

# Political Affairs Brief

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

## Contents

[Home Affairs](#)  
[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)  
[Other Relevant Information](#)  
[Consultations](#)

## Home Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Faith Schools

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to permit any publicly-funded faith schools to require teaching staff to promote the ethos of the relevant religious faith; and if she will make a statement. [318476]

**Maria Eagle:** We would expect all staff at schools to act in accordance with the ethos of their school, as we would expect them to maintain standards of behaviour and a high educational standard.

The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools.

Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts. Voluntary controlled and foundation schools are required to have reserved teachers who are appointed specifically to teach religious education. These reserved teachers must be appointed for their fitness and competence to teach religious education according to the tenets of the relevant faith; they may account for up to a fifth of all the teaching staff and may include the head teacher. In these schools such religious criteria cannot be applied to any other teaching posts.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to empower governors of any publicly-funded faith school to decline employment to staff or applicants for teaching posts who are not prepared to teach pupils in accordance with the ethos on values of the relevant religious faith. [318477]

**Maria Eagle:** The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools. Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts.

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<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100224/text/100224w0021.htm#100224110000046>

[TOP](#)

## Israel

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Dubai: Death

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Dubai on the alleged murder of a Palestinian national by a group alleged to include British passport holders; and if he will make a statement. [318478]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 22-23.

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the use of British passports in association with the death in Dubai of a Palestinian national; and if he will make a statement. [318480]

**Chris Bryant:** The defrauding of British passports is unacceptable. The Government will continue to take all the action that is necessary to protect British nationals from identity-fraud. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman in Brussels on 23 February 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100224/text/100224w0001.htm#10022477000016>

### United Nations

#### UN chief voices concern over recent developments to Israeli official

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today voiced his concerns over the situation in Gaza and recent developments on the ground to Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, as the two met at United Nations Headquarters. ... Several days ago Israel announced that it was adding the tombs of the biblical patriarch Abraham in Hebron and the biblical matriarch Rachel in Bethlehem to its list of national heritage sites, sparking concern from the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, who warned against moves that could prejudice the resumption of peace talks. The two also discussed ongoing efforts to restart the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, as well as the situation in Lebanon

Mr. Serry, who called on the Israeli President today to discuss a number of issues, said he received an assurance from Shimon Peres that Israel intended to fully respect religious rights in places of worship.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of the General Assembly-mandated Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People issued a statement today calling on Israel to retract the announcement about including the sites on its national heritage list, and refrain from any other actions that may undermine the chances of restarting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33884&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

[TOP](#)

## **UK Parliament**

### **\*\* Children, Schools and Families Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/childrenschoolsandfamilies.html>

First Reading, House of Lords (no debate)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100224-0010.htm#10022495000059>

Bill as introduced to Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/036/2010036.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/036/en/2010036-en.pdf>

### **\*\* Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/constitutionalreformandgovernance.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/068/amend/pbc0682402a.1061-1066.html>

### **\*\* Crime and Security Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/crimeandsecurity.html>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/073/2010073.pdf>

Bill showing changes made in Public Bill Committee

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/Crime-bill-100225.pdf>

### **\*\* Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/am035-d.htm>

### **\*\* Flood and Water Management Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/floodandwatermanagement.html>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100224-0003.htm#10022468000375>

## **Scottish Parliament**

### **End of Life Assistance Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

### **Draft Census Order**

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi\\_9780111007907\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111007907_en.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Other Relevant Information

### Director of Public Prosecutions

**Policy for Prosecutors in respect of Cases of Encouraging or Assisting Suicide**  
[http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/assisted\\_suicide\\_policy.pdf](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/assisted_suicide_policy.pdf)

### Scottish Government

#### Referendum consultation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/02/24170252>

#### Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill Consultation Paper

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/303348/0095138.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

#### **\*\* closes in 3 days**

**Communities and Local Government: Creating a Single Equality Scheme for 2010 – 2013** (closes 28 February 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/987402.pdf>

**Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010**

(closes 15 March 2010)

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/consultations/6605.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6605.aspx)

**2011 Census Statistical Outputs (England and Wales)** (closes 26 March 2010)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/open-consultations/2011-output-consultation---main-statistical-outputs/index.html>

**Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct** (closes 2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

**Equality Bill: Draft Guidance** (closes 16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

**Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland)** (closes 21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

**Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Guidance** (closes 14 May)

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/HA\\_strategic\\_guide\\_draft.pdf](http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/HA_strategic_guide_draft.pdf)

**2011 Census Statistical Outputs (Scotland)** (closes 14 May 2010)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

[TOP](#)