

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

Social Media: Bullying

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [169448] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what discussions he has had with representatives of social media providers on tackling online (a) misogynistic, (b) racist, (c) homophobic and transphobic abuse.

Heather Wheeler: Since 2011 the cross-government hate crime programme has included work with Internet Service Providers and key stakeholders to deal with online abuse including misogynistic, racist, homophobic and transphobic abuse.

This work has largely been led by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for combating Anti-Semitism, and latterly by the EU High Level Group on internet abuse. They have worked with key internet service providers including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Microsoft on a code to take down illegal content within 24 hours.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-08-31/169448/>

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Holocaust

House of Commons Oral Answer

Business of the House: Holocaust Memorial

Peter Bottomley (Conservative): ... The first [issue is] the proposal—inappropriate in many people’s eyes—to collocate a learning centre with the holocaust memorial proposed for Victoria Tower gardens.

Can the Government publish a paper showing their comparison of the merits there with those of the Imperial War Museum and how the present proposal matches the specification in the national Holocaust Memorial Foundation specification of September 2015? ...

Andrea Leadsom: ... I think we are all very excited about the holocaust memorial. I understand that a consultation is going on at the moment in Church

House, and he should make his views known there. Again, if he would like to write to me on that point, I can take it up.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-06/debates/A8C45492-5DB2-45CC-8AB9-AF2972A40034/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-574675DC-21ED-4761-B5C1-6F371C5FD6F8>

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Other Relevant Information

European Commission

Message by Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, on the occasion of the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)

Shana tova ve'metuqa l'kulam. As you welcome the year 5778, I wish you, your families and friends great joy and happiness when celebrating tonight the Rosh Hashana festive meal.

As the Jewish community uses this time for reflection on the past year and resolutions on the year ahead, let me briefly reflect on the past year for the EU, and our future path.

Europe looked back on 60 years of history in March, as we celebrated the anniversary of the Rome Treaties. Our unity has ensured over 70 years of peace in our continent, underpinned by our shared values. These values cannot prevail if we don't remain vigilant and if we don't fight for them. Europeans must stand united against hatred, intolerance and Antisemitism.

We continue to see expressions and manifestations of antisemitic prejudice and hatred in Europe, despite the lessons that history had taught us. There must be zero tolerance towards them. The democratic debate stops where antisemitic tropes are poisoning the discussion and age-old conspiracies are utilised against 'enemies' of society. We must also keep educating younger generations about the dangerous path this leads down. It cannot, it should never be the case that Jews have to hide their identity in public spaces. Every Jew must be able to show openly its Jewish identity.

We go through turbulent times, but there are also encouraging signs. Without ever being naïve, I remain optimistic. Europeans increasingly refuse the hateful messages of extremists and populists. I see growing resilience in our society and increasing understanding that we must fight for our values and not take them for granted. I believe that the silent majority is waking up to the reality that those who want to destroy our diverse societies cannot be met with silence.

More than ever, we need to promote dialogue and understanding between different communities. The European Commission was proud to co-sponsor the joint day of action against antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred this year. The joint Shavuot/Iftar dinner with Jewish and Muslim youngsters also sent a powerful message of unity, co-existence and dialogue. This is the kind of initiative which will make our societies stronger.

I wish you all a happy and sweet New Year and joyful High Holidays.

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?doc_id=47015

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.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

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 7 days**

20 years of the Human Rights Act (closing date 14 September 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/20-years-human-rights-act-launch-17-19/>

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