

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Muslim Brotherhood**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [261137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the decision by the US Administration to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group; and if he will make a statement.

**Ben Wallace:** The Government concluded a comprehensive review of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2015.

The review concluded the movement is a secretive organisation and that parts of it – globally – have a highly ambiguous relationship with violent extremism. The Government remains committed to keeping under review the views promoted and activities undertaken by the Muslim Brotherhood's associates in the UK, in accordance with the five commitments included in the former Prime Minister's statement to Parliament.

We will continue to consider any new evidence on the Muslim Brotherhood's activities against the UK's legal thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261137/>

#### **Hezbollah: Greater London**

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [262425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the media report of 9 June 2019 that Hezbollah stockpiled explosive materials in North West London in 2015, whether that stockpiling was included in the decision to proscribe Hezbollah in February 2019.

**Ben Wallace:** We do not comment on intelligence matters.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262425/>

*The media report referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/09/iran-linked-terrorists-caught-stockpiling-explosives-north-west/amp/?\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/09/iran-linked-terrorists-caught-stockpiling-explosives-north-west/amp/?_twitter_impression=true)

## Hezbollah: Greater London

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [262426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when (a) the Home Secretary (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officials in his Department were informed of the reported stockpiling of explosive materials by individuals with suspected of links to Hezbollah, in North West London; and what steps his Department took to (i) inform and (ii) protect communities in North West London as a result of that stockpiling.

**Ben Wallace:** It is the policy of successive governments not to comment on Police operational or intelligence matters.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262426/>

## House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

### Inquiry into Islamophobia: evidence session

**Q117 Iman Atta (Director, Tell MAMA):** Within Tell MAMA, we have been recording Islamophobia and anti-Muslim attacks since 2012. Since 2015, we have seen a rise in reported incidents to ourselves, but also to police forces. ...

From 2015 to where we are today, year on year we have seen a sharp increase in reported incidents on a street level—so incidents that are called “offline”—of between 30% to 50%. That increase is due to multiple factors. We have the rise of racism, of anti-Muslim hatred, we have media and social media, we have the rise of populism and the far right and we have trigger events that are a contributing factor, as well as a driver to anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia. ...

The majority of the incidents that take place are incidents that are abusive behaviour in nature. ... Nevertheless, we see year on year there is an increase in physical aggression and an increase in discrimination cases. ...

**Q118 Iman Atta:** Employment discrimination as well as public service discrimination. Let's not forget as well when you look at anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia, it is gendered. Women are the number one target and the number one victim of anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia. ... 66% of the perpetrators who are reported to us are male and 58% of the victims are female. This seems to be the case year on year and this trend seems to always reinforce itself.

One of the things to note as well about the perpetrators is that in our 2017 data, and equally in the 2018 data, what we are seeing is that the younger generation have a high percentage in perpetrating that hate. For example, in our 2017 data, 22% of the 66% of male perpetrators were between the ages of 13 to 18. ...

**Miqdaad Versi (Head of Public Affairs, Muslim Council of Britain):** ... When you look at the range of different polls out there that look at the perception of Muslims in society, you see things like a third of the population believing in conspiracy theories about Muslims, like there are these no-go zones where non-Muslims can't enter, these Sharia no-go zones. These types of conspiracy theories are quite prevalent, a third of the population believing this stuff. It gets even worse when you get into the idea that Muslim immigration to this country is somehow a plan to take over; a fifth of the population believe that. But even when it comes to young children, 31% of young children think that Muslims are taking over England. ...

**Q119 Chair (Yvette Cooper, Labour):** What age are those children?

**Miqdaad Versi:** This was aged between 10 and 14 in the largest survey ever done by *The Guardian* a couple of years ago. ...

**Q120 Chair:** ... do you think that has got worse or do you think that is just being measured now?

**Iman Atta:** I think it is both at the same time. ... Kids tend to hear their parents say a lot of things at home. Although they don't come with any prejudice, they just repeat those words the next day in school.

Tell MAMA receives one in 10 cases from schools, ie from parents, where their children have suffered a type of racism or bullying attack or within the staff, but that is educational institutions and that is mainly schools. ...

