



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

#### **Call for views to support comprehensive faith engagement review**

An independent review is calling for views from people of all faiths on the effectiveness of government's engagement with faith groups. ...

The review aims to examine how government can best celebrate the contribution of faith groups, break down barriers and promote acceptance between faiths, and promote shared values while also tackling cultures and practices that are harmful. It will then provide recommendations to the Communities Secretary by summer 2021 on how government responds to each of these themes.

Faith and Communities Minister Lord Greenhalgh said: Faith remains at the heart of public life and we fully support the invaluable work being done by people around the country who are inspired by their faith.

There has been no greater testament to this than people from all faiths coming together during the pandemic to support the most vulnerable – giving our elderly and isolated neighbours help and support.

We do not, however, take this for granted and the independent review will ensure that we are maintaining close and productive relationships with faith groups across the country of all traditions. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-views-to-support-comprehensive-faith-engagement-review>

**To read the call for evidence see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

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## House of Lords Written Answers

### **Amer Abdel-Rahim Sanouber**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9888] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the death of Amer Abdel-Rahim Sanouber.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the British Consulate Jerusalem made clear in a tweet on 26 October, we are concerned by the reports surrounding the death of Amer Abdel Rahim Snobar. The British Embassy Tel Aviv raised this case with the Israeli Authorities on 26 October. The UK urged the Israeli authorities to investigate the allegations surrounding his death. 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://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/hl9888>

*The tweet referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/UKinJerusalem/status/1320728459098902528>

### **West Bank: Housing**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9889] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of a building permit being issued by the Israeli Civil Administration for 31 housing units for Israeli settlers in the Old City of Hebron.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We consistently call for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution, including settlement expansion within the West Bank. The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution. We urge Israel to halt settlement expansion immediately.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/hl9889>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Gaza: Unemployment**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9891] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that unemployment in Gaza has increased.

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9963] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the rate of unemployment in Gaza has reached 70 per cent.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza. We are working to address the underlying causes of humanitarian need and economic decline in Gaza. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate-General in Jerusalem frequently urge the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Gaza. Our economic development programme aims to lift the overall standard of living in by increasing trade and job creation, enabling greater movement and access for people and goods, and enhancing the supply of electricity and clean water. The UK will continue to urge the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/hl9891>

and

### **Armed Conflict: Civilians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL9892] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Protection of Civilians Report (6-19 October 2020), published on 23 October, and in particular, the destruction of Palestinian-owned olive trees.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of the findings of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Protection of Civilians Report (6-19 October 2020). 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. 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/2020-11-02/hl9892>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/6-19-october-2020>

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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>

## 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 5 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>

**\*\* Independent Faith Engagement Review** (closing date 11 December 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

**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