

# Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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## Home Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Detention: Overseas Ministers

**Lord Turnberg:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take to prevent individuals from seeking to obtain the arrest and detention of ministers of overseas democratically elected governments when they visit the United Kingdom.[HL3547]

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally):** As I announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 22 July (Official Report, cols. WS 96-97), the Government intend to bring forward legislation to require the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions before an arrest warrant can be issued to a private prosecutor in respect of an offence of universal jurisdiction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115w0001.htm#10111514000414>

#### Education: Topical Question

**T8. [23547] Mrs Linda Riordan (Halifax) (Lab/Co-op):** Will the Minister join me in condemning the presence of the British National party on any school governing body? Will he outline what plans the Government have to prevent this from happening?

**Michael Gove:** I am grateful to the hon. Lady for that question; she has a distinguished record as an anti-racism campaigner. She will be aware that the last Government looked at how to prevent members of the British National party teaching in the classroom, and decided in the end that the current legislative framework was sufficient. We do not take that view. We are now looking to ensure that we do everything possible to prevent BNP members from being teachers. I very much take her point about the need to ensure that governing bodies and other organisations related to schools are not populated by people with a racist or extremist agenda. We will do everything in our power, consistent with commitments to basic civil liberties, to ensure that racists cannot poison the minds of young people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/debtext/101115-0001.htm#10111511000031>

## Clergy

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many times since 12 May 2010 Ministers in his Department have met with representatives of the (a) Church of England, (b) Church of England's Education Division, (c) National Society, (d) Catholic Church in England and Wales, (e) Catholic Education Service, (f) Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission, (g) Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges, (h) Methodist Church, (i) Methodist Education, (j) Muslim Council of Britain, (k) Board of Deputies of British Jews, (l) Agency for Jewish Education, (m) Accord Coalition, (n) British Humanist Association and (o) National Secular Society. [18660]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 25 October 2010]: The following table gives details of the number of occasions Ministers at the Department for Education have held meetings at the Department with representatives of the faith related organisations listed since 12 May 2010.

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Total number of meetings</i>
Church of England, Church of England's Education Division, The National Society	3
Catholic Church in England and Wales, Catholic Education Service for England and Wales	3
Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission	0
Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges	0
Methodist Church, Methodist Education	0
Muslim Council of Britain	0
Board of Deputies of British Jews	2
Agency for Jewish Education	0
Accord Coalition	0
British Humanist Association	0
National Secular Society	0

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0003.htm#10111522000008>

## Food: Labelling

**Gordon Birtwistle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to supermarkets on the handling and sale of halal meat. [22812]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 11 November 2010]: I am discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice. However, DEFRA has not issued any guidance to supermarkets on the handling and sale of halal meat.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0001.htm#1011155000021>

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## Israel

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Israel and Palestine

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the Government of Israel regarding the 15 Palestinians injured by gunshots and others harmed by tear gas in Silwan on 15 October.[HL3315]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** We are concerned by the attacks which have taken place in Silwan. We deplore all civilian casualties which have resulted from this conflict. We recognise Israel's right to defend itself from acts of violence but call on the Israeli Government to act with restraint and in accordance with international law. We also call on the Palestinian Authority to prevent acts of violence from originating in the Occupied Territories.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115w0001.htm#10111514000432>

#### Gaza

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how the European Union is putting into practice Baroness Ashton of Upholland's remarks at the Foreign Affairs Council of 25 October about support for Palestinian state-building and access to Gaza for both imports and exports.[HL3559]

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):** We strongly support the noble Baroness Ashton's conclusion that the EU needs to continue its influencing work with key international stakeholders and its support for Palestinian state-building and Gaza access and exports. The EU's support for Palestinian state-building work is through the two year programme Palestine, Ending the Occupation and Establishing the State, adopted in 2009 and the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan for 2008-10.

With regards to Gaza access and exports, we, together with the EU and quartet, have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. My right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary discussed these issues with Prime Minister Netanyahu during his recent visit. The Palestinian economy, whether in Gaza or on the West Bank, will play an important role in contributing towards a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115w0001.htm#10111514000422>

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## Foreign Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Question

#### Hezbollah

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the enforcement of UN Resolution 1701 in respect of disarming Hezbollah. [24223]

**Alistair Burt:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed UN Security Council Resolution 1701 with Prime Minister Hariri during his recent visit to the UK, underlining the need for Hezbollah to disarm to ensure the stability of Lebanon.

During my visit to Damascus in July, I made clear and firm representations to Foreign Minister Muallem in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. We are strongly committed to the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701: this is the best means of achieving stability in Lebanon. I also raised the issue of weapons smuggling in Lebanon and underlined concerns about reports of Syrian facilitation of arms to Hezbollah. My officials continue to raise these issues at the highest level during our regular dialogue with Syrian counterparts.

The UN Security Council, under UK presidency, will be debating UN Security Council Resolution 1701 on 18 November, and will include discussions on the issue of Hezbollah arms.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0004.htm#10111529000009>

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## **Relevant Legislation**    \*\* New or updated

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Daylight Saving Bill**

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

#### **Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0641611m.1181-1187.html>

#### **Identity Documents Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

House of Lords, Motion to refer to the Examiners

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115-0001.htm#1011158000966>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115-0002.htm#10111524000167>

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Certification of Death Bill**

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

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

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

**\*\* closes in 2 days**

**Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill** (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

**Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order** (Scotland) (closes 26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

**The Future of the Citizenship Survey** (closing date 30 November 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1756366.pdf>

**Charity Commission: Proposed withdrawal of paper forms for Annual Returns, Registration applications, and forthcoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations** (closes 2 December 2010)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About us/About the Commission/ols consultation intro.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About%20us/About%20the%20Commission/ols%20consultation%20intro.aspx)

**Equality Act 2010 - Performance of the Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales**

(closes 17 December 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/equality/equalityact2010/?lang=en>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education** (closes 31 December 2010)

[http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page\\_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen](http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen)

**Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy**

(closes 14 January 2011)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr\\_strategic\\_review.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx)

**Prevent Review** (closing date not stated)

<http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

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