**Miqdaad Versi:** ... There have been a number of different reports that have come out from Childline talking about the fact that it has received greater numbers of calls about Islamophobia ...

**Q121 Iman Atta:** Not every school has policies in place to respond to it. We do have engagement with the schools, specifically when they receive a letter from our end and the letter is a bit threatening. That is when they react to things, but there are schools that do not even take that letter seriously and we have to call them out and name them in newspapers. ...

What policies do they have? Some of them do not even know that some of the words that are being used are racist. ...

**Miqdaad Versi:** It is when you keep on hearing the same type of tropes coming out, the same type of language and still that not being really understood, for example, "Muslims are terrorists" ... The same types of things come up again and again and again and it feels like if a third of young children believe that Muslims are taking over England ...

**Q123 Iman Atta:** Hate crime and hate speech have a huge impact on communities, they have a huge impact on the victim, on their families, on their friends, on their neighbours, on everyone. ...

That is worrying, because a female who is being abused on the street just because she is a female and she is Muslim, for her to pay the price for someone else who claims to be Muslim and commits atrocities, that is not fair on that individual. ...

One of the things that victims always tend to tell us is that when they are being abused walking down the street or in a bus stop, as much as the hate incident that they have experienced is bad, what is worse for them is the 15 people watching them being abused on the side and not doing anything ...

We had victims who spoke to us about hate they would have received online and then when they report it or they talk about it, people tell them, "Well, it is just online. Just close your account and you can live with it". The impact on victims is unmeasurable. We don't know what that victim lives at that moment in time, we don't know what their emotional state is and we don't know how that is going to impact them moving forward. ...

**Miqdaad Versi:** The only thing I would add is the EHRC did a report, which found that 70% of Muslims had reported they had experienced religion-based prejudice in the last year. That is astonishingly high. Another study I saw said that basically every Muslim out there knows people who have suffered some form of prejudice or racism in some way. If it is that normalised, it becomes a very different mentality as to how you therefore deal with it. ...

**Q124 Kate Green (Labour):** ... I represent a constituency with a significant Muslim population and I have been quite surprised by how limited their knowledge is of reporting routes. They have not heard of Tell MAMA. I am the one who tells them about it. I do not have a sense of how confident they are in reporting to the police. I do not have a sense that there is widespread awareness of third-party reporting routes. ...

**Iman Atta:** In the many events that Tell MAMA does across the country, one of the things that we always see when we speak to individuals is that, yes, they have suffered a type of racism or Islamophobia, but they never knew that they could report it. ...

We have had cases where victims have gone to police forces, did not get the result they wanted and then they have come to us to reopen these cases. We have had cases where victims reported to us. They felt they could not trust the police, they did not want to go

authorities and report to them for many reasons.

Let us not forget that we have over 3 million Muslims in the country, who come from super-diverse backgrounds. Some of them might come from countries where the police are not there to serve their communities, so that perception of, “The police are going to be there to help me” is not there. Some of them might have had a previous experience with police forces, it might be on a theft case that did not work out well, they did not get that treatment and feel, “Oh no, I don’t want to go and report it to the police force”. Some think that it is a waste of time and of police resources. ...

**Q125 Iman Atta:** I think the police have gone way beyond where they were ... There is still a long way for them to go, but I think more and more police forces are becoming more hands-on in how to deal with hate crime and hate incidents. But the one thing we need to look at in police forces is, again, the fact that resources are limited. The police officers trained on hate crime tend to change, so you have lost that training and that knowledge, so where does that go and how do we keep that within those police forces?...

**Q126 Kate Green:** What, if anything, could the Government do to help promote awareness of reporting routes?

**Miqdaad Versi:** ... When Government says something, sometimes it is listened to from the broader public and I think that is especially through networks that already exist. A report came out this week or last week that said that 70% of Muslims go to the mosque at least once a month. Now, whether that is true or not, I don’t know. That seems too high for me, but there was a report that came out, based on a large poll that was done. If that is even partially true, even if that is double what it should be, that still is a large proportion of people who will be reached in some way through a mosque network. That is a very important way to try to reach people.

