

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Department for Communities and Local Government

Faith Leaders and Workers Project: Evaluation Report

Research report of pilots projects carried out in 2007. The aim ...was to deliver a community leadership accredited qualification for faith leaders that will contribute to two cross-Government objectives:

- to strengthen the role of faith leaders by building confidence, knowledge and skills amongst faith community members to enable them to play a strong leadership role in their wider communities
- in addition, and specifically in relation to Muslim communities, to support efforts to develop Muslim faith leaders as effective and confident leaders who can take the lead in building resilience to violent extremism

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1147399.pdf>

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Community Relations

Department for Communities and Local Government

London Conference on Combating Antisemitism

Speech by Sadiq Khan

...it is vital to reiterate the significance which my Government places on tackling the scourge of antisemitism that has blighted our world for centuries and which sadly brings us all to London today.

This landmark Conference which brings together parliamentarians from around the world from more than 40 countries, to reshape the way in which antisemitism is confronted would not have happened without the sterling effort of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism. The ICCA was established to challenge and combat this most ancient and enduring of hatreds within the new context of an escalating, sophisticated and global antisemitism.

This conference will act as a unique opportunity to discuss practical action that needs to be taken to counter the resurging threat, to share knowledge, experiences, best practice and recommendations.

While I am pleased that we are hosting such a prestigious event in London, it is important not to lose sight of the concerns Jewish Community's in the UK have over recent manifestations of antisemitism.

We are specifically concerned about significant indications that, unlike other forms of racism, antisemitism is being accepted within parts of society instead of being condemned. We are also aware that current rhetoric about Israel and Zionism (from the far right, the far-left and extremists alike) employs antisemitic motives that are consistent with ancient forms of hatred towards Jews.

Can I reaffirm- As a Government we are committed to tackling all forms of hate crime and racial intolerance, including antisemitism, wherever it exists. We believe that the best way to do this is through the effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime, underpinned by policies and strategies to increase racial equality and build community cohesion, particularly through education. ...

Following on from the All Party Inquiry in Antisemitism (2006) - chaired by the Rt Hon Denis MacShane MP which made 35 recommendations to Government - we set up a working group with representatives from across Government, the Jewish Community and the Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism to ensure that the recommendations were implemented.

This unique arrangement, the first of its kind, led to significant progress in our fight against antisemitism and is something I hope MPs attending this conference from all around our planet will learn from. ...

To read the full transcript of the speech see

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/combatingantisemitism>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London Conference on Combating Antisemitism

Message from David Milliband

It is hugely encouraging that such a large number of parliamentarians from around the world are meeting to discuss antisemitism and develop strategies to combat it.

Antisemitism has been with us for millennia, but has mutated in form and expression through the ages. Today it has adapted to new technologies and has no defined borders. The internet age, with its manifold benefits, has the downside that hate is able to travel faster and further than ever before. Modern and innovative solutions are essential if we are to combat this. So is international co-operation. We all have a duty to raise our voices against racism and discrimination. Those of us who hold elected office are under a particular obligation to speak out. But we must do more than simply talk. I am particularly pleased that this Conference will focus on practical strategies and follow up action. The 2006 UK All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism was a ground-breaking report which provided strategies for tackling antisemitism. The effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination, as well policies to build community cohesion, are essential if we are to stand up to hatred. ...

To read the press release in full see

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=13636601>

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Holocaust

European Parliament

Proposed written declaration on the ban on the production, sale and distribution of Nazi items and insignia within the EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML%20WDECL%20P6-DCL-2009-0004%200%20DOC%20PDF%20V0//EN&language=EN>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Coroners and Justice Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/coronersandjustice.html>

Policing and Crime Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/policingandcrime.html>

European Parliament

Proposed Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/slaughter/proposed-regulation.pdf>

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Consultations ** New or updated

End of Life Choices (Scotland) Bill (closes 9 March 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/EndOfLifeChoicesConsultation.pdf>

UK legislation relating to genocide, torture and related offences

(closes 13 March 2009)

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/joint_committee_on_human_rights/jchrpn12_040209.cfm

and

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/joint_committee_on_human_rights/jchrpn14_120209.cfm

Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008

(closes 30 March 2009)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web

All Wales Community Cohesion Strategy (closes 6 April 2009)

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs//dsjlg/consultation/090107communitycohesionstrategyen.pdf?lang=en>

Consultation on new Regulations and code for Meat Chicken Welfare (England only)

(closes 20 April 2009)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/broiler-welfare/index.htm>

Consultation on the proposal for a Council regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing (closes 20 April 2009)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/slaughter/>

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