



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Coronavirus: Funerals and Weddings

Christopher Chope (Conservative) [111411] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the reasons are for not permitting the same number of people to attend weddings as are permitted to attend funerals under the covid-19 restrictions; on what evidence this policy was based; and if he will make a statement.

Nadine Dorries: We recognise that both weddings and funerals are significant events which are incredibly important for those involved. Allowing funerals will allow the bereaved to mourn appropriately while minimising the spread of the virus. People cannot choose when they need to commemorate the death of a loved one. The scientists have made it clear that the more you break the chains of transmission the more you reduce spread of the virus. These measures are designed to limit the number of interactions that people have and therefore reduce the risk spread. Data and scientific advice informing the fight against COVID-19 are published on GOV.UK and specific relevant findings are shared in presentations accompanying significant policy announcements. 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/2020-11-04/111411>

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House of Lords Written Answer

Palestinians: Food

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9964] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the statement by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that

"people are going through the garbage" for food in Gaza, and (2) the case for increasing the funding of that agency for the provision of food aid.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains concerned about the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza. We are a longstanding supporter to UNRWA and in 2020/2021 we are providing £51 million to support UNRWA to provide essential services to the 5.6 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. £1 million of this is specifically for food aid in Gaza.

In addition to our support to UNRWA for the refugee population, the UK is providing £2.5 million to the World Food Programme to provide food and cash assistance for some of the most vulnerable Palestinians, mainly in Gaza.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/hl9964>

United Nations

New Permanent Representative of Israel Pays Courtesy Call to Secretary-General

The new Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, paid a courtesy call to UN Secretary-General António Guterres ...

Before taking up this latest position, Mr. Erdan served as Israel's Minister for Public Security since 2015. He was also the country's Minister for Regional Cooperation (2020), Strategic Affairs (2015 to 2020), Information (2015 to 2020), Interior (2014 to 2015), Communications (2013 to 2014), Home Front Defense (2013 to 2014) and Environment (2009 to 2013). Mr. Erdan also served as a member of his country's Security Cabinet and was a member of the Knesset ... from 2003 to 2020. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/bio5333.doc.htm>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill

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

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>

Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

including evidence from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12934&i=116898#ScotParlOR>

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

**** closes in 7 days**

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/>

Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK (closing date 30 November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

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/>

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