**Q127 Kate Green:** You have spoken, Iman, of the rise in hate incidents after major events or attacks. What should be done in the aftermath of such attacks to try to break the pattern of that rise in hateful responses?

**Iman Atta:** I think strong political leadership and messages coming out to bring communities together and addressing communities on issues of racism is important. ... The engagement with communities, the messaging with communities, the political leadership that was put in place and the messaging going out to the wider public was nuanced and it was a message of us all standing together. ...

**Q128 Miqdaad Versi:** The only thing I would add to that is the way that the media or sections of the media have reported some of these incidents makes a big difference as to how many within the broader public might understand the situation better. ... sections of mainstream media in some of the reports that came out when some of the incidents happened, have been very good in nuancing the way that they talk about it. Others have been, let’s say not so good, using very inflammatory language, or having hugely problematic opinion columns that don’t reflect anything about the society that we live in, and not reporting on the really important solidarity work that is happening in communities ...

**Q129 Miqdaad Versi:** When you see politician after politician seeming to often say quite negative things or do negative things when it comes to Muslim communities ... that is where things become very difficult. ...

**Q130 Toby Perkins (Labour):** Many mosques and Islamic centres in the UK have been victims of vandalism, arson and threats of violence or other forms of attack. The Government doubled the financial support to protect mosques and places of worship up to £1.6 million. To what extent do you think that that is sufficient and what other forms of practical support do you think the Government might provide, in terms of supporting security training and from a security perspective?

**Miqdaad Versi:** ... Many Muslim institutions, especially after the Christchurch attack,

were really worried. ... At my local mosque, we were talking about having extra security for the first time. It is not something we had even considered in the past. ... There are a few things that need to happen with, first, the way that the fund is currently set up. It does not, for example, help Islamic schools or cemeteries, it is only focused on places of worship, whereas that is something that is a problem, because Islamic schools have been attacked in a very similar way. ...

There are also big problems, because there is this idea that when you apply to this fund, you have to put in 20% yourself as a Muslim institution. Half of Muslims live in the 10% most deprived areas, so you often have mosques in areas where they struggle to pay even their imam a useful salary. They struggle with being able to pay that 20% in the first place. ...

Some of these things are being dealt with, some of the bureaucracy issues have been improved, but there is a long way to go. I would argue that the fund is very small, given the scale of the issue that the Muslim community is facing, but Muslim communities are not really applying in the first place. One of the reasons why they are not applying is not just because of the bureaucracy, it is because they do not even know about it. The amount of money that has been put into marketing that fund or even working with Muslim organisations to ensure that people know about the fund is zero ...

**Iman Atta:** There are two funds that are being opened currently by the Home Office. One of them is the places of worship fund, where places of worship can apply for security funds—ie CCTV, increasing their fences, having double glazing—which is the £1.6 million increase. That applies to all places of worship other than synagogues, because the Jewish community have a separate fund. I think the Home Office have moved in the right direction by doing consultations and going out to mosques. ...

Addressing your question on what needs to be done in terms of training, cameras, CCTVs, fences and double glazing are not always going save mosques, so we need to have training in place. That is the second fund that is opening up in July, where training will be put together and organisations can apply to the Home Office to get through that process. ... It is not only the CCTV that is important, it is also people on the ground and communities. ...

Let's not forget one of the things that always, always is being left behind when we talk about security is women. There are women's sections in mosques. No one talks about the women's sections; no one talks about what kind of security these women's sections have; no one talks about women being trained to address this. Women's sections are separate to the mosque, so what training are the Muslim women getting in order to address these issues? ...

We work with the Community Security Trust, with the Jewish organisation that delivers that training, in order to pick up on best practice and how they have been delivering their security to synagogues and to Jewish schools in order to tailor them to Muslim communities ... It is not only mosques that are being attacked—churches and synagogues are being attacked. It is about how places of worship work together on securing themselves, and as communities supporting each other through the time of turmoil that we are all going through. ...

**Q131 Miqdaad Versi:** ... 43% of people, according to one poll, said they would be concerned if a mosque was built near them. ...

