



# 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

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Religion: Education**

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op)** [76113] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department plans to publish on the provision of Religious Education in the curriculum after the full reopening of schools during the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op)** [76114] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department plans to publish on the provision of Religious Education teaching for pupils who choose not to opt for that subject as an examination subject at Key Stage Four after the full reopening of schools during the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op)** [76115] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to ensure that all pupils receive their entitlement to religious education after schools are reopened as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased; and if he will make a statement.

**Nick Gibb:** State-funded schools in England have a duty to teach religious education to all pupils aged 5 to 18 years. While academies, free schools and most maintained schools designated as having a religious character may design and follow their own curriculum, all other state schools must follow their area's locally agreed syllabus for religious education. Unless stipulated in a locally agreed syllabus, pupils do not have to be taught an accredited Religious Studies qualification. However, where pupils do not choose it as an examination subject, the requirement to teach religious education still applies.

The Department's guidance on full opening of schools sets the expectation that schools teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn, but that they use their existing curriculum flexibilities within subjects to create time to cover the most important missed content. Religious education is explicitly stated as one of the subjects that should be taught. The guidance was published on 2 July and can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools)

The Department's guidance on religious education is already available for both maintained schools and for academies and free schools. The guidance for maintained schools is at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010)

and the guidance for academies and free schools at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools)

No additional guidance on this subject is therefore needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/76113/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/76114/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/76115/>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### Local Education Authorities and Schools: Racial Discrimination

**Lord Lucas (Conservative)** [HL6777] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that schools and local education authorities have available to them best-practice guides on (1) race issues, and (2) the Black Lives Matter campaign, so that they do not have to rely on advice from third parties; and what assessment they have made of reports of pressure groups with divisive philosophies seeking to provide schools with educational materials on these subjects.

**Baroness Berridge:** The Department for Education is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity, and supports all pupils and students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We also want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. That is why we are making Relationships Education compulsory for primary school-age pupils, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for secondary school-age pupils and Health Education compulsory for pupils in all state-funded schools, from September 2020.

The statutory guidance sets out that as part of Relationships Education, all primary-aged pupils will be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. Pupils will also be taught what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive. As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools will have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs and background of their pupils. The statutory guidance can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

The statutory guidance sets out clear advice on choosing resources. Schools should assess each resource they intend to use to ensure that it is appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs. These resources must be

factually accurate. We also expect schools to consult with parents on these matters and to make reasonable decisions about the content of their curriculum. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books or materials they will use in lessons.

In Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and Citizenship Education, pupils can develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy as well as the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faith and beliefs. The Department for Education has published advice for schools on promoting these values, and has made resources available through the 'Educate Against Hate' website. This website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support they need to challenge radical and discriminatory beliefs. Schools should also be aware of duties regarding impartiality and balanced treatment of political issues in the classroom to ensure content is handled in an appropriate way.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6777/>

## Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

**COVID-19: Updated guidance for the safe use of places of worship and special religious services and gatherings during the pandemic**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

## Animal Welfare Committee

**Opinion on the welfare of goats at the time of killing**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/903438/AWC Opinion on the welfare of goats at the time of killing.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903438/AWC_Opinion_on_the_welfare_of_goats_at_the_time_of_killing.pdf)

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Communal Worship

**S5W-30500 Oliver Mundell (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government whether its decision not to allow communal worship as a result of COVID-19 was based on specific scientific advice.

**Aileen Campbell:** Our guidance on safe use of places of worship reflects evolving scientific and health advice and has been developed in close collaboration with our faith communities. On the 9 July, the First Minister announced that the reopening of places of worship would be brought forward to 15 July. As such, since that date, places of worship have been able to open for congregational services and life event ceremonies.

I recognise how difficult it has been for Scotland's faith communities to be unable to come together in places of worship at this challenging time, and understand the important role of congregational worship in supporting spiritual wellbeing. We do

not want any restrictions to this to last any longer than is necessary but must ensure that people who enter places of worship to undertake congregational activities will be safe.

We will continue to work closely with those communities as we move towards fully reopening places of worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30500>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12728&i=115096&c=2265675#ScotParlOR>

### **Reopening of Places of Worship**

**S5W-30594 Elaine Smith (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government on what date places of worship can open fully for communal services, for example Mass.

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30266 on 13 July 2020. ...

