



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

Marriage: Coronavirus

Ben Spencer (Conservative) [43181] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress the Government is making on bringing forward legislative proposals to ensure that local authorities can extend legal notices on marriages postponed as a result of the covid-19 lockdown.

Alex Chalk: The Government acknowledges the significant upheaval that Covid-19 is causing for couples who were looking to marry at this time. The requirement to solemnize a marriage within twelve months of giving notice to marry is set out in primary legislation and would require primary legislation to amend.

We are exploring what changes might be possible in relation to marriages at this time, and in line with Public Health England guidance on social distancing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43181/>

Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships: Coronavirus

Steve McCabe (Labour) [43830] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will give registrars discretion to extend the period of validity for Superintendent Registrar Certificates when weddings have had to be postponed as a result of covid-19.

Alex Chalk: The Government acknowledges the significant upheaval that Covid-19 is causing for couples who were looking to marry at this time. The requirement to solemnize a marriage within twelve months of giving notice to marry is set out in primary legislation and would require primary legislation to amend.

We are exploring what changes might be possible in relation to marriages at this time, and in line with Public Health England guidance on social distancing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/43830/>

Religion: Coronavirus

Ruth Hall (Labour) [43164] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and

Local Government, what Government financial support is being provided to faith groups, institutions and organisations in (a) Newport West constituency, (b) Wales and (c) the UK who have lost income as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

Luke Hall: Financial support provisions for faith groups, institutions and organisations in Newport West and Wales in general are devolved matters and the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly, with matters in Scotland and Northern Ireland the responsibility of the respective governments.

As the Department responsible for Faith, MHCLG continues to play a facilitative role in ensuring Government understands the needs of faith communities and the challenges they may be currently facing due to the pandemic. We are working closely with a range of faith and community groups to better understand how Government can support them to respond to the pressures they face on sustaining their organisations during this period of time.

There are a range of Government-backed financial support measures that these organisations in the United Kingdom can access.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Scheme are both available to registered charities, and therefore places of worship registered with the Charities Commission. Registered charities have now been exempted from the requirement that the applicant derives at least 50 per cent of its income from its trading activity, so that more charities can access the scheme.

Any person or organisation, including places of worship, that is unable to pay any HMRC bill due to Covid-19 should get in contact through the HMRC Coronavirus helpline. HMRC will be able to agree payment plans, which can include a gap before any initial payment is required. If charities or places of worship are VAT registered, they are also able to use the VAT deferral scheme.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme provides support for entity with a UK payroll - small or large, charitable or non-profit, to be reimbursed 80 per cent of furloughed worker wages by HMRC, up to a cap of £2500 per month.

However, we know that some charities cannot furlough staff as they are contributing to the frontline response. There is a substantial package of targeted support for charities on the frontline of responding to Covid-19. The Chancellor on 9 April announced overall £750 million of funding for charities providing key frontline services to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-out-extra-750-million-coronavirus-funding-for-frontline-charities>

£60 million of the funding will be allocated through the Barnett formula so the devolved administrations are funded to provide similar support in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43164/>

Ministry of Justice

Coroners statistics 2019: England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coroners-statistics-2019/coroners-statistics-2019-england-and-wales>

Charity Commission

Decision: Charity Inquiry: Delapage Limited

[Charitable purposes: To advance religion in accordance with the Orthodox Jewish faith and such other purposes as are recognised by English law as charitable.]

... regulatory concerns identified related to the exceptionally low level of charitable activity, the accumulation of funds to an extent which appeared contrary to the charity's reserve policy and unsecured loans (estimated to be approximately £74 million) being made at unnecessary risk from the charity to the private companies of two trustees ...

There was evidence of poor management and lack of accounting records, poor internal financial governance and failure to follow the basic requirements of the governing document in relation to annual accounting duties. The charity was found to be in default of its filing requirements ...

Due to the breakdown in governance, accounts had also not been filed with Companies House for the charity, its trading subsidiaries or the property companies for the financial year ending 31 March 2009, as a result of which the charity risked being struck off. If the companies were struck off the Companies House register they would cease to exist and any assets would pass to the Crown as bona vacantia. ...

The Commission is not satisfied that all former trustees understood the separation of the charity from the property companies of trustee A and trustee B. ...