In mosques that I have spoken to, in management committees I have spoken to across the country, there have been people who have different views. Some have said, "You know what, we need to be proactive, public, talk about all the good that we do in order to change the attitudes around us" and you have others who are saying, "Look, we need to just keep on going about our normal business as quietly as possible". ... I think that that is a real problem, when people feel that they have to be quiet because otherwise the impact will be quite large. ...

**Iman Atta:** ... It is not only just the visibility of the institution, it is the visibility of the communities that we need to look at. How do we break those barriers between the wider society and Muslim communities? ...

**Q132 Tim Loughton (Conservative):** Can we talk more about less explicit forms of discrimination? ... In particular, I think it is 16% of Muslims will be in professional management positions against about 30% of the population at large ...

**Q133 Tim Loughton:** ... Is it proactive discrimination, that an employer is taking an informed decision as far as they concerned that that person, who happens to be a Muslim, is going to be lower down the priority list for an offer for that job? Is it passive discrimination...?

**Miqdaad Versi:** ... The BBC did a study and it tried to put applications under the name Adam and under the name Mohammed and three times as many people who had the name Adam—similar qualifications—got the interview compared with the person called Mohammed. ... There is clearly some element of discrimination. ...

Part of that is due to migration patterns and the fact that Muslims have not necessarily been in some of these professions for as long, but a big part of it is because of unconscious bias. ... Part of it is also due to the fact that some Muslims—and we do not know how many—will not be in the same social circles and will not be willing to go to a pub, for example, or will not choose to go to a pub as often as someone else. ...

**Q135 Miqdaad Versi:** One very good positive is the Race Disparity Audit, which happened a couple of years ago. Many things happened as a result of that ... When we look at all of these individual elements, each one of those reports has specific outcomes and specific recommendations. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. ...

**Q136 Janet Daby (Labour):** ... what do you feel that political parties need to address in terms of claims levelled against their members and their party?

**Miqdaad Versi:** When it comes to all parties, I think that everyone talks about a zero-tolerance policy against any form of racism. ...

We have seen unequivocal failures, specifically in the Conservative Party, when it comes to Islamophobia, not just small failures, fundamental failures in every single way. ...

You have policies that seem to be made off the hoof. For example, the idea that any time someone shares something that is clearly Islamophobic, they will be suspended. That was a view that the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Brandon Lewis, said publicly in *The Guardian*. A few weeks later the exact thing happened, that same thing happened. A councillor was found to have said something unacceptable. Was that person suspended? No. There is a fundamental failure of process, there is a fundamental failure in fact that this is an important issue. ...

**Iman Atta:** ... Whether it is one individual who is promoting racist language or 10, they are equally bad. It is not about the scale, it is about the existence of racist language in any political party. Political parties should be clear on their communication, communicating on the process of how they are dealing with racism within their own parties. They should be transparent on outcomes, on what is happening. That is something we have not been seeing from the political leadership in parties. ...

When leadership comes with language that is racist, that language emboldens the individuals on the street to take that hatred on at street level. It becomes, "Well, my political leader is saying this, so I am allowed to say this". They become more emboldened to take that hatred on the street and the impact of that is really on the day-to-day victims. ...

**Q137 Janet Daby:** ... At one of our recent meetings we have been discussing the definition of Islamophobia proposed by the APPG on British Muslims. What are your views of the definition and what is your understanding of the expression of "Muslimness"? Do you think the definition is helpful? If not, how it could be improved?

**Iman Atta:** Within Tell MAMA, we welcome the fact that the APPG on British Muslims has

taken the initiative to take evidence, do consultations to try to get a definition of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred. ...

Any adopted definition must defend the right of Muslims to live freely without fear from prejudice, from violence and discrimination, while at the same time ensuring that the core principle of freedom of speech is protected and the fundamental rights are protected. ...

One of the other things we need to look at—we work within the standards of the law—is a definition that relates to the laws and legislation that we have in place around hate crimes and hate incidents. When we look at issues around internal Muslim hatred, we do get reports from the Shia community, we do get reports from Ahmadi communities, and we think that a definition should have an element of internal Muslim hatred to be included in that definition. ...