On Thursday 9 July, the First Minister announced that places of worship would be able to re-open for congregational worship and communal prayer or contemplation from 15 July, subject to 2 metre physical distancing and hygiene safeguards. We will consider how to allow places of worship to fully reopen within the public health requirements advised as we move through Phase 3 and into Phase 4 of our route map. Any decisions on further relaxations will be in line with medical and scientific advice.

Guidance for the safe opening of places of worship at phase 3 of the route map is available on the Scottish Government website.

The Scottish Government will continue to engage closely with faith communities as we move through the easing of the lockdown.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30594>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30266>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12728&i=115096&c=2265675#ScotParlOR>

**TOP**

## **Holocaust**

### **House of Lords Oral Answers**

#### **Terezin Declaration**

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards fulfilling their commitments as a party to the Terezin Declaration of 30 June 2009; and what discussions they have had with the government of Poland about the restitution of property seized from Polish Jewish citizens during the period of Nazi occupation.

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon):** My Lords, the United Kingdom continues to meet its commitments to the Terezin declaration, particularly

in Holocaust education and remembrance. We are in regular conversation with the Polish Government on the restitution of property seized during the Nazi occupation. The UK post-Holocaust issues envoy, my noble friend Lord Pickles, is working with the US and other parties to call on Poland to pass legislation to provide restitution of or compensation for private property.

**Baroness Deech:** My Lords, I have been asking the same Question here for 11 years and getting the same response of no progress or promises. Poland is the only country in the EU that has not passed legislation to deal with one of the greatest thefts in history. Bills have been repeatedly introduced and withdrawn there, Bills that contained conditions that would have excluded the vast majority of Holocaust survivors. Will the Minister accept my proposal to follow the example of the American legislation called the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act, and secure an annual report to Parliament about the return of Jewish and non-Jewish property? Will he raise it at the Belvedere Forum every year? Will the UK use its position in the Council of Europe to press for a human rights agenda focusing on Poland and restitution, as required under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I acknowledge the noble Baroness's question; I remember answering the first Question on this issue back in 2014. As the Human Rights Minister, I remain committed, along with my noble friend Lord Pickles and others, and I assure her that we continue to raise the issue regularly with Poland, bilaterally through our ambassador most recently, and in international for a—and I take on board the suggestion of the Council of Europe.

**Lord Wills (Labour):** My Lords, the Government clearly find it difficult to make progress with Poland on this issue. However, in many ways, recognition can be as important as restitution in healing the terrible wounds of the Nazi era. But Poland obstructs the placing of inexpensive Stolpersteine—plaques commemorating Nazi victims—even though these have helped the healing process elsewhere in Europe. Have the Government pressed Poland to stop such obstruction, and if not, why not?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I assure the noble Lord that we continue to raise regularly the importance of this issue with the Polish authorities. I have worked with Poland directly on broader issues concerning freedom of religion or belief, on which Poland stands very strong. I assure him that we will continue in our campaign to ensure that the important issue of restitution is kept at the forefront of our discussions.

**Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I need to be clear that I will not be claiming from Poland, despite my late mother being born there and my having a grandmother who disappeared in Poland. However, as the UK was a signatory to the Terezin agreement, what plans, others than those that the Minister has enumerated, have the Government to fulfil their obligations to claimants? Nothing has moved on. Can the Government, for instance, assist claimants who wish to bring action against Poland under the European Court of Human Rights?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I have already stated what the Government are doing through their bilateral efforts with Poland and through multilateral fora. On the wider issue of the Terezin declaration, I assure the noble Lord that the UK remains fully committed to meeting its commitments to the declaration, including important elements of commemorating the Holocaust and engaging on the very issues that the noble Lord has raised.

**Lord Pickles (Conservative):** My Lords, will my noble friend join me in paying tribute to our ambassador in Warsaw, Jonathan Knott, for his persistent commitment to restitution? His meeting last week with the Speaker of the Polish Parliament helped pave the way for the withdrawal of the Bill on Warsaw property rights from the lower House. This legislation would have been a major obstacle to restitution. This week, we should see the publication of the United States Government's response to Congress on the JUST Act, focusing on

compliance with the Terezin declaration. Will my noble friend pledge that we will work alongside our allies in the United States and Poland to see that justice is brought to the families of Holocaust victims whose property was confiscated by the Nazis?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, first, I join my noble friend in paying tribute to our ambassador to Poland, who, as my noble friend said, recently intervened on an important issue of legislation in Poland. I also join him in praising the efforts of other key partners, including the United States. When I was last in the US, I met Special Envoy Elan Carr to discuss how we can work together more closely. Finally, I want to put on record my thanks to my noble friend for all his work on this important issue.

**Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour):** My Lords, frequent reference has been made to “ongoing” bilateral discussions, and we must heed that and take it at face value. However, the general election in Poland has returned to power someone whose campaign proved consistently anti-German, anti-Jewish and anti-LGBTQ. Will the Minister let us know how easy it is, with a Government such as the present one, to have the kinds of conversations that might have outcomes that would prevent us discussing the matter in the future, as we have in the past? While we are emerging from the European Union at this critical time, is there enough energy to focus on this question, when so many other things demand our attention?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, on the noble Lord’s final point, we do engage regularly—most recently, as we heard from my noble friend, engagement through our ambassador produced positive results. We of course look forward to working with the new Government and I assure the noble Lord that at my first meeting with the Foreign Minister we will discuss various issues, including that of restitution.

**Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrat):** Justice dictates that huge efforts must be made to restore to families property stolen from those who died at the hands of the Nazis. All EU states signed the Terezin declaration. What arrangements are we making after the transition period to work with our EU neighbours to deliver on those commitments?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, we will continue to work with our EU friends on a number of important issues, as we will do on this and on wider issues of freedom of religion or belief.

**Lord Mann (Non-affiliated):** The late Lord Janner, along with our embassy in Lithuania, carried out a huge project to mark every site of a mass atrocity across Lithuania. What has been done under Terezin to ensure that those plaques are still in place and are being properly maintained?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I will write to the noble Lord on that important issue. However, I am sure I speak for all noble Lords when I say that wherever such atrocities took place—I have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland—we should always commemorate and remember, and commit ourselves to ensuring that this kind of genocide does not happen again.

**Lord Polak (Conservative):** What further practical help are HMG giving to those who need to delve into Polish archives—a very difficult issue—in their pursuit of justice? It is not only Polish Jews who suffered; many non-Jewish Poles had their properties nationalised by the Polish Government. In helping my noble friend Lord Pickles in his important work, will my noble friend the Minister institute an annual reporting system to encourage the Poles to do what is just and right?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I note what my noble friend has said. He will know from our own conversations how committed I am personally to ensuring scrutiny. We continue to ensure that Poland stands up as a signatory of the Terezin declaration. We will work with the US. Noble Lords have mentioned JUST, and it is planned that the first JUST Act will be released at the end of July. We will look at its outcomes and work closely with our partners.

**Lord Haskel (Labour):** My Lords, as well as restitution, another very clear purpose of the declaration is that we should learn from these past events to build a more compassionate and understanding present and future through human rights. However, rising anti-Semitism, intolerance, racism and populism in countries that signed the declaration show that this aspect has clearly failed. Will the Government institute work to help us find out and understand why that is, so that we can also make this part of the declaration more effective?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I am happy to give that commitment. As a Minister I am responsible for human rights and for standing up in strong support of organisations around the world that fight racism and the abhorrence of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Irrespective of party affiliations, we will continue to work together as one country to ensure that every kind of hate and abhorrent hate crime, be it religious or otherwise, is met with the full force of our unity of action and purpose. I stand ready to work with other noble Lords in the pursuit of this noble aim.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-27/debates/8F895CBC-5BBC-43B7-840D-EE1483FB2205/TerezinDeclaration>

*The Terezin Declaration, which is the subject of the above exchange, can be read at <https://2009-2017.state.gov/p/eur/rls/or/126162.htm>*

TOP

## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Palestinians: Textbooks**

**Christian Wakeford (Conservative)** [76938] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what progress is being made on the George Eckert Institute's interim report on its independent review of Palestinian textbooks.

**Christian Wakeford (Conservative)** [76939] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she plans to take to ensure that the recommendations of the George Eckert Institute's interim report on its independent review of Palestinian textbooks are implemented before the start of the new academic year in September 2020.

**James Cleverly:** Following UK calls for action, our European Partners commissioned the Georg Eckert Institute to conduct an independent review of Palestinian textbooks, which is currently underway.

We understand the report has been delayed due to COVID-19. We have regular discussions with our European Partners on the review and we continue to encourage them to finalise the interim report as soon as possible.

