



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Antisemitism

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL1548] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any correlation between the actions of the government of Israel and antisemitic incidents in the UK.

**Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist:** This government takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime and that includes antisemitism. There has been an increase in reported hate crime towards the Jewish community captured in both the Home Office report "Hate Crime: England and Wales 2018/19", and recent statistics released by the Community Security Trust. Some of the increase will reflect improvements in the recording of hate crime and increased confidence in reporting it. But we cannot be complacent. There have also been spikes following certain events such as international and domestic terror attacks. However, Government cannot comment on the specifics of individual cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-11/HL1548/>

*The Home Office report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/839172/hate-crime-1819-hosb2419.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839172/hate-crime-1819-hosb2419.pdf)

*The CST statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/0/IncidentsReport2019.pdf>

### Office for National Statistics

**Exploring religion in England and Wales**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/articles/exploringreligioninenglandandwales/february2020/pdf>

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## Israel

See also the House of Lords written answer “Antisemitism” which has been included in the “Home Affairs” section above.

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Access to Palestinian Products

**Christian Matheson (Labour)** [1955] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he has taken to help ensure (a) UK supermarkets and (b) Oxfam shops have continued access to imported Palestinian agricultural products.

**Conor Burns:** The UK Government is concerned about the impact of recent Israeli trade restrictions. UK businesses should be free to import Palestinian products without barriers. Her Majesty’s Ambassador to Israel raised this issue with the Government of Israel, most recently on 12 February. We welcome the agreement reached by the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, on 20 February, to lift their respective trade restrictions. We urge both sides to ensure the swift implementation of this agreement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1955/>

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Updated travel advice: Israel**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

**Updated travel advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

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

### UK Parliament

**Assisted Dying Bill**

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

**Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill**

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

**Education (Assemblies) Bill**

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

**Genocide Determination Bill**

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

**Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageact1949amendment.html>

## **Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill**

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

## **Scottish Parliament**

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

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

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

### **Harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education** (closing date 27 March 2020)

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/76f6bdd3-bb14-4956-b089-cd1598323d55/consultation-on-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-in-higher-education.pdf>

### **Regulating Independent Educational Institutions** (closing date 8 May 2020)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/regulating-independent-education-institutions/>

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