



# Political Affairs Digest 2,000<sup>th</sup> Issue!

**A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community**

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**We are delighted to publish messages of congratulation on our 2,000th issue from a cross-section of the Political Affairs Digest readership in Government, the Jewish Community, and civic society.**

### **Message from the Scottish Government**

The Scottish Government would like to congratulate the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities on the publication of the 2,000th issue of the Political Affairs Digest.

The Digest plays an important role in keeping people in Scotland regularly informed of the relevant political activity affecting Jewish communities, something which is particularly relevant during these rapidly changing times.

The Scottish Government recognises and greatly values the substantial and enduring influence of the Jewish faith and culture on Scotland's communities and we want to thank you for helping Scotland through this crisis. I hope that you continue to stay safe and look forward to continuing our work together in creating a fairer Scotland.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government,  
Aileen Campbell MSP**



### **Message from the Board of Deputies**

Congratulations to SCoJeC on this milestone 2,000th edition of the Political Affairs Digest. It's a great one stop summary for all governmental activity relevant to the Jewish Community. I commend SCoJeC for the PAD's detailed coverage and its circulation across Scotland and beyond and look forward to the next 2,000 editions.

**Marie van der Zyl, President**



### **Message from the Jewish Leadership Council**

SCoJeC's Political Affairs Digest is an incredibly useful resource for Jewish individuals and communal professionals across the country. PAD provides a daily summary covering relevant issues, and is a comprehensive source of information which has become a go-to for many, the JLC included. We congratulate SCoJeC for the 2,000th issue – no small feat – and look forward to the next 2000!

**Jonathan Goldstein, Chair**



### **Message from the Community Security Trust (CST)**

SCoJeC's Political Affairs Digest has long been a staple of CST's public affairs monitoring for several years now. It helps us stay abreast of developments across a wide range of political arena that impact the Jewish community including in the areas of antisemitism, extremism, and counter-terrorism, which CST has a particular focus on. There is no doubt that the last 2,000 issues have greatly contributed to communal political intelligence and know-how during a critical period for our Jewish community, and will continue to do so.

**David Delew MBA, Chief Executive**



### **Message from the Antisemitism Policy Trust**

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is one of the best organisations in the Jewish world. The team at SCoJeC is a model for what Jewish representation and activism should look like. It is, therefore, no surprise that the organisation's written materials are of equal excellence. PAD distills down pages of information into need-to-know facts, and in our fast-moving world that is incredibly valuable. A thousand good wishes to SCoJeC on this, the 2,000th edition of the briefing, and thank you for all you do.

**Danny Stone MBE, Chief Executive**



### **Message from the Anne Frank Trust UK**

Dozens of e-bulletins land in my in-box, but SCoJeC's Political Affairs Digest is one that I always open and read. At a glance, I can see everything that's going on in the ever-complex, always changing machinery of Government, both north and south of the border. It's especially helpful on Jewish issues, of course, but also more widely on areas that affect us here at the Anne Frank Trust, like education and hate crime. It's enabled us to contribute to some crucial consultations – and makes me feel much more confidently informed than I would otherwise be. The Digest's 2,000th edition is truly a milestone to celebrate. This is one e-bulletin that I would like to see reaching its 10,000th edition and beyond.

**Tim Robertson, Chief Executive**



### **Message from Police Scotland**

Congratulations to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities for having published the 2,000th issue of their newsletter 'Political Affairs Digest'. Over the years, the daily newsletter has collated valuable information from diverse media sources about political events affecting the Jewish community. I know that Police Scotland officers have found Political Affairs Digest to be a very helpful summary of events, providing detailed coverage that embraces Scottish, UK, and international news and developments. I wish you all the very best for the next 2,000 issues.



**Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie**

### **Message from BEMIS – Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and Cultural Minority Communities**

It has been very encouraging to experience, for the last decade, the positive work that SCoJeC has been delivering especially with regards to enhancing access to relevant and focused information in relation to Equality, Human Rights, and Community Cohesion. The Political Affairs Digest is a unique example of these efforts. Similarly, we have witnessed a big increase in MEMO's readership at various levels among various stakeholders and the diverse third sector partners. BEMIS Scotland look forward to continuing our collaborative work with SCoJeC at various levels especially through MEMO, which is another key publication.



**Rami Ousta, Chief Executive Officer**

### **Message from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)**

I am very proud as Chair of SCoJeC that the Political Affairs Digest has reached its 2,000th edition and continues to be of such value to our stakeholders. It is very gratifying to see how much people value it, as well as the huge readership, and we're delighted to be able to continue to support the wider Jewish community as well as other ethnic minority communities and policymakers in this way. It is particularly pleasing that UK bodies have placed reliance on our work and we are delighted we can be of service to them. I hope that we will continue to be able to resource the Political Affairs Digest for the foreseeable future.