The UK will continue to raise our concerns about incitement in education, as I did most recently with the PA Minister for Education just last month. We welcome the PA's work to revise its textbooks and their intention to publish updated versions for the start of the school year in September.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-20/76938/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-20/76939/>

## House of Lords Written Answers

### **Palestinians: Politics and Government**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL6799] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the prospect for intra-Palestinian reconciliation, and (2) the likelihood of elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK views the Palestinian Authority (PA) as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. We are supportive of Hamas-Fatah reconciliation attempts, and of the PA returning to resume government functions in Gaza, helping to improve the dire humanitarian and economic situation and restore effective and accountable governance. Genuine and democratic national elections for all Palestinians are crucial to the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. To this end, we call on all Palestinian factions to seek common ground and to work together to pursue a positive path towards democracy for the full benefit of the Palestinian people.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6799/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL6800] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work towards a lasting agreement based on a two-state solution.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK remains committed to achieving a two-state solution, based on 1967 lines with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees. We continue to work closely with international partners advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations. The Foreign Secretary did so most recently in a meeting with the French Foreign Minister on 29 June and German Foreign Minister on 19 June. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the Middle East Peace Process and our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during calls with Alternate Israeli Prime Minister Gantz and Israeli Foreign Minister Ashkenazi. The Prime Minister has conveyed the UK's opposition to unilateral annexation to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 6 July and encouraged President Abbas to find a means of restarting dialogue with Israel on 14 July.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6800/>

### **Middle East Quartet**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL6801] To ask Her Majesty's Government what diplomatic engagement they have had with the Middle East Quartet since 31 January.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa met with the Office of the Quartet's Head of Mission during a virtual visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 6 June. The UK is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We believe that negotiations will only succeed when they are conducted between Israelis and Palestinians, supported by the international community. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and like-minded diplomatic partners advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6801/>

### Trade Agreements: Israel

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7117] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish their conditions for trade with the government of Israel, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU/Israel Trade Association Agreement.

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** The United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement was signed on 18th February 2019 and is publicly available online. The current EU-Israel Association Agreement will govern our trade with Israel until the end of the Transition Period, when the United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement will come into force.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-21/HL7117/>

*The agreement referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781440/CS\\_Israel\\_1.2019\\_Trade.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781440/CS_Israel_1.2019_Trade.pdf)

### Jerusalem: Religious Freedom

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6816] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the decision by a court in Jerusalem to reject the request by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate to cancel the sale of three properties to Ateret Cohanim, what assessment they have made of the impact of that decision on religious freedom in Jerusalem.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have made no assessment of the decision on religious freedom in Jerusalem.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6816/>

### Gaza: Agriculture

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6817] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the government of Israel about reports of the destruction of agricultural sites in Gaza by the Israeli military.

**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 stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6817/>

### Israel: Sanctions

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6818] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to place sanctions on members of the government of Israel who have been accused of war crimes.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have no plans to sanction members of the Government of Israel.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6818/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6820] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the case for establishing an independent investigation (1) into the death of Ibrahim Mustafa Abu-Yaaqouband, and (2) reports of an increasing number of attacks against Palestinians by the Israeli military.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not made representations on this case, we have raised the high numbers of Palestinians killed by the Israel Defense

Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations and if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6820/>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6821] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that (1) Palestinians are unable to obtain building permits for their property, and (2) the lack of such permits is being used as a reason to demolish those properties; and what steps they are taking to protect such properties.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is concerned by the continued demolition of Palestinian property by Israeli authorities. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6821/>

#### **Ramy Shaath**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL6819] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Egypt about the ongoing imprisonment without trial of Ramy Shaath.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are following the case of Ramy Shaath closely. Our Embassy in Cairo is in regular contact with his lawyer, and has expressed our concern at his ongoing detention to the Egyptian authorities.

More broadly, Egypt is a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Priority Country and the UK continues to urge the Egyptian Government to ensure the full implementation of the rights and freedoms set out in Egypt's constitution. We have concerns about mass detentions and sentencing, prison conditions, access to justice, and restrictions on freedom of expression and the media. We regularly raise these and other issues with the Egyptian Government, both in public and in private, and including at Ministerial level.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6819/>

*Ramy Shaath is the Egypt coordinator of the BDS campaign against Israel.*

**TOP**

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

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Assisted Dying Bill**

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

### 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>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes today**

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

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

TOP

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