

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

Department of Health

Transplant Surgery: Northern Ireland

Paul Girvan (DUP) [120998] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the merits for England of the organ retrieval system in Northern Ireland.

Jackie Doyle-Price: The National Organ Retrieval Service (NORS) was established by NHS Blood and Transplant in April 2010 and operates across all parts of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.

Since 2010 NORS has been successful in playing a vital role in contributing to the increase in deceased donors and organ transplants. As a key component of the organ donation and transplantation infrastructure, it provides a national 24 hour service for retrieving organs from deceased donors.

NORS ensures the best possible transplant outcomes are achieved for all organs offered. Thanks to donors and their families' selfless generosity, thousands of lives are saved every year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/120998/>

Organs: Donors

Fiona Bruce (Conservative) [121077] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefit of measures to support organ donation other than an opt-out system.

Jackie Doyle-Price: The last major review of organ donation in 2008 concluded that the case for a change to the law on consent was finely balanced and that other aspects of the systems supporting donation should be developed before any change to the law. Those actions, included in the United Kingdom-wide strategy Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020, have resulted in year on year growth in the number of transplants, seen the number of people on the NHS Organ Donation Register increase by almost five million people over the last five years and, in 2016/17, the highest ever deceased donor rates in England. The Government wants to see rates of transplantation in England amongst the best in the world and is keen to explore all options to increase the availability of suitable organs for

transplantation. As part of the consultation on an opt-out system of consent, the Government has invited further evidence to be submitted which could impact on the desired outcome to increase the number of organs for transplant in England. This evidence will be carefully considered before the Government responds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/121077/>

The Strategy document referred to above can be read at
https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/4240/nhsbt_organ_donor_strategy_long.pdf

The consultation referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-opt-out-consent-for-organ-and-tissue-donation-in-england>

House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL4420] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 6 December (HL Deb, col 1050), whether the definition of hate crime adopted by the Crown Prosecution Service to facilitate the reporting of incidents is wider than the legal definition of such crime under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Criminal Justice Act 2003; if so, how; and upon what authority it was issued.

Lord Keen of Elie: The flagging definition for hate crime was agreed between the CPS and the NPCC (ACPO as it was then) in 2007. It is wider than the definition set out in legislation to ensure that all relevant cases are captured.

The flagging definition comes from the recommended definition in the Macpherson report published in 1999 as a result of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. The Macpherson report recommended that 'this definition should be universally adopted by the Police, local Government and other relevant agencies'.

This recommendation in the Macpherson report was welcomed by the Government at the time and the current Government remains in support of this position. The CPS has worked with police to implement the recommended definition across all strands of hate crime. The CPS takes tackling hate crime seriously and recognises the need to increase public confidence to report. The flagging definition is important in achieving this aim.

In order for a crime to be charged and prosecuted as a hate crime, the CPS uses the legal definitions contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003). This means that not every incident that the victim or another person has perceived to be a hate crime will actually be a hate crime in law.

The CPS legal guidance recognises the potential impact of prosecutions on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to freedom of expression). The CPS must balance the rights of an individual to freedom of speech against the duty of the state to act proportionately and to protect the rights of others.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-21/HL4420/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-12-06/debates/2322BFC7-28B5-4D8F-BF90-E847771C422B/FreedomOfSpeechHateCrime>

The Macpherson report, referred to above, can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL4421] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 6 December (HL Deb, col 1051), whether the Baroness Vere of Norbiton has written to the Director of Public Prosecutions as indicated; and if so, what response has been received.

Lord Keen of Elie: Baroness Vere of Norbiton wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on 13 December 2017. The DPP provided her response on 9 January 2018.

In her response, the DPP confirmed that the flagging definition for hate crime was agreed between the CPS and the NPCC (ACPO as it was then) in 2007 and that it is wider than the definition set out in legislation to ensure all relevant cases are captured.

The CPS adopted the recommended definition in the Macpherson report published in 1999 as a result of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. The Macpherson report also recommended that 'this definition should be universally adopted by the Police, local Government and other relevant agencies'. This recommendation in the Macpherson report was welcomed by the Government at the time and the current Government remains in support of this position. The CPS has worked with police to implement the recommended definition across all strands of hate crime. The CPS takes tackling hate crime seriously and recognises the need to increase public confidence to report. The flagging definition is important in achieving this aim.

