



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Palestinians: Overseas Aid**

**Anna McMorrin (Labour)** [82291] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, (a) what was the total budget this year for DFID's Palestinian aid programme; and (b) with reference to his 22 July announcement of cuts to the aid budget of £2.9bn, how much will be cut from the programme's proposed spend.

**James Cleverly:** Following an internal review and prioritisation exercise of all Overseas Development Aid spending, we have not planned cuts to proposed total spend in the OPTs for financial year 2020/2021. This is £71.4m as per the DFID annual report published in July 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82291>

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **Bahrain and Israel: UK responds to announcement of normalisation**

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: I warmly welcome this important agreement normalising relations between Bahrain and Israel. Full diplomatic relations between two of the UK's friends is excellent news.

I was pleased to discuss with Bahraini Foreign Minister Al Zayani during his visit to London earlier this week how normalisation would contribute towards peace in the region.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bahrain-and-israel-uk-responds-to-announcement-of-normalisation>

### Council of Europe

#### **Bahrain/Israel: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the establishment of diplomatic relations**

The EU welcomes the announced establishment of diplomatic relations between the

Kingdom of Bahrain and Israel. This follows a similar decision taken by Israel and the United Arab Emirates last month.

The EU recognises the role played by the United States in this regard and believes that these developments represent a positive contribution to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The EU recalls its Declaration of 15 August 2020 and its longstanding position that a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a regional inclusive approach and engagement with both parties. In this regard, the EU remains firm in its commitment to a negotiated and viable two-state solution built upon the internationally agreed parameters. The EU remains ready to support the Israelis and the Palestinians in efforts to resume meaningful negotiations on all final status issues in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/09/12/bahrain-israel-declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-establishment-of-diplomatic-relations/>

*The Declaration referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/08/15/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-european-union-on-the-announcement-of-a-normalisation-of-relations-between-israel-and-the-uae/>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Institute for global Change

**Resonating Narratives The scale of Islamist and far-right extremism among British young people**

<https://institute.global/sites/default/files/2020-09/Tony%20Blair%20Institute%2C%20Resonating%20Narratives%20FINAL.pdf>

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

### UK Parliament

#### **Assisted Dying Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2592>

#### **Education (Assemblies) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

#### **Genocide Determination Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621>

#### **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2584>

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

#### **Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

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### **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

#### **Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law** (closing date 3 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/#weddings-consultation-paper>

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