

# Political Affairs Digest

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*  
**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**  
**SCoJeC**

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Schools: Hate Crime

**Laura Smith (Labour)** [176603] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department provides to (a) schools and (b) local education authorities on dealing with race-related incidents and hate crime in schools.

**Nick Gibb:** Racism has no place in our schools and any incident is unacceptable. All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which outlines measures to prevent all forms of bullying.

The Department issues guidance to schools on how to prevent and tackle bullying. This was last updated in July 2017 and outlines the Government's approach to bullying, the legal obligations and powers schools have, and the principles which underpin the most effective anti-bullying strategies in schools. It provides information on sources of support, including tackling bullying based on race, religion and nationality. This guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>.

The Department has published a research report which details common strategies that schools have found to be effective in combating bullying, along with more detailed case studies showing practical measures taken by schools. The report is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approaches-to-preventing-and-tackling-bullying>.

In January 2016, the Department launched the website

[www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com), jointly with the Home Office, to provide schools with practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation. The website highlights the main routes to report a hate crime and includes our guidance to schools on promoting the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

The Department's guidance is directed towards schools rather than on local authorities, therefore guidance is only issued for schools.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176603/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Religion: Education**

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [175785] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Commission on Religious Education's report entitled Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward a national plan for RE, published in September 2018, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the recommendation in that report to rename the subject to religion and worldviews.

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [175786] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Commission on Religious Education's report entitled Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward a national plan for RE, published in September 2018, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the conclusion in that report that all young people should have a statutory national entitlement to the study of religion and worldviews.

**Nick Gibb:** The Department welcomes the Commission for Religious Education's report and will carefully consider the merits of the report's recommendations, one of which is to rename the subject 'religion and worldviews'. At present, religious education is compulsory for pupils in all age groups in state-funded schools. It has an important role in developing children's knowledge of the values and traditions of Britain and other countries, and in fostering understanding among different faiths and cultures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/175785/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/175786/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Report-of-the-Commission-on-RE.pdf>

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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>

#### **Online Forums Bill**

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

**Reform of the legal requirements for divorce** (closing date 10 December 2018)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/reform-of-the-legal-requirements-for-divorce/>

**The future of civil partnership in Scotland** (closing date 21 December 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-scotland/>

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