

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204356] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what material changes have been made to the 2015 National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre planning brief since its publication.

Heather Wheeler: The objective remains to build a striking new national memorial co-located with a world class learning centre.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204356/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204358] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will publish the business case for the (a) construction and (b) continuing costs of the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

Heather Wheeler: The business case contains information which is commercially sensitive and not currently suitable for publication.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204358/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204359] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether entry to the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is planned to be free of charge.

Heather Wheeler: While the entrance to the learning centre will be controlled by a ticketed system to avoid queues, no decision has yet been taken on charging policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204359/>

Victoria Tower Gardens

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204360] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will meet Lords and Commons Members to discuss their concerns about building in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Heather Wheeler: Many discussions with Members of the Lords and Commons have taken place since January 2016 when the Government announced its intention to site the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens. Minsters will meet with the APPG on the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in the coming months. Planning concerns should at this stage be directed to Westminster City Council who will be considering the planning application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204360/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204361] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which Government Departments officials in his Department have had meetings with to discuss the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre; and the dates on which those meetings took place.

Heather Wheeler: Officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have held numerous meetings over several years to discuss the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204361/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [204362] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if the Minister will make representations to the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation on the potential merits of the Foundation engaging with (a) a variety of members of the Jewish community and (b) representatives of the Buxton memorial against slavery to increase support for that Memorial.

Heather Wheeler: The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has engaged extensively with all interested parties, including through two public exhibitions of the proposed designs. The Foundation's plan is to enhance the setting of the Buxton Memorial.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204362/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [205424] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when the decision was taken to submit a planning application for the proposed National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to Westminster City Council a day before the parliamentary recess.

Heather Wheeler: The planning application was submitted at the earliest practical opportunity following the second public exhibition. The full statutory consultation period will commence following Westminster City Council's validation of the application, which we expect in January.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205424/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [205425] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will instruct the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation together to (a) engage with people that wish to have detailed

discussions on the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre and (b) require the Foundation to provide requested information that should be in the public domain.

Heather Wheeler: The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has engaged extensively with all interested parties and I am confident that it will continue to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205425/>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

James Frith (Labour) [204610] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of the recently reported reductions in funding from the US to co-existence projects in Israel-Palestine on peace efforts in that region.

Alistair Burt: DFID is aware of reports that USAID is currently unable to support coexistence projects in the West Bank and Gaza. The UK supports coexistence work both within green line Israel and across the Israel-OPTs boundary. All types of coexistence work can be valuable and help to foster greater understanding between communities from both sides of the conflict. Ultimately, however, the only way to achieve lasting coexistence is through a negotiated two-state solution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204610/>

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Other Relevant Information

CST / Antisemitism Policy Trust

Hidden Hate: what Google searches tell us about antisemitism today

What can the internet tell us about antisemitism in the United Kingdom? Today, CST and the Antisemitism Policy Trust publish a new report, called *Hidden Hate: What Google searches tell us about antisemitism today*, that uses Google search data from 2004 to 2018 to show what people in the UK are searching for in relation to Jews, Zionism and the Holocaust, and what this tells us about antisemitic attitudes in Britain today. ...

It has been shown that people are remarkably honest when they search for information online. Their Google searches and queries reveal interests, prejudices and hatreds that they might keep hidden from friends, family members, neighbours, surveys and even from themselves. They have been shown to share their health secrets, sexual preferences, and hostility towards other groups. ... *Hidden Hate* shows:

- An average of 170,000 Google searches with antisemitic content are made per year in the United Kingdom. ...
- The top negative stereotypes searched for in relation to Jews are that they are “evil” and “racist.” ...

- The most common antisemitic Google searches in the UK are for jokes mocking Jews. ...
- There are more Google searches in the UK into the Rothschild banking family than for top Jewish ... Almost all of these searches are looking for conspiracy theories ...
- Sometimes even positive media coverage of Jews, Israel or the Holocaust can lead to an increase in antisemitic searches: Google searches for “Holocaust hoax” are roughly 30 per cent above average on Holocaust Memorial Day each year ...
- The United Kingdom ranks third in the world for searches about Zionism, behind only Israel and Lebanon. ...
- Antisemitic searches are higher in Wales than in any other part of the United Kingdom ...

To read the full press release see

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2019/01/11/hidden-hate-what-google-searches-tell-us-about-antisemitism-today>

Hidden Hate: What Google searches tell us about antisemitism today

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/0/7/APT%20Google%20Report%202019.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>

International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill

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

Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/palestinianstatehoodrecognition.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 today**

Islamophobia (closing date 11 January 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/islamophobia-call-for-further-evidence-17-19/>

**** closes in 4 days**

Connected communities – Tackling loneliness and social isolation (Wales)

(closing date 15 January 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

**** closes in 5 days**

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Extremism in England and Wales (closing date 31 January 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extremism-in-england-and-wales-call-for-evidence>

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools [Wales only] (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22

(closing date 15 March 2019)

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

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