



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Point of Order

John Nicolson (SNP): ... On 10 December, when responding to my question on a recent Information Commissioner's Office report into political parties' data collection, the Minister for Media and Data, the right hon. Member for Maldon (Mr Whittingdale), claimed that, when the Conservative party collected the personal data of more than 10 million people based on their race and religion, "the Information Commissioner...did not find that any breaches of the law had occurred."

He repeated a version of that claim when appearing before the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee. However, the Information Commissioner appeared before that Committee yesterday and confirmed to me that the Conservative party had acted illegally—indeed, she had required the party to delete the data that it had illegally collected. ... I wonder, Madam Deputy Speaker, whether he could be afforded the opportunity to withdraw his false claim and commit that the Conservative party will not conduct illegal racial and religious profiling in the future. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-27/debates/40F49147-2CDF-44B6-838A-E7AAA5E5BE1A/PointOfOrder>

John Whittingdale's 10 December response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-12-10/debates/A25523B5-5909-40DE-97B4-A343D3723369/DigitalCultureMediaAndSport#contribution-243C4AD9-166D-4F15-849E-ED1F639B83DB>

John Whittingdale's response to questions from the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee can be read in Q770-771 at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1420/html/>

The Hansard record of the Information Commissioner's evidence to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee is not yet available online. A video recording of the relevant section of the meeting is available from 11.15.34 to 11.16.54 at

<https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/d4a948dd-b19a-4ece-adbe-8d84cfab09c5>

High Court

Judgement: Corbyn v Evans

Jeremy Corbyn has failed in his attempt to obtain pre-action disclosure of a wide range of Labour Party documents relating to his suspension from the Party Whip on 18 November 2020. The court found that “Mr Corbyn already had sufficient material to make a decision on the merits of his case and to plead to both arms of the case he wishes to advance. The matters raised are not sufficient to depart from the usual course of events and I refuse the application.”

Mr Corbyn has indicated that he intends to bring proceedings against the Labour Party for a declaration that the suspension was unlawful and in breach of contract, and to claim an injunction to restrain the Labour Party from taking any further action in relation to his response to the EHRC’s “Investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party”.

To read the full judgement see

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Corbyn-v-Evans-judgment.pdf>

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Holocaust

House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister’s Questions

col 364 The Prime Minister: Today, on Holocaust Memorial Day, I know that the whole House will want to join me in solemnly remembering the 6 million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the holocaust, and all other victims of Nazi persecution. Last week, I had the privilege of hearing from holocaust survivor Renