



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Debate

#### Queen's Speech

*col 273* **Baroness Flather (Crossbench):** ... I am going to be very non-politically correct, and I want your Lordships to think about political correctness because I think we have tied ourselves up in knots by giving in to it. It is not a good thing for us. We see things happening but we do not speak about them because it is not politically correct. Who says so? Who says that we should not speak about things that need to be put right just because they involve somebody from a minority background? Who says that you cannot say "black coffee" or "white coffee"? ...

There are a lot of people in, say, Bradford who do not learn English. In many European countries, people have to learn the language if they want to get their benefits. We do no such thing because it is non-PC. We say, "Please learn", and we have the Casey report and this report and that report, but nobody will learn anything unless you make them. ... If people do not speak the language, they are deaf and dumb in this country; they do not know what is going on and have to rely on children or somebody who does speak English. It is completely and utterly wrong.

Another issue is first-cousin marriages. These marriages mean that the NHS has to take the burden of any child, from birth to death. We should not allow that to happen. ...

Then there is halal meat. We do not label halal meat. I do not know whether noble Lords know that we are all now eating halal meat. All the takeaways sell halal meat, all the hospitals serve halal meat to patients and all the schools serve halal meat to pupils. I do not think that is fair. It is not fair to those of us who do not want to eat it. I have tried to get Michael Gove to label it. He said, "Oh, but it will make it expensive for the Muslims and the Jews." Well, what the hell? Are we running this country for their benefit or are we running it as it should be run? In any case, there are two kinds of halal: pre-stunned and non-pre-stunned. If the halal meat served was just labelled as pre-stunned, it would not have been ritually killed and there would be no problem; we could all eat it because all our meat is pre-stunned. Instead we hear, "Oh, we are going to set up a committee." How many committees are there going to be before these decisions are taken? If you go to Bradford, parts of it are like "Little Pakistan", with no people other than Muslims. I have nothing against Muslims and nothing against people living together, but these have almost become

no-go areas. There is not much work there, so they do not work. Somebody very important, who I cannot name, asked me why they come here. Why would they not come here? We give them benefits, we give them healthcare, we give them schooling, we give them homes. Why would anyone not come here? Everybody thinks Britain is a piece of heaven and wants to come here.

The values of this country need to be protected. There was even a sentence in the gracious Speech about the Government doing everything to protect the values of this country. I think it was meant for outsiders, but we must protect our values inside as well. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-01-08/debates/85320472-1F49-424F-81FE-691B0D3BF1F3/Queen%E2%80%99SSpeech>

## Welsh Assembly Statement of Opinion

**Angela Burns (Conservative): OPIN-2020-0150 World Religion Day 2020** – This Assembly: 1. Notes that World Religion Day takes place on 19 January 2020 and supports its aims of: a) respecting the rights of all people to practice their religion without fear of persecution; and b) promotes understanding and harmony between faiths. 2. Recognises the continued fight against discrimination faced by individuals and groups due to their religious beliefs. 3. Notes the support of organisations that work towards community cohesion and integration. 4. Notes the importance of ensuring that all people of faith are treated with dignity and respect. 5. Calls on the Welsh Government to mark this event accordingly.

<https://record.assembly.wales/StatementOfOpinion/150>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/divorcedissolutionandseparation.html>

#### **\*\* European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/europeanunionwithdrawalagreement.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-08/debates/4E741301-D874-401D-BC87-F023AAB86B49/EuropeanUnion\(WithdrawalAgreement\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-08/debates/4E741301-D874-401D-BC87-F023AAB86B49/EuropeanUnion(WithdrawalAgreement)Bill)

### Scottish Parliament

#### **Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 8 days**

**Equality Act 2010: Commencing the socio-economic duty (Welsh Government)**

(closing date 17 January 2020)

<https://gov.wales/equality-act-2010-commencing-socio-economic-duty>

**Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 31 January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113449.aspx>

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