The Commission concluded that there was serious misconduct and/or mismanagement in the charity's administration and management. There was evidence of both poor governance and poor financial management of the charity and its affairs. The inquiry concluded the former trustees had not complied with or fulfilled their duties as trustees under charity law. ...

A number of the charity's former trustees resigned during the inquiry. In light of the findings and evidence of misconduct and/or mismanagement, the inquiry considered exercising its legal powers ... to remove trustee A (the remaining trustee).

However this was not necessary as trustee A was declared bankrupt during the inquiry and ... has been automatically disqualified from being a trustee for a charity ...

To read the full decision see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-inquiry-delapage-limited/charity-inquiry-delapage-limited>

TOP

Holocaust

House of Commons Ministerial Statement

Donation to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and First Secretary of State (Dominic Raab): It is the normal practice when a Government Department proposes to make a gift of a value exceeding £300,000, for the Department concerned to present to the House of Commons a minute giving particulars of the gift and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from making the gift until 14 parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the minute, except in cases of special urgency.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 27 January 2020 made a formal joint announcement of a donation by the UK Government of £1 million to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. This donation reflects HMG's strong commitment to Holocaust remembrance in this the 75th anniversary year of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The donation will be funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government at a cost of £500,000 each. This is a gift donation with no preconditions attached. There is however a precedent for this donation. In 2011 the then Foreign Secretary and then Communities Secretary announced a £2.15 million donation to the foundation over three years. The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation was founded in 2009 and collects funding for the preservation and maintenance of the grounds and remnants of the former Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II Birkenau concentration camps, which are supervised by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim, Poland. The proposed donation has a symbolic value; moreover, preserving Auschwitz-Birkenau contributes to the continuation of Holocaust education. Several thousand UK citizens visit Auschwitz-Birkenau each year and it provides a lasting memorial to the dangers of antisemitism, extremism and racism in general.

The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of 14 parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this minute was laid before the House of Commons, a Member signifies an objection by giving notice of a parliamentary question or a motion relating to the minute, or by otherwise raising the matter in the House, final approval of the gift will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

[HCWS227]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-05-12/debates/20051216000010/DonationToTheAuschwitz-BirkenauFoundation>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Overseas Trade: Israel

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [42243] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what opportunities she has identified for further trade co-operation with Israel beyond the trade continuity agreement.

Ranil Jayawardena: The United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement provides an ambitious framework to continue to grow our future trading relationship, which totalled £5.1bn in 2019.

We will be working with our Israeli counterparts to reinstate plans to host a bilateral trade and investment summit in the future. Through this engagement, we will seek to secure the United Kingdom's position as Israel's number one trade and investment partner in Europe. This includes promoting science, innovation and technology partnerships between both countries, as well as exploring further opportunities for British business in the financial services, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42243/>

Overseas Trade: Israel

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [42245] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps she is taking to increase trade co-operation between the UK and Israel in the agricultural technology sector.

Graham Stuart: UK and Israel have a strong and important trading relationship and we are committed to strengthening that relationship. A dedicated DIT team in Tel Aviv British Embassy promotes trade cooperation between UK and Israeli companies.

A UK-Israel Tech Hub, working alongside DIT, creates partnerships between British companies and world class Israeli innovators across tech sectors, including agriculture.

Following the signature of the UK- Israel trade continuity agreement, Israel and UK expressed support for a future summit to be hosted in London aimed at increasing bilateral trade, including Agri-Tech. Planned for 2020, the event is on hold due to current corona circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42245/>

Israel: Coronavirus

Matt Vickers (Conservative) [902531] What steps she is taking to strengthen the UK's trade in medical research and development with Israel during the covid-19 pandemic.

Graham Stuart: UK and Israeli experts have been cooperating on the COVID-19 response in such areas as testing, clinical response, epidemiological management and the development of vaccines and treatments. We will continue to assist in identifying and supporting further areas of cooperation between the private and public sectors of both countries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-12/902531/>

Jerusalem

Neil Coyle (Labour) [43948] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of Israeli's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 on the annexation of Jerusalem.

James Cleverly: Our position on the status of Jerusalem is clear and long-standing: The UK recognises Israel's "de facto authority" over West Jerusalem. But in line with Security Council Resolution 242 and subsequent Council resolutions, we regard East Jerusalem as under Israeli military occupation. The UK believes that Jerusalem's final status must be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/43948/>

Golan Heights

Neil Coyle (Labour) [43949] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of Israeli's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 497 on the annexation of the Golan Heights.

