



Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Hate Crime

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [287449] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress has been made on the review of hate crime legislation in England and Wales.

Chris Philp: The Law Commission were invited to review the law on hate crime and to make recommendations for its reform. The review began in March 2019 and will also consider which characteristics (for example gender, age, disability) deserve enhanced protection by the criminal law and on what basis.

The Law Commission plan to issue a consultation on this matter in early 2020. Further information on the review can be found on the Law Commission webpage at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-05/287449/>

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Israel

United Nations

World Leaders Denounce Breaches of Sovereignty in Collective Efforts to Settle Conflict, Tackle Climate Change, as General Assembly Debate Continues

... **Barham Salih, President of Iraq**, said ... Diligent work is also required to deal with the Palestinian question and he underscored Iraq's solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to self-determination. Israel's recent proposal to annex the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley can only prolong the crisis ...

Michel Aoun, President of Lebanon ... described Lebanon's "discouraging" historical experience, which began in 1948 after waves of Palestinians came to the country, where they still live in camps awaiting a political solution and the implementation of resolution 194 (1948). Meanwhile, reduced services provided by the United Nations Relief and

Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) threaten to “turn Palestinian youth from ‘education candidates’ to ‘revenge candidates’.

He rejected Israel’s Judaization of Al-Quds, methodical colonial policy, legislation that contravenes human rights and annexation of lands that were occupied by force. Spotlighting recent attacks on a residential area in Beirut, he said Israel’s violations of resolution 1701 (2006) have never ceased, and neither have its aggressions against Lebanon’s sovereignty by land, sea and air. Reiterating that Lebanon is peace-loving and respects resolution 1701 (2006), he said “this commitment does not eliminate our natural non-transferable right to defend our land and people with all available means.” ...

Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland [said] ... Conflict is not endemic to any region, people, class of values, or belief system, he said, adding that his country has experience of prolonged intractable conflict and of the painstaking work and compromises which pave the way for a peace settlement. “For this reason, the Israel-Palestine conflict resonates deeply with the Irish people, he said, adding that no peace process is linear or without cost. Stressing that his country and its European Union partners will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including regarding Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties, he asked the leaders on both sides to sit down, face to face, immediately. ...

Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait ... went on to say that the Palestinian question occupies a central and pivotal place in the Arab and Islamic worlds. It is imperative to continue efforts to hold serious negotiations within a specific time frame, to end the Israeli occupation and establish an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also called for the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities on occupied Palestinian land and of Israeli practices violating the sanctity of religious sites. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12187.doc.htm>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill

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

Domestic Abuse Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Islamophobia in Scotland (closing date 30 September 2019)

<https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=13027>

Welsh Government Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-2024 (closing date 19 November 2019)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-09/strategic-equality-objectives-2020-2024-consultation.pdf>

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