



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Home Affairs

House of Commons Debate

Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill: Second Reading

col 1353 **Chris Loder (Conservative):** ... It is also high time that we address the barbaric act of non-stun slaughter of animals in this country. Let me be clear on what I mean by non-stun slaughter: an animal, fully alive, with all its senses intact, will be hung up by its hind legs, dangling in the air in the greatest of distress, have its throat slit and be left to bleed to death, hung up to die, for minutes. For me, this is a matter of great national shame. For those who say that non-stun slaughter does not happen very often or is just a small issue, let me put it into perspective. Millions of animals are slaughtered in this way in this country every year. The latest figures from the Food Standards Agency show that an estimated 91 million chickens per year are not stunned at slaughter. Last year, the Food Standards Agency reported that a staggering 25% of all sheep that go for slaughter are not stunned—that is a quarter of all sheep. And I could go on.

The idea of a cow, so like those that my mum and dad and thousands of other small farmers in this country spend their lives taking care of, strung up and ending its life in this way is a little too much for a farmer's son like me to contemplate. As a nation we must face up to this issue. I, for one, will be joining the RSPCA and the British Veterinary Association in calling for an end to non-stun slaughter in this country, and I warmly encourage others, my hon. Friends and Members from all parties in this House to join me in doing the same. ...

col 1361 **Neil Parish (Conservative):** ... Before I start my main speech, I will diversify for a moment and raise halal slaughter. After leaving the European Union, we can introduce New Zealand's system, which allows animal to not feel pain and be recoverable. It deals with the religious side, and the animal is all but stunned at slaughter. We cannot do it under EU law at the moment, but we will be able to when we leave. That will be a real opportunity, and I look to the Minister. I have many scars from dealing with this issue, not only here but in the European Parliament. I want all animals stunned at slaughter. We have a real opportunity as we leave the EU to get that sorted.

Chris Loder: I thank my hon. Friend and neighbour very much indeed. I wholly agree with everything he says. The Bill was not introduced just for religious reasons. A whole host of other matters have been highlighted, including that 25% of all sheep are slaughtered without being stunned, and that there are quite clearly other loopholes that some are taking

advantage of. It is just a point-blank issue and is not specific to religion or anything else. ...

col 1372 David Amess (Conservative): ... [Neil Parish] was also right to talk about animals not being stunned and all the cruelty that goes along with that. I endorse everything that my hon. Friend the Member for West Dorset [Chris Loder] said. ...

col 1392 Jacob Young (Conservative): ... My hon. Friend the Member for West Dorset spoke passionately about non-stun slaughter, on which I wholeheartedly agree with him. ...

col 1414 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Victoria Prentis): ... On pre-stunned slaughter, the Government encourage the highest standards and would certainly prefer animals to be stunned prior to slaughter, but we accept the right of Jewish and Muslim communities to eat meat killed in accordance with their beliefs. We will work further on that, and I look forward to taking that forward with Members across the House. It is a difficult and sensitive area. ...

To read the full transcript see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-23/debates/27FA84A6-0A6D-4F15-9741-322EF5349D61/AnimalWelfare\(Sentencing\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-23/debates/27FA84A6-0A6D-4F15-9741-322EF5349D61/AnimalWelfare(Sentencing)Bill)

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Coronavirus: Funerals and Marriage

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [104052] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the scientific basis is for the imposition of different attendance restrictions between weddings and funerals during the covid-19 outbreak.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [104200] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish the evidential basis for the Government's decision to allow (a) 30 people to attend a funeral and (b) 15 people to attend a wedding.

Nadine Dorries: We recognise that both weddings and funerals are significant events for people, and that their importance is perhaps more to the fore in difficult times. Allowing attendance at weddings of up to 15, and at funerals of up to 30, goes some way towards meeting the participants' understandable wishes, while at the same time minimising the spread of the virus.

Throughout the pandemic, the Government has listened carefully to the views of the scientific community, in particular the information from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and its sub-groups when taking decisions on the best way to tackle the pandemic. We continue to keep these restrictions under constant review and will ensure they remain proportionate to the threat to public health posed by COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104052>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104200>

Welsh Government

Updated guidance to local authorities, approved premises and places of worship on marriages and civil partnerships: coronavirus

<https://gov.wales/guidance-marriages-and-civil-partnerships-coronavirus-html>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Palestinians: Olives

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [104761] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the protection of West Bank Palestinians during the olive harvest season.

James Cleverly: The UK condemns any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. We recognise that there can be an increase in assaults on Palestinian farmers, the destruction of olive trees and the stealing of produce coinciding with the Palestinian olive harvest, which began earlier this month. We have expressed our concerns to the Israeli Government on a number of occasions.

Under international law, Israel, as the occupying power, has an obligation to take all measures in its power to protect the Palestinian population from acts of violence. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to address settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance and bring those responsible to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-16/104761>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Foreign Secretary statement on normalisation of Israel and Sudan relations

Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said: I welcome today's announcement of the normalisation of relations between Israel and Sudan - a positive step between two valued friends. This step is a boost for the democratic transition in Sudan, and peace in the region.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-normalisation-of-israel-and-sudan-relations>

European Union

Israel/Sudan: Statement by the Spokesperson on the announced normalisation of relations

The EU welcomes the announcement of the agreement to normalise relations between Sudan and Israel. This is a positive development that should contribute to the stabilisation and the prosperity of the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions.

In this context, the EU recalls its longstanding position that a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a regional inclusive approach and engagement with both parties.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/87482/Israel/Sudan

United Nations

UN Secretary-General's Spokesman on the announcement of an agreement between Israel and the Sudan

The Secretary-General takes note of the announcement by the Governments of the United States, Israel and Sudan informing of an agreement to normalize relations between the Republic of the Sudan and Israel.

The Secretary-General hopes the agreement will further cooperation, enhance economic and trade relations, and bring about new opportunities to advance peace and economic prosperity in the wider Horn of Africa and Middle East regions.

The United Nations remains fully committed to supporting the Republic of the Sudan's efforts to achieve socio-economic recovery, stability and prosperity for all people in the Sudan and the wider region.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-10-24/un-secretary-generals-spokesman-the-announcement-of-agreement-between-israel-and-the-sudan>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

**** Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2622>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0014/200014.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0014/en/200014en.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8612/CBP-8612.pdf>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-23/debates/27FA84A6-0A6D-4F15-9741-322EF5349D61/AnimalWelfare\(Sentencing\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-23/debates/27FA84A6-0A6D-4F15-9741-322EF5349D61/AnimalWelfare(Sentencing)Bill)

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

Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

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

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type B Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations
(closing date 20 November 2020)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/consultation-specified-type-b-procedures/>

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

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

Hate crime laws (closing date 24 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

TOP

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