

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Buildings: Security

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [237670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what policing budget funds have been allocated to the protection of mosques.

Victoria Atkins: Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for setting local priorities and allocating budgets accordingly. Therefore, this information is not collected centrally

However, we know the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Chief Constables continue to place a high priority on protecting places of worship as part of their core activity particularly in relation to hate crime. Following the attacks in New Zealand local police have increased patrolling and security measures around mosques and other places of worship to enhance safety and reassure the public. In addition, protective security advice is provided by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). NaCTSO have published sector specific protective security advice and guidance for owners and operators of crowded places sites such as places of worship, to allow them to identify key risks and consider what steps to take.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237670/>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701910/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1a.pdf

Department for Education

Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education: FAQs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

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Israel

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mark Field statement on settlement plans across the West Bank

Acting Minister for the Middle East Mark Field commented: The UK strongly condemns the Israeli authorities' advancement on 5 April of plans and tenders for yet more settlement units across the West Bank.

This follows the announcement in December for over 2,000 units. Settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the physical viability of the two-state solution.

I call on Israel to halt such counterproductive action, and for all parties to commit to further efforts to de-escalate current tensions and create the right environment for a just and lasting peace.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mark-field-statement-on-settlement-plans-across-the-west-bank>

United Nations

UN chief reaffirms commitment to untying 'Gordian knot' of Middle East conflict and instability

Underlining the "enormous" opportunities for sustainable development and investment in the Middle East, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has reaffirmed the Organization's deep engagement in a "surge of diplomacy for peace," to "untie the Gordian knot of conflict and instability."

... the UN chief travelled to the Baqa'a camp, one of six "emergency" camps set up in 1968 to accommodate Palestine refugees and displaced people who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Today, Baqa'a is home to nearly 120,000 registered Palestinian refugees, and is the largest camp north of the Jordanian capital, Amman.

There, he met with staff and beneficiaries of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East ([UNRWA](#)), and emphasized the importance of continuing to fund the vital services UNRWA provides to millions of Palestine refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

"The stories I heard today were very compelling, both in showing the strength and courage of Palestinian refugees, and in conveying their concern about their future," said the Secretary-General. "What remains with me are words of hope and determination of men and women, young and old."

Mr. Guterres also visited one of the UNRWA-run schools in the camp and, in remarks to the press made following the visit, he insisted that such schools must not close: "in 700 schools, 530,000 Palestine refugee children are learning about human rights, about democracy, about tolerance, making the conditions to be exemplary citizens. And this is something that warms my heart." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/04/1036201>

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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>

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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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438