In order for a crime to be charged and prosecuted as a hate crime, the CPS uses the legal definitions contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003). This means that not every incident that the victim or another person has perceived to be a hate crime will actually be a hate crime in law.

In her letter, the DPP also confirmed that the CPS legal guidance recognises the potential impact of prosecutions on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to freedom of expression). The CPS must balance the rights of an individual to freedom of speech against the duty of the state to act proportionately and to protect the rights of others.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-21/HL4421/>

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

Muslim Brotherhood

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL4422] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Marlesford on 7 December (HL Deb, col 1270), whether a senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mr Ibrahim Munir, is living in London; and whether they intend to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In order to safeguard an individual's personal information and comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Home Office is unable to provide information on an individual when a request is made by someone who is not the data subject or their legal representative. The Home Office is therefore unable to comment on [Mr Ibrahim Munir's] particular case

Whilst we keep the list of proscribed groups under review, we do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not under consideration for proscription.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-21/HL4422/>

Crime Prosecution Service

Nazi supporter of National Action convicted for stirring up anti-Semitic hate

A self-professed Nazi who gave speeches describing Jewish people as “parasites” has been convicted of stirring up racial hatred ...

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, made one of the speeches on the Blackpool promenade in March 2016 at a far right demonstration, during which he stated that Adolf Hitler had got it wrong by showing mercy to Jewish people.

In another speech at a gathering of far right groups in North Yorkshire, he said that Jewish people did not deserve to be shown any mercy and needed to be eradicated. He went on to explain his support for the neo-Nazi group National Action and was in effect recruiting new members for them. The group was later banned in the UK and is now classified as a terrorist organisation.

After the speech, he answered questions from the audience and repeated his inflammatory statements. The CPS argued that it was clear the purpose of the speech was to get the audience to agree with his point of view and therefore he was stirring up racial hatred.

He accepted making both speeches and acknowledged that he was a Nazi who hated Jewish people but denied inciting hatred at Preston Crown Court.

He will be sentenced at a later date.

Sue Hemming from the CPS said: “When making those speeches this man intended to stir up hatred and he wanted others to hate Jewish people like he does. The CPS explained in court that his remarks went beyond protected free speech and crossed the line into vilifying a group using threatening and abusive language at public meetings. Clearly the jury agreed.” ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/news/nazi-supporter-national-action-convicted-stirring-anti-semitic-hate>

TOP

Holocaust

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Bob Blackman (743) Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 – That this House notes that on 27 January 2018 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered; commemorates the six million victims of the Holocaust; further notes that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 is The power of words; pays tribute to the commitment of Holocaust survivors who share their experiences with young people across the country; acknowledges the importance of the Holocaust Educational Trust's work in schools across the UK and in particular the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which has so far given over 30,000 students and teachers the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; also pays tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising this year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; notes that a Book of Commitment

will be placed in the corridor between the Members' Cloakroom and Members' Staircase between the hours of 14.00 and 16.00 from 15 to 17 and 22 to 25 January; and urges all right hon. and hon. Members to sign the Book and observe the day, so that the appalling events of the Holocaust are always understood by future generations and recognising our shared commitment to challenging holocaust denial, distortion and denigration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/743>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Oral Answers

Palestinian Communities

12. **Alan Brown (SNP):** What recent discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on Palestinian communities in the west bank that are threatened with demolition. [903137]

17. **Julie Elliott (Labour):** What recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on the military detention of Palestinian children. [903142]

The Minister for the Middle East (Alistair Burt): We remain seriously concerned about the continuing demolition of Palestinian property by Israeli authorities, and our embassy in Tel Aviv raised our specific concerns about it with Israel in November last year. Israel's treatment of vulnerable Palestinian minors held in military detention also remains a human rights priority for the UK. I raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities during my visit to Israel in August last year, and will continue to do so.

Alan Brown: The Israeli Prime Minister's party has just voted for the annexation of the west bank. The Israeli Attorney General has said that new laws must take into account the possibility of application to the occupied territories, and 46 Bedouin communities are still threatened with eviction. When will the UK's approach change? When will it join other EU countries in calling for aid to compensate for the demolition of EU-funded structures, and an end to trade with illegal settlements?

