairs Digest

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

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House of Commons Written Answer

Sex and Relationship Education

Paul Blomfield [66230] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her Written Ministerial Statement HCWS509 of 1 March 2017 on sex and relationships education, whether the duty will apply to (a) academy schools, (b) faith schools, (c) independent schools and (d) free schools.

Edward Thomas: All primary schools, including primary faith schools, will be required to provide relationships education. These requirements will apply to maintained schools, academy/free schools and independent schools.

All secondary schools, including secondary faith schools, will be required to provide relationships and sex education. These requirements will apply to maintained schools, academy/free schools and independent schools.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66230/>

House of Lords Written Answer

Parliament: Internet

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL5612] To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker, further to his Written Answer on 1 February (HL 4961), whether he will give an instruction for the unblocking of the Religion of Peace website on the Parliamentary Estate; and if not, why not.

Lord McFall of Alcluith: Access to the Religion of Peace website has been blocked on the Parliamentary Estate because it has been classified as a religion-based hate website by the Parliamentary Digital Service's industry standard categorising service. As a result there are no plans for the website to be unblocked.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-24/HL5612/>

Charity Commission

Interim Manager appointed to The Rav Chesed Trust

The Charity Commission has appointed an Interim Manager to [The Rav Chesed Trust](#). The appointment comes as part of the regulator's inquiry into the charity, which began in July 2015.

The inquiry is examining the administration and financial management of the charity and whether the trustees have put the charity's funds at risk. ... [The Interim Manager's] tasks include taking over the general administration and management of the charity and securing the charity's property.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interim-manager-appointed-to-the-rav-chesed-trust>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israeli Settlements

Judith Cummins [65727] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Israeli Government on US policy on the construction of settlements in the Palestinian territories since the US President's meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister on 15 February 2017.

Tobias Ellwood: While we have not discussed US settlements policy with the Israeli authorities, we welcome President Trump's interest in working for a peace deal that meets the requirements of both parties. The UK's view remains that the two-state solution is the best option to achieve that. We continue to believe settlements are one of a number of significant barriers to achieving a two-state solution and regularly raise our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65727/>

West Bank: Demolition

Julie Elliott [65732] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make urgent representations to the Israeli Government to consider reversing the recent demolition orders served to the village of Khan al- Ahmar in the occupied West Bank.

Tobias Ellwood: The Government is gravely concerned about demolition of Palestinian property by the Israeli authorities, including plans to demolish the Bedouin village of Khan al Ahmar. I raised this issue with the Israeli Ambassador to London on 1 March. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv last raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities on 28 February.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65732/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-04292.1 Jackson Carlaw, Eastwood: Bedouin Villages in Israel – As an amendment to motion S5M-04292 in the name of Ross Greer (Bedouin Villages in Israel), leave out from “condemns” to end and insert “understands that Khan

al-Ahmar is a Bedouin village in Area C, the part of the West Bank in which, according to long-standing agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, including the Oslo agreements, Israel has full responsibility for the enforcement of planning and zoning laws; notes that similar to Europe's traveller community, the Bedouin population in Israel and the West Bank lead nomadic lives and do not adhere to traditional, legal land ownership regulations; believes therefore that the rapid growth of the Bedouin population is a significant challenge for Israel; considers that democratic Israel recognises the traditional lifestyle of the Bedouins and has proposed solutions that are appropriate to their specific needs; further considers that the Bedouin people have been offered plots of similar, or even better, quality in a nearby area that already conforms to planning and zoning laws; believes that building houses there will also improve the petitioners' quality of life, giving them access to infrastructure and educational facilities that are not available in their current illegal locations; further believes that they will be allowed to continue the same agricultural activities on the lands that they currently claim; considers that, just as Israel enforces planning laws in Area C, the Israeli Government also removes Israeli homes built on private Palestinian land in the West Bank; notes that, for example, on 1 March 2017, security forces bulldozed nine homes built on private Palestinian land in the West Bank settlement of Ofra and, in February, Israeli police and border police officers evicted around 50 families from their homes in Amona; understands that Umm al-Hiran is an illegal Bedouin village built on state-owned land in the Negev in Israel; notes that there are 46 other such illegal villages in Israel's Negev region and, while there are no restrictions on where Bedouins can live, towns and villages are structured in a similar way to how town planning works in the UK; considers that Umm al-Hiran is 8 km from Hura, a Bedouin town with approved plans and developed infrastructure, where children of Umm al-Hiran already study and, when Bedouins move to Hura, each family will receive 800 square metres of land from the Israeli Government, and ultimately believes that the Israeli Government is committed to protecting the cultural values of the Bedouins as its largest construction project, costing an estimated half a billion Israeli shekels, which will see the Israel Land Administration, as part of its plan to expand the existing Bedouin towns in the Negev, double the size of the Bedouin town of Rahat.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04292.1>

The Motion to which the above is an amendment can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04292>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

Assisted Dying Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/assisteddying.html>

Lobbying (Transparency) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/lobbyingtransparency.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Promotion of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (United Kingdom Participation)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/promotionofisraelipalestinianpeaceunitedkingdomparticipation.html>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes in 6 days**

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (Scotland) (closing date 14 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

Reforming GCSEs, AS and A levels in biblical Hebrew (closing date 23 March 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-biblical-hebrew>

The UK's policy towards the Middle East Peace Process (closing date 30 March 2017)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/middle-east-peace-process-inquiry-16-17/>

Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill (closing date 10 April 2017)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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