



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Holocaust
Israel

Other Relevant Information
Relevant Legislation
Consultations

Holocaust

House of Commons Written Answers

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Edward Leigh (Conservative) [263704] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on what date in January 2016 a list of 24 possible sites for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre was communicated by the CBRE to the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

Heather Wheeler: CBRE submitted their report on 11 January 2016.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263704/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Edward Leigh (Conservative) [263705] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what criteria the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation used to assess what was cost-prohibitive in respect of possible sites for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in January 2016.

Heather Wheeler: The Foundation considered the likely purchase cost of possible sites.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263705/>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Edward Leigh (Labour) [263706] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what meetings were held in Downing Street on 2 December 2015 relating to the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre and involving members of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation; and who attended those meetings.

Heather Wheeler: I refer my Rt Hon Friend to the answer to Question UIN 122636 answered on 23 January 2018. The meeting included representatives from the Royal Parks, DCMS, MHCLG and UKHMF.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263706/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122636/>

The Royal Parks first expressed their support for locating the Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens at a meeting on 2 December 2015. The Parks' support for the memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens was repeated in letters dated 15 March 2017, 7 April 2017 and 15 September 2017. Concerns were raised in these letters about the proposed learning centre. These letters have now been placed in the Library of the House.

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Hebron

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [263894] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on reports of Israeli forces firing tear gas canisters into a boys' school in the Israeli-controlled H2 area of Hebron City on 9 April.

Andrew Murrison: We have not made any assessment of this issue. While we recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures, we encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension and use appropriate force. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263894/>

Jerusalem: Demolition

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [263897] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on reports of the demolition of 31 structures in neighbourhoods in occupied East Jerusalem by Israeli authorities on 29 April.

Andrew Murrison: We have repeatedly made clear to the Israeli authorities our serious concern at the increase in demolitions of Palestinian properties in Area C of the West Bank. We call on them to cease the policy of demolitions and provide a clear, transparent route to construction for Palestinians in Area C.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263897/>

West Bank: Demolition

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [263899] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on reports of the demolition of a family home in Az Zawiya village in the occupied West Bank 25 April 2019.

Andrew Murrison: We continue to be gravely concerned by the impact of demolitions and evictions on ordinary Palestinians and the impact this has on the viability of a future Palestinian state. Demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but the most

exceptional of cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We fund a number of projects to monitor and report on settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and to protect vulnerable Palestinian communities from the effects of settlement expansion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263899/>

TOP

Other Relevant Information

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: Technical report

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-technical-report_en.pdf

The technical report relates to the following two publications which were released in December 2018:

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism/Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-survey_en.pdf

and

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism - Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU: Questionnaire

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-questionnaire_en.pdf

and the following publication which was released in March 2019:

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism. Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU: Summary

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-survey-summary_en.pdf

TOP

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>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 5 days**

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

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

**** closes in 8 days**

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