Alistair Burt: The whole issue of settlements brings into question the whole point of pursuing a two-state solution, because none of these issues will be dealt with unless we make progress on that. We are pressing for that of course, but in the meantime we continue to support those who are concerned about demolitions and settlements. We continue to make the case to Israel that these are barriers to peace, among other barriers to peace, but unless there is a conclusive settlement soon, these issues will get worse.

Julie Elliott: Does the Minister share my outrage at the continued detention of 16-year-old Ahed Tamimi in Israel, in violation of article 76 of the fourth Geneva convention, and will he raise this issue, and our concerns about it, with the Israeli Government?

Alistair Burt: I know both the Tamimi family and Nabi Saleh, and it is a very unhappy incident all round. The truth is that the soldiers should not be there and the young woman should not have needed to do what she did. It is sad that two young people who ought to be friends are caught up in a situation in which, because of the failure to deal comprehensively with what is happening on the west bank and in Israel, we cannot come to a settlement. We have indeed made representations. It is important that Israel follows through the law, as it is entitled to do, but when we see the whole incident on video it tells us that this should not be happening and we should be working hard to get a settlement to this issue so these young people do not have to continue to do what they are doing.

Ross Thomson (Conservative): The biggest current obstacles to advancement of the

middle east peace process include Hamas's rearmament drive in Gaza and the long-standing issue of Palestinian incitement. What steps has the Minister taken, alongside his international counterparts, to assist the Palestinian leadership in becoming a viable partner for peace with Israel?

Alistair Burt: There are many obstacles on the way to peace, and certainly one of them remains incitement among some in the Palestinian community, but efforts being made for reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas have to conclude with a process that has led to acceptance of Quartet principles, and we hope that that will provide one further step forward.

Chris Davies (Conservative): Does my right hon. Friend agree that the only way to resolve the issue of land borders is through the resumption of direct peace talks without preconditions?

Alistair Burt: Yes, and efforts are continually being made to move forward with the peace process. We await proposals being brought forward by the US envoys very soon, but sooner or later both the Palestinians and the Israelis have to sit down together, because only they can come to the answer they need.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-09/debates/48b9d9d6-8552-4612-88da-cf6c63fe3817/CommonsChamber#contribution-F387E55C-A113-4EBF-8F69-1039BA4A4D88>

Israel and Palestine: Two-State Solution

13. **Kelly Tolhurst (Conservative):** What the Government's policy is on a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. [903138]

The Minister for the Middle East (Alistair Burt): Our long-standing policy in support of a two-state solution is clear. We support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees.

Kelly Tolhurst: I am pleased my right hon. Friend agrees that a two-state solution is the best way forward for both parties, but the Israeli Justice Minister is recently on record as saying there is not, and never will be, a Palestine state. Will my right hon. Friend join me in expressing concern at the impact these comments have on the prospects for peace and outline how the UK can lead on engagement with those who hold this view?

Alistair Burt: Many statements are made on both sides about whether or not there will be a resolution to the issues between the Palestinians and Israelis, and the United Kingdom is not responsible for them. All the polling done in Israel and Palestine suggests people want a two-state solution. As I indicated before, we will continue to work for that and we hope those in the Palestinian areas and in Israel will also continue to work for the just peace they all deserve.

Wes Streeting (Labour): But surely the Minister must acknowledge that comments like those from the Israeli Government do not give the impression that they are serious about peace. Does he also agree that the calls by Hamas for acts of violence and rage against Israeli people in the wake of the relocation of the US embassy were wholly contemptible and should be thoroughly condemned by everyone in the House?

Alistair Burt: The danger and difficulty in making statements that are seen to be provocative can be seen in the responses of recent weeks. The United Kingdom is absolutely right to call on all sides not only to refrain from those provocations but to use the renewed interest now in the issues between Israel and the Palestinians as a pressure to push for peace, because that is the only thing that will deal with these issues.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-09/debates/48b9d9d6-8552-4612-88da-cf6c63fe3817/CommonsChamber#contribution-85184AF1-DE7D-4845-88D2-0D1A3E46D16C>

Topical Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

T5. **Alex Cunningham (Labour):** When he was Foreign Secretary, William Hague

described the UN Human Rights Council's universal periodic review as "a valuable mechanism for holding countries accountable for their human rights record."—[[Official Report, 15 April 2013; Vol. 561, c. 15WS.](#)] Does the Foreign Secretary agree that the UN periodic review meeting on 23 January provides an opportunity to hold Israel to account for its treatment of Palestinian children held in Israeli military custody, and will he use the meeting to do so? [903156]

Alistair Burt: The council will indeed be used by the United Kingdom to offer a statement in relation to Israel, and the issues raised by the hon. Member for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham) are covered in a number of different ways in our representations to Israel.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-09/debates/48b9d9d6-8552-4612-88da-cf6c63fe3817/CommonsChamber#contribution-8E3BC3B2-2C05-4401-9EB6-E6E717E3D537>

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Schools

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [120545] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether any UK government aid is used to provide salaries for staff at any of the 31 Palestinian Authority schools which named after terrorists who have killed Israelis or at any of the three schools named after Nazi collaborators.

Alistair Burt: UK funding contributes to the salaries of individual vetted health and education Palestinian Authority (PA) public servants on the EU Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE) list, including PA teachers in the West Bank regardless of which school they are employed in. UK funding enables around 25,000 young Palestinians to receive an education annually.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120545/>

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Ian Austin (Labour) [120609] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2017 to Question 118369 on Palestinians: overseas aid, what the robust verification system that validates that funds are used for the intended purposes is; and whether that system includes the payment of those funds into an account used only to pay the salaries of health and education public servants on the pre-approved EU list.

Alistair Burt: The Palestinian Authority payroll is checked by independent auditors, and UK payments made to all eligible beneficiaries are traced through the verification process. The EU Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE) uses a dedicated sub-account within the PA's Single Treasury Account for the purpose of contributing to public servant salaries. The UK has a further sub-account to only pay the salaries of West Bank health and education public servants; an independent auditor is able to confirm that funds from this sub-account reach the intended beneficiaries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120609/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-08/118369/>

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Ian Austin (Labour) [120610] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2017 to Question 118369 what

assessment she has made of the whether the UK will continue to use EU funding mechanisms for its development assistance to the Palestinian Authority after the UK leaves the EU.

Alistair Burt: The UK has assessed that, having decided to focus our support solely on Palestinian Authority health and education public servants in the West Bank, the EU Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management and Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE) offers the best value for money and the most effective way of directly providing support to Palestinians in need, whilst providing strong safeguards for UK funds. DFID constantly reviews expenditure to ensure value for money; this is no exception. The UK's ability to use the EU PEGASE mechanism will not be affected when we leave the European Union (EU). Non-EU countries are able to channel funding through this mechanism.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120610/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-08/118369/>

Israel and Occupied Territories: Overseas Aid

Richard Burden (Labour) [120962] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what criteria her Department employ to select projects and organisations to receive funding for people-to-people work in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Alistair Burt: I refer the Hon. Member to the answer I provided on 25 October 2017 to Question number 108895.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/120962/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-20/108895/>

DFID is funding Search for Common Ground (SFCG) to implement our new people-to-people programme due to the organisation's long global track record of peacebuilding projects and its experience in selecting the most effective partners to achieve agreed aims. As part of formal management arrangements, the programme Steering Committee, consisting of DFID and FCO officials and SFCG staff, agreed a robust set of criteria for SFCG's prioritisation of potential project partners as follows: a) added value of the organisation and compatibility of approach with the programme's scope; b) the robustness of financial and administrative systems of the organisation and the ability to deliver; c) the neutrality of the political stance of the organisation; d) access to Israeli and Palestinian societies and; e) credibility with both societies.

