

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

Israel: Palestinians

John Howell [909549] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what support her Department is providing to projects facilitating peaceful co-existence between Palestinians and Israelis.

Rory Stewart: DFID is developing a programme of support for people-to-people projects in Israel and the OPTs. UK support will help Israelis and Palestinians work together to achieve tangible improvements in their lives and build understanding between people on both sides of the conflict. The programme is aiming for launch at the beginning of next financial year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/909549/>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israeli Settlements

Baroness Tonge [HL6000] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the case for measures to prevent and monitor the closure of Palestinian roads by Israeli settlers.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not raised this specific issue, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv most recently discussed settler violence and intimidation with the Israeli authorities on 9 March. We continue to stress the importance of thorough investigations and accountability, as well as 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/2017-03-13/HL6000/>

Israel: Gaza

Baroness Tonge [HL6001] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the detention since 2005 of 18 Palestinian residents of Gaza under the Internment of Unlawful Combatants Law.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not made any representations to the Israeli authorities on this specific issue.

However, we have raised our broader concerns with the Israeli authorities on many occasions over the treatment of Palestinian detainees and the extensive use of administrative detention, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General, and National Security Adviser levels.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-13/HL6001/>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge [HL6003] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the extent of progress made on negotiations between Israel and Palestine over the past 20 years, what is their strategy to move the peace process forward.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government believes that a two-state solution offers the best prospects of achieving a sustainable Israeli-Palestinian peace. Ultimately we believe that peace will only come through negotiations between the parties, but international action could play a role in supporting progress. We are in close consultation with international partners about what kind of renewed process might have a better chance of success, including one with a greater role for regional partners.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-13/HL6003/>

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Judd [HL6029] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel on the eight month delay by the Israeli Prison Service in supplying disaggregated, up to date prison statistics relating to the number of Palestinians, both adult and children, held in its facilities; and whether they have received any undertakings on when these will be provided.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We continue to encourage the Israeli authorities to publish information of interest to the wider public in line with the UK's transparency and good governance initiative "Open Government".

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-13/HL6029/>

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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>

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 today**

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>

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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