



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs  
Israel

Relevant Legislation  
Consultations

## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Hezbollah

**Joan Ryan (Independent)** [240937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to tackle sources of financial assistance to Hezbollah in the UK.

**Ben Wallace:** The UK has a strong reputation for tackling terrorist financing and we are a key player in international efforts to strengthen the global response to terrorist financing. This was demonstrated in the UK's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Mutual Evaluation Report published in December 2018, which gave the UK the highest possible rating on how it tackles terrorist financing.

Our approach to countering terrorist finance is multifaceted and we have a range of disruptive tools and capabilities to detect, prevent and disrupt the movement of terrorist finance. We also work very closely with our international partners and financial institutions here in the UK, to exchange and analyse information to better detect, prevent and disrupt the movement of terrorist funds.

The investigation and prosecution of offences relating to proscribed organisations is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-04/240937/>

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Lord Janner of Braunstone

**Lord Campbell-Savours (Labour)** [HL14900] To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Crown Prosecution Service were first made aware of the omission in the report by Sir Richard Henriques, An Independent Review of the Metropolitan Police Service's handling of non-recent sexual offence investigations alleged against persons of public prominence, published on 19 January 2016, to refer to exculpatory unused material in relation to criminal offences, accusations, references to known persons with criminal records and other material held in Government records which might affect decisions in the case of Lord Janner of Braunstone.

**Lord Keen of Elie:** In 2015 the then Director of Public Prosecutions commissioned Sir Richard Henriques to conduct an Independent Inquiry into allegations made against Lord Greville Janner, which was published on 19 January 2016. Sir Richard was asked to conduct a thorough and independent review into the approach and decision making of the CPS in relation to past investigations by Leicestershire Police which concluded in 1991, 2002 and 2007. He made a number of recommendations with regard to CPS procedures and guidance. This inquiry was separate to and independent of the prosecution of Lord Janner which concluded in March 2016.

As to the Independent Review of the Metropolitan Police Service's handling of non-recent sexual offence investigations in 2016, I refer the noble Lord to my previous answer [HL14520].

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-28/HL14900/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://factuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Report-Independent-Review-of-the-Metropolitan-Police-Services-handling-of-non-recent-sexual-offence-investigations-1-3-1.pdf>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-13/HL14520/>

## House of Commons Library

### Debate Pack: Definition of Islamophobia

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0086/CDP-2019-0086.pdf>

TOP

## Israel

**See also the House of Commons written answer “Hezbollah” in the “Home Affairs” section above.**

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Israel: Palestinians

**Joan Ryan (Independent)** [240935] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, which research partner has been selected by her Department for the People for Peaceful Change programme.

**Harriett Baldwin:** DFID has agreed that Search for Common Ground (SFCG) should select the research partner through a closed selection process because the processes involved in an open competition would place sensitive information about existing programme activities into the public domain. Our risk assessment indicates that this information could be used to target future programme activities, individual participants, or local staff involved in the management of the programme, and so we took this decision in order to uphold the aid principle to do no harm.

DFID received the bids from SFCG on 17 March 2019, and the evaluation panel comprehensively reviewed the bids and concluded that they did not sufficiently address the scope of work required for the People for Peaceful Change research

piece. DFID is currently in the middle of agreeing an alternative option to effectively deliver a comprehensive and robust research element to this programme. We will release an interim update on the research piece to update MPs by the end of April.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-04/240935/>

#### **Palestinians: Overseas Aid**

**Joan Ryan (Independent)** [240936] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to her Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the Palestinian Authority (PA), what discussions her Department has had with the PA on the naming of a PA Ministry of Education sports festival at the Beitunia Upper Elementary School for Girls after terrorist Dalal Mughrabi.

**Harriett Baldwin:** The UK strongly condemns any language or actions that could stir up hatred and prejudice. Our support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding which requires the PA to commit to adhere to the principle of non-violence and to tackle language and avoid actions that could incite violence or hatred. We have held meetings with the PA that will inform the 2019 assessment, which we are currently finalising. The UK regularly raises allegations of incitement in the education sector in our conversations with the PA, and had a detailed discussion on this topic as recently as 21 March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-04/240936/>

#### **Palestinians: Overseas Aid**

**Stephen Twigg (Labour Co-op)** [240940] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of the UK's aid spending on the Occupied Palestinian Territories is allocated directly to local NGOs.

**Harriett Baldwin:** DFID in the Occupied Palestinian Territories does not provide any direct funding to local NGOs. DFID works through a limited number of partners in the OPTs such as the UN, the World Bank, the ICRC and the European Union. We select our partners for the strong safeguards they have in place, which reduces delivery risks and ensures the maximum impact of UK aid for Palestinians. However, some of our international NGO and multilateral partners do work with local NGOs to achieve the best development outcomes, with a strong focus on appropriate safeguards and ensuring value for money for the UK taxpayer. DFID implements a robust monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that UK aid reaches the intended beneficiaries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-04/240940/>

## **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

### **Israel must ensure protection for Issa Amro and other human rights defenders, say UN experts**

Israel must fully honour and implement the rights and obligations contained in the UN's Declaration on human rights defenders, and in particular end the use of criminal, legal and security tools to obstruct the legitimate work of human rights defenders, say two UN experts\*.

Their comments come after the latest hearing on 7 April in the case of Issa Amro, a human rights defender and founder of Youth Against Settlements, a Hebron-based group which seeks to end settlement expansion through non-violent civil resistance.

"Israel must provide for the protection of human rights defenders in the context of their

work and ensure that, if charged with any offence, their right to a fair trial is respected,” said Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, and Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

“The case of Issa Amro is emblematic of the sophisticated array of obstacles faced by Palestinian human rights defenders who engage in non-violent activities.” ...

“Cracking down on individuals whose work is essential to denouncing violations and creating safe and peaceful societies, sends a troubling message that the Israeli authorities make little effort to abide by international human rights standards, including the right to a fair trial. ...

The UN experts also expressed deep concern about the repressive working environment faced by Palestinian human rights organisations in recent years.

“People living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory need to be able to stand up for their rights without being punished for their courageous advocacy and calls for action. Human rights defenders like Issa Amro should be able to carry out their work without threats, intimidation, or abuse, and the Israeli authorities should stop prosecuting defenders in an attempt to silence them,” the experts said. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24468&LanglD=E>

TOP

## 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>

TOP

## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

**Online Harms White Paper** (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

TOP

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