James Cleverly: The UK position on the status of the Occupied Golan Heights is well-known and has not changed. In line with international law, and relevant Security Council resolutions, notably Resolutions 242 and 497, we do not recognise Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, including the Golan Heights, and we do not consider them part of the territory of the State of Israel. Annexation of territory by force is prohibited under international law. Any declaration of a unilateral border change goes against the foundation of the rules-based international order and the UN Charter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/43949/>

Israeli Settlements

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [42036] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2020 to Question 5529,

whether it remains the Government's policy that Israeli annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank could not go unchallenged.

James Cleverly: It is UK policy that unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to re-start peace negotiations and contrary to international law. Any changes to the status quo cannot be taken forward without an agreement negotiated by the parties themselves. We reiterated our deep concerns about annexation and restated our position on this issue at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42036/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-20/5529/>

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Steve McCabe (Labour) [41891] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if she will place copies of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Memoranda of Understanding between her Department and the Palestinian Authority in the Library.

James cleverly: Our 2019-20 Memoranda of Understanding with the Palestinian Authority were published on Dev-tracker

(<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300050/documents>)

and copies were placed in the Library. The 2020-21 Memoranda of Understanding will be published on Dev-tracker in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/41891/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Steve McCabe (Labour) [42248] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether she plans to renew support for the People for Peaceful Change Project.

Steve McCabe (Labour) [42249] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will place a copy of the People for Peaceful Change research element in the Library.

James Cleverly: Our three-year People to People programme aimed to bring together Israelis and Palestinians to cooperate on issues which can have a positive impact on both communities, helping to build understanding between people on both sides of the conflict in support of a peaceful, negotiated resolution.

The programme includes a research component that is looking more broadly at the impact of People to People work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to build the evidence base in this area, which is presently limited. An internal panel of researchers is in the process of analysing the findings. Once this work is complete, we will use the research to inform decisions on future programming in this area. We will seek to publish the research results in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42248/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42249/>

Palestinians: Refugees

Anna McMorris (Labour) [43743] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment she has made of the need to increase the UK Government's contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to meet increased demand for core services for Palestinian refugees throughout the Middle East.

James Cleverly: The UK is a long-term supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Our funding helps provide education to more than 533,000 children (half of which are girls), health services for around 3.1 million Palestinian refugees, and social safety net assistance for around 271,000 of the most vulnerable.

The services that UNRWA provide play a key role in helping contain and address the spread of COVID-19. We continue to monitor the situation closely and are working closely with UNRWA and the international community to ensure a co-ordinated response to the outbreak.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-05/43743/>

House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Israeli Settlements

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat) [HL3463] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about its recent proposed annexation of territory in the West Bank.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3520] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about its plans to commence discussions from 1 July on applying Israeli sovereignty to Jewish settlements and other territory in the occupied West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We made clear our deep concerns about reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law. The Prime Minister reiterated our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during a call with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on 6 February.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3463/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3520/>

Israeli Settlements

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat) [HL3464] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise the recent proposal of the government of Israel to annex territory in the West Bank at the next meeting of the UN Security Council.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We made clear our deep concerns about reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would

be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3464/>

Israeli Settlements

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3521] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) EU member states, and (2) the United States, about the government of Israel's intention to commence discussions from 1 July on applying Israeli sovereignty to Jewish settlements and other territory in the occupied West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to work closely with international partners strongly advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations between both parties. As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April, we are deeply concerned by reports that the new Israeli government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3521/>

Israeli Settlements

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3522] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of any decision by the government of Israel to unilaterally annex part of the West Bank after 1 July on the viability of a two-state solution.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April, we are deeply concerned by reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3522/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Israeli Settlements

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL3523] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 13 February (HL1282), what steps they intend to take in response to the government of Israel's actions should it unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3554] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take, in collaboration with the EU, to prevent any annexation of the West Bank by the government of Israel.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3554] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take, in collaboration with the EU, to prevent any annexation of the West Bank by the government of Israel.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 23 April, we are deeply concerned by reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by

Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law. We continue to work closely with international partners strongly advocating a two state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations between both parties.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3523/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3554/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3554/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-03/HL1282/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3555] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the number of Palestinian children imprisoned by Israeli authorities, in particular regard to the threat of COVID-19 transmission in prisons.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3555] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the number of Palestinian children imprisoned by Israeli authorities, in particular regard to the threat of COVID-19 transmission in prisons.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has serious concerns about the continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors in Israeli military detention. We continue to make representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue. We also encourage steps to be taken that will reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in prisoners whilst simultaneously respecting fundamental human rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3555/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3555/>

Gaza: Agriculture

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3556] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that Israeli forces levelled Palestinian farmland and fired teargas at farmers in Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made an assessment of these reports, we are troubled by reports of assaults on farmers and vandalism of agricultural land. We continue to raise with Israeli counterparts our concerns about Israeli action and have also stressed the importance of the Israel security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3556/>

Hebron: Crimes against Property

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3557] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of violent

behaviour of Israeli settlers under the protection of Israeli forces towards Palestinian property in Hebron.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not made representations on these reports, we condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to address settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance to bring those responsible to justice and end the culture of impunity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3557/>

Hebron: Land

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3558] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of Israel about the reported plan approved by Israel's Attorney General to confiscate Palestinian land close to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not made representations on these reports, the practice of confiscations causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid actions that make it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3558/>

Hebron: Religious Buildings

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL3559] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to protect the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in the light of its listing as a Unesco World Heritage site.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In our meetings with the Israeli authorities we regularly raise the need to respect the status quo of the holy sites in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid actions that make it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3559/>

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL3611] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the statistics published by Military Court Watch showing that in February, of the Palestinian security prisoners held by Israel, 81 per cent of adults and 75 per cent of children were held in Israel in contravention of Article 76 of the fourth Geneva Convention; and what was the outcome of any such representations.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has serious concerns about the continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors in Israeli military detention. We continue to fund projects providing legal aid to minors and capacity building to local lawyers. Specifically, we advocate for the Israeli authorities to inform more consistently detainees of their legal rights. We continue to make representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3611/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/category.php?id=bbT36DbEhoa965265APNq9YFXJcl>

Israel: Coronavirus

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL3687] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reporting that Israel has had a role in spreading COVID-19; what steps they are taking to address any fake news about such a role; and what discussions they are having with governments that endorse such news.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Misinformation about coronavirus is dangerous and hampers the global fight against the disease. We urge all authorities to do all they can to prevent the circulation of such misinformation. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv and the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem are in regular contact with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities respectively. We welcome the ongoing cooperation between the PA and Government of Israel in their respective responses to COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-29/HL3687/>

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>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21739 Sandra White (SNP): 72nd Anniversary of the Nakba – That the Parliament acknowledges that 15 May 2020 is the 72nd anniversary of the Nakba, known by Palestinian people as the "day of catastrophe", in which the state of Israel was formed after what it understands was the mass eviction of over 750,000 people from historic Palestine land, which included the destruction of over 500 towns and villages; believes that this led to generations of pain for the Palestinian people, who continue to live under a state of occupation; understands that it led to a major crisis in which over four million displaced people were registered by the UN as refugees and unable to return home; condemns what it sees as the deepening of the crisis in the form of illegal settlements, which are not recognised by the international community; understands that these continue to be built in the occupied territories at a rate of five times that prior to the implementation of the Oslo Accords; further understands that the Israeli government has declared its plan to annexe areas of territories it occupied in June 1967 as part of its agreed Israeli coalition platform from 1 July 2020; believes that, on 15 May 2020, millions of people across Palestine and around the world will mark the anniversary of the Nakba, albeit not as in previous years, which saw people attend marches, rallies and vigils, due to the outbreak of COVID-19; supports Palestinian people across the world, including those living in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency, in the commemoration of the Nakba; notes the calls for a resolution to be sought to what it considers the Palestinian humanitarian crisis and occupation; condemns any action by the Israeli government to annexe areas of occupied Palestinian land, which it considers violates several UN Security Council Resolutions, including UNSCR 242 and 2334, and considers that the international community is duty bound to protect Palestinians under occupation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21739>

TOP

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>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations ** new or updated today

Protecting places of worship (closing date 28 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protecting-places-of-worship-consultation>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

Legislative proposals for religion, values and ethics [Wales] (closing date 28 July 2020)

<https://gov.wales/legislative-proposals-religion-values-and-ethics>

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