When an individual from the Shia community or the Ahmadi community goes to the police and says, “I have been attacked for being Muslim” it is logged as such by police forces. That is something that we always have to take into account. There is a crossover when we talk about internal Muslim hatred and hate crimes, and that is something we need to take into account. ...

**Miqdaad Versi:** The Muslim Council of Britain has very warmly welcomed the definition proposed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims. ...

Just one thing to bear in mind in case people were unaware, in December 2016 Sajid Javid said, “The Government believed that while the anti-Semitism definition was ‘legally non-binding’ it was nevertheless ‘an important tool’ for criminal justice agencies and public bodies”. It is very clear that you do not necessarily need to have a legally-binding definition when we are talking about this. What we care about is trying to find a way of identifying what something is. ...

I think the best way is to look at the IHRA definition. On the website it says at the end, “Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether people or property—like buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries—are selected because they are or are perceived to be Jewish or linked to Jews”. Now, “linked to Jews” one could argue is a huge identity, but people know what this means. We already understand the idea of Muslim identity. A Koran is clearly a type of Muslim identity and clearly the painting—I am not sure it is a painting—of the thing is not. We understand what this is, it is not complicated.

Sometimes we have to recognise that there are going to be differences of opinion when it comes to the issue of is this a racist attack or not. Some people who perceive this as a racist attack might believe it is a racist attack; when it goes through the courts it might be different. ...

**Q140 Vince Cable (MP, Leader, Liberal Democrat Party):** ... Our starting point is that Islamophobia in the way that you have just been discussing it in the last hour, the prejudice and hatred directed against Muslims as a group, it is a fact of life. It has to be tackled. It is a fact of political life, it happens in political discourse. If it is going to be tackled there has to be some common definition and basis for discussion. ...

We have taken the view that the All-Party Group did a great deal of work and was very thorough and consultative, and has produced what we consider to be a good working definition and we have adopted it as part of our disciplinary processes. ...

**Baroness Brinton (President, Liberal Democrat Party):** ... I am not aware of many cases in the discipline code but it tends to be social media. If it is something egregious, the advantage of social media is that the evidence is there and it is pretty clear for a disciplinary committee to then take action. ... We have used compulsory training to make sure that if we think somebody may have used unconscious bias but is not aware of it, then they will be required to have training. ...

**Q143 Tim Loughton:** ... you heard some of the points about what has just been referred to as unconscious bias in terms of employment, getting into Russell Group universities and

others. To what do you attribute it and how ingrained is it, unconsciously or proactively, in society?

**Vince Cable:** It is pretty deeply ingrained ... We hear it on a daily basis. The association, which is quite common, of Muslims not just as individuals, as a group, and terrorism has also added colour to this phenomenon. ...

**Q147 Tim Loughton:** What are examples of people in positions of political responsibility who you think may have exacerbated an innate discrimination against Muslims or some form of Islamophobia or potential hatred towards Muslims? Where has that been triggered by politicians? ...

**Vince Cable:** If you are wanting one example that I got involved in the public controversy around was your colleague's description of Muslim women as letterboxes or whatever. It may have been funny on one level, but it did undoubtedly have the effect of stereotyping a whole group of people with different motivations. ...

**Q152 Tim Loughton:** You think that Boris Johnson making a flippant, poor attempt at humour comment about the dress of certain Muslim women gives rise to Muslim hatred?

**Vince Cable:** Prejudice rather than hatred in that particular case, yes. He probably intended it as humour and, as you say, it was flippant, but we are political people in positions of responsibility and it probably helped to feed a public attitude of seeing negatively people dressed in a traditional way, which they have every right to do so.

**Q153 Tim Loughton:** That directly incites violence?

**Vince Cable:** No, I would not put it as far as that, no.

**Q155 Baroness Brinton:** ... I have talked to a number of Muslim women after Boris Johnson made that statement who commented that they had had insults thrown at them on the street. It was as if a senior politician saying something had given permission for others to be offensive. ...

**Q156 Tim Loughton:** How would you compare that with a comment by a former Lib Dem here, Baroness Tonge, who said that she sympathised with suicide bombers, she understood suicide bombers? Do you think that is inciting a more violent reaction than a flippant comment about dress?