**Micheline Brannan, Chair**

**Back issues of Political Affairs Digest can be read at**

<https://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>

## Home Affairs

See also the House of Commons Written Answer “Public Health: Coronavirus” included in the Foreign Affairs section below.

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour)** [46779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the £1.5 million to protect vulnerable places of worship through the Places of Worship Protective Security Programme has been distributed to those places of worship.

**Kit Malthouse:** The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has awarded funding to 49 places of worship in the 2019/2020 round. Funding for this scheme has been doubled to £3.2 million for 2020/2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46779/>

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

### Ministry of Justice

#### Coroners statistics 2019: England and Wales

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

### Public Health England

#### Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19

##### Report

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/889195/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf)

##### Data Pack

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/889167/Disparities\\_risks\\_outcomes\\_of\\_COVID19\\_data\\_pack ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889167/Disparities_risks_outcomes_of_COVID19_data_pack ods)

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Statistics on religious hate crime

**S5W-29070 James Kelly (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the latest disaggregated statistics on religious hate crime will be published.

**Humza Yousaf:** We announced in June 2018 that the annual bulletin on religiously aggravated offending reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) would be paused, whilst we support Police Scotland to review the potential of their data systems to provide new information in this area. As part of this project we published the research report Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland<sup>[1]</sup> in February 2019. The report provides an update on work by Scottish Government statisticians and Police

Scotland to review the availability of information on police recorded hate crime and includes summary information on hate crimes recorded by the police (in relation to race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity) during 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Scottish Government statisticians are continuing to engage with Police Scotland as they develop the information they hold on hate crime with a view to publishing further data, including on religiously aggravated offending. It was anticipated that a report on the findings of this exercise would have been published in June 2020. However due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic this has been postponed, as collection and review of all the supporting data by statisticians is not possible when working from home. We will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network<sup>[2]</sup> of future updates in relation to this study.

In addition to this, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) publish annual Official Statistics on Hate Crime in Scotland<sup>[3]</sup>. These figures relate to charges aggravated by race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity, reported to COPFS, and include information on how those charges were proceeded. Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20 will be published on 12 June 2020.

[1] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>

[2] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics  
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>

[3] <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/statistics>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29070>

### **Statistics on racially-aggravated hate crime**

**S5W-29071 James Kelly (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the latest statistics on racially-aggravated hate crime will be published.

**Humza Yousaf:** The National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland (Table A7)<sup>[1]</sup> includes offences of Racially aggravated harassment and Racially aggravated conduct, under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995, recorded by the police. This does not include cases where racism was considered an aggravator to any other types of crime/offence (such as Threatening or abusive behaviour or Common assault, etc.) as it is not possible to distinguish these cases within the recorded crime data. Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 will be published in September 2020.

In addition to this, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) publish annual Official Statistics on Hate Crime in Scotland<sup>[2]</sup>. These figures relate to charges aggravated by race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity, reported to COPFS, and include information on how those charges were proceeded. Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20 will be published on 12 June 2020.

[1] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2018-19/pages/21/>

[2] <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/statistics>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29071>

## Scottish Government

### Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for funeral services

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

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## Israel

### 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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## Foreign Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Public Health: Coronavirus

**Lisa Cameron (SNP)** [49027] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department has taken to engage with faith-based actors in (a) communicating public health messages and (b) her Department's response to the covid-19 pandemic.

**Nigel Adams:** I recognise both the important place that religious belief has for many people around the world affected by COVID-19 and the role that faith-based actors are playing in the response, particularly in communicating public health messages. Faith-based actors are key policy and delivery partners for DFID. We are committed to working with and alongside faith-based actors to meet the challenges posed to both the UK and internationally by COVID-19.

DFID is taking forward a structured approach to engagement with UK and international civil society, including faith-based actors. This is incorporating strategic and technical discussions to help inform the sector's response to the pandemic. Specifically, Baroness Sugg has chaired two round table discussions with the Chief Executive Officers from key civil society organisations including faith-based organisations on 3 April and the 1 May to update the sector on DFID's COVID-19 response to date, engage with concerns across the sector, and explore how to mitigate the threats posed by COVID-19 to sector resilience. Lord Ahmad is also planning to host a round table with faith leaders and faith-based development organisations to discuss how we can work together more effectively.

DFID has pledged new funding for civil society organisations including faith-based organisations to support the response. This includes £20 million through the Rapid Response Facility which includes funding for Christian Aid; up to £30 million of new grants through the next round of the UK Aid Direct programme, and significant funding through the DFID Unilever COVID-19 Hygiene and Behaviour Change Coalition. Faith-based organisations can receive funding through multilateral

organisations as downstream partners as part of the UK's response and through our country office network. We have been reviewing our programme portfolio in light of the COVID-19 response, enabling us to identify existing activities which can already support the response and others which can be adapted or scaled up, such as our support to health systems and humanitarian crises.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-19/49027/>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Equality and Human Rights Commission

**Equality and Human Rights Commission Impact report 2019-20**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/impact-report-2019-20.pdf>

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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>

## **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

**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