

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Downing Street

**The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union
White Paper**

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

Charity Commission

Mesifita Talmudical College: 2017 Inquiry report

Conclusions: The trustees were in default of their legal obligations to file accounting information with the Commission. This is regarded by the Commission as mismanagement and misconduct. As a result of the inquiry, the Commission ensured that the charity complied with its legal obligations to submit annual accounting information ... The Commission directed the trustees to implement such changes as are necessary to enable them to fully comply with their statutory responsibilities regarding the preparation and submission of the charity's annual reports, accounts and returns to the Commission.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589233/mesifita_talmudical_college.pdf

University College London

Report: Investigation into the UCLU Friends of Israel Society event on 27th October 2016

1. On the evening of 27th October 2016, the UCLU Friends of Israel Society conducted an event featuring an external speaker, Hen Mazzig ... The Event was held to enable the external speaker and participants to discuss his experiences as an ex-commander in the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) interfacing between the Israeli Government and Palestinian Authority. ...
2. The Event was disrupted by a protest organised by a number of pro-Palestinian individuals and groups including some external to UCL. ...
3. A number of protestors continued to make sustained efforts to disrupt the Event

verbally and physically. During the Event, a number of protestors forced entry to the Haldane Room through the windows opening onto the Quad. Police were called during the course of the Event both by UCL Security and by individuals attending the Event who believed the safety of the students present and the external speaker may be compromised. The police received at least one allegation of assault. Loudspeakers, loud shouting, chanting (including chants that could be interpreted as anti-Semitic) and banging on the windows of the venue continued to disrupt attempts to conduct the Event. ...

Analysis

72. This was a serious incident that represents a failure of the UCL Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech to adequately protect freedom of expression on campus. While the event took place, it did so in a highly disruptive and intimidatory atmosphere and in an abbreviated form. ...
73. The evidence suggests that the majority of protestors and attendees were non-violent and the majority of UCL students acted in accordance with UCL's Code of Conduct for Students. However, the evidence also shows that a smaller group of protestors intentionally disrupted the rights of others to exercise freedom of speech within the law and their behaviour caused stress and anxiety to students and staff at UCL. ...
75. The evidence from social media posts as well as other information obtained by the investigation suggests that some individuals at UCL and from at least four other institutions – Kingston University, KCL, LSE and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) - planned to prevent the event taking place; created a hostile, aggressive and intimidatory atmosphere; and conducted their protest noisily and aggressively such that many students, staff and other attendees felt intimidated by their behaviour. ...

To read the full report see

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/0117/Investigation_report.pdf

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See also “Report: Investigation into the UCLU Friends of Israel Society event on 27th October 2016” under “University College London” in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge [HL4863] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of a raid on Kafer Qadum village.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, but we regularly discuss with the Israeli Government the need for proportionality in use of force and for proper accountability.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-23/HL4863/>

Israeli Settlements: Crimes of Violence

Baroness Tonge [HL4919] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have repeatedly raised with the Israeli

authorities our concerns about incidents of settler violence and intimidation, and have stressed the importance of bringing the extremist settlers responsible to justice and of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-24/HL4919/>

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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>

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

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

**** Wales Bill**

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

Act as passed

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/4/contents/enacted/data.htm>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Consolidation and revision of the school governance regulatory framework in Wales

(closing date 17 February 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/consolidation-and-revision-school-governance-regulatory-framework-wales>

**** Measurement framework for equality and human rights** (closing date 21 February 2017)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-measurement-framework/measurement-framework-consultation>

Racism at work (closing date 27 February 2017)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RacismAtWork>

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>

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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