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Paul Masterton (750) Marsha Gladstone, Points of Light outstanding volunteer – That this House welcomes the recognition of Marsha Gladstone as a Points of Light outstanding volunteer for her work with the Yoni Jesner Foundation; understands that Points of Light was first established in the United States by President George H.W. Bush and introduced into the UK by then Prime Minister David Cameron in 2014; recognises the work that Marsha Gladstone has done within East Renfrewshire and the UK through the Yoni Jesner Foundation to honour the life of her son, Yoni Jesner; notes that Yoni was a former pupil of Belmont House School in Newton Mearns who planned to be a

medical doctor; acknowledges that Yoni was only 19 when his life was cut short on 19 September 2002 when he and five other people were murdered in a Tel Aviv suicide bombing; commends the subsequent decision of his parents to allow for Yoni's organs to be donated to save the life of a young Palestinian girl, Yasmin Abu Ramila, who had experienced kidney failure since birth; and thanks the Yoni Jesner Foundation and Marsha Gladstone for their continued work to encourage volunteering, amongst other issues.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/750>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign Secretary's bilateral meeting with the Palestinian Foreign Minister, 8 January 2018

Speaking after the meeting the Foreign Secretary said:

The UK-Palestinian relationship is strong and long-standing and it was a pleasure to meet Foreign Minister Riyad al Malki to discuss our shared desire to strengthen it further. During our productive talks I reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and the two-state solution, the urgent need for renewed peace negotiations, and the UK's clear and longstanding position on the status of Jerusalem: it should be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.

I look forward to continuing good relations with Riyad al Malki and our Palestinian friends throughout 2018 and beyond.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-bilateral-with-the-palestinian-foreign-minister--2>

United Nations

UN refugee agency urges Israel to halt forced relocation of African asylum seekers

The United Nations refugee agency on Tuesday appealed to the Israeli Government to not forcibly send Eritrean and Sudanese refugees or asylum seekers to sub-Saharan Africa.

This appeal came after some 80 cases were identified in which people relocated by Israel risked their lives by taking dangerous onward journeys to Europe.

"Feeling they had [no other choice](#), they travelled many hundreds of kilometres through conflict zones in South Sudan, Sudan and Libya after being relocated by Israel," the spokesperson of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)), William Spindler, told reporters in Geneva.

He said that along the way, "they suffered abuse, torture and extortion before risking their lives once again by crossing the Mediterranean to Italy."

UNHCR staff interviewed them in Rome between November 2015 and December 2017 in reception centres and informal settlements. All were adult males, some with family members still in Israel, who had entered via the Sinai.

"In every case," he explained, "they reported torture, mistreatment and extortion before reaching Israel," adding that some said that others travelling with them had died *en route* to Libya.

The majority maintained that they had been transferred from Israel to a country in Africa and provided with \$3,500 dollars.

"However, the situation on arrival was different to what most had expected – and with little further support provided beyond accommodation on the first night. They reported feeling unsafe, as they were known to have money," he said. ...

There are some 27,000 Eritreans and 7,700 Sudanese in Israel, however since 2009, when Israel took over refugee status determination from UNHCR, only 10 Eritreans and one Sudanese have been recognized as refugees. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58395#.WIZPb5OFgqI>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN human rights experts welcome resumption of power supplies to Gaza, caution more needs to be done

UN human rights experts have welcomed the announcement that power cuts imposed on Gaza for the past six months were being lifted, but cautioned much more must be done to alleviate the human-caused suffering in Gaza. ...

“This restoration of the pre-June 2017 levels of electricity will ease the suffering of the two million inhabitants of Gaza,” said the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Mr. Michael Lynk. “Over the past six months, Gazans have had access to power for only approximately four hours daily, and often less.

“However, much more is required,” he said. “We call upon all the responsible parties – Israel, the Palestinian Authority, as well the authorities in Gaza – to restore the conditions to allow a full supply of electricity to all Gazans. We also urge Israel, the occupying power, to end its decade-long blockade of Gaza.” ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22579&LangID=E>

TOP

Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666576/draft-animal-welfare-bill-171212.pdf

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Scottish Parliament

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes today**

Schools: collecting information on bullying (closing date 10 January 2018)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/secondary-education-resources/schools-tell-us-how-you-collect-information-bullying>

**** closes in 7 days**

Draft Animal Welfare Bill (closing date 17 January 2018)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/draft-animal-welfare-bill-17-19/>

Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill (closing date 31 January 2018)

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/consultation-on-the-animal-welfare-bill/>

Introducing 'opt-out' consent for organ and tissue donation in England (closing date 6 March 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-opt-out-consent-for-organ-and-tissue-donation-in-england>

Promoting Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland (closing date 9 March 2018)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/promoting-organ-donation-and-transplantation-northern-ireland>

Electoral Reform (Scotland) (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

[TOP](#)