**Baroness Brinton:** Indeed it is. Indeed, she was disciplined for that and she is no longer a member of the party. ...

**Q160 Tim Loughton:** Do you think the Conservative Party not having adopted the All-Party Group's recommendation of the definition of Islamophobia suggests that there is institutional Islamophobia within the Conservative Party now?

**Vince Cable:** I don't know what the reasons are, but it does suggest a rather unnecessarily defensive response. ...

**Q161 Baroness Brinton:** ... That I do regret, I wish the Conservative Party would do it.

**Q162 Tim Loughton:** Why?

**Baroness Brinton:** In the discussion between the political parties under the guidance of the Committee for Standards in Public Life about the intimidation of candidates at elections, we are all trying to move to a common standard and if Islamophobia and anti-Semitism become part of the forms of intimidation, then it would be good if there was one standard to which we could all agree. ...

**Q164 Chair:** Tell MAMA reported in the week after Boris Johnson's article referring to letterboxes a significant spike in hate incidents against Muslim women. Would you regard that as being significant? Do you think that we should be taking into account the consequences, not just the intention, of politicians' actions?

**Baroness Brinton:** Absolutely. I think part of the insidiousness of discrimination, whether conscious or unconscious, if it means that Muslims feel uneasy about walking around in

their communities then that absolutely has to be regretted and as a society we need to tackle that. ...

**Q167 Janet Daby:** Would you allow an individual who has made an anti-Muslim or Islamic comment to stand as a candidate?

**Baroness Brinton:** We do research on candidates when they first stand. It is not always perfect, but we do that. If we discover later on that someone has made comments then it will go back through the disciplinary system. It is slightly different for candidates. There is this higher bar, because we have a higher standard code of conduct for our candidates ...

**Vince Cable:** We have precedents of candidates who have been disowned and are no longer standing as candidates because of their past behaviour, not specifically on Islamophobia, but certainly anti-Semitism. ...

**Q174 Toby Perkins:** Would you consider the Liberal Democrat Party to be institutionally Islamophobic?

**Vince Cable:** Not from my experience, but there are cases and we are dealing with them. ...

**Q197 Kate Green:** You mentioned that you do not have data on your membership's religious faith and I understand that and the difficulties of capturing that information certainly in regard to existing members. Do you have any plans to try to capture it in future?

**Baroness Brinton:** We now have a voluntary system, but we are told we cannot insist on asking all our members to give us all their diversity data and I think that is one of the frustrations, that I cannot give you those data. All I can do is to tell you those who have responded voluntarily with that. Candidates are a different matter, in that we can ask candidates, because we collect data, but as I say, we have not specifically pulled out religious affiliation in the past. ...

**Q198 Kate Green:** Finally, I would like to ask you something about your adoption of the definition. You have given us a comprehensive description of how you have adopted it in internal party processes, but of course the definition is not just about how political parties manage their own activities. We heard evidence a few weeks ago from Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu and from Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt from the National Police Chiefs Council suggesting that they had concerns that the definition would act as a brake on policing, counter-terrorism policing, and it would be difficult for officers to operate on the ground. ... Does it concern you that very senior police officers gave that advice to the Committee?

**Baroness Brinton:** ... I am not a policing expert so I cannot comment on that, but I do think that what we are talking about here is not in the main about counter-terrorism, it is not about terrorism. Frankly, we need to be able to recognise what is going on broadly in society and to not accept this definition because of a very specific issue about terrorism would really concern me. ...

**Vince Cable:** My understanding was that the Metropolitan Police had indicated they were happy with the definition or at least did not consider it a problem in policing responsibilities. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/islamophobia/oral/103084.html>

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## Israel

See two written answers about “ Hezbollah: Greater London” in the “Home Affairs” section above.

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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>

#### **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>

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

#### **Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan** (closing date 28 June 2019)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

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

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

#### **Opt-out organ donation: organs and tissues excluded from the new system** (closing date 22 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/opt-out-organ-donation-organs-and-tissues-excluded-from-the-new-system>

**Regulation of pre-paid funeral plans** (closing date 25 August 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulation-of-pre-paid-funeral-plans-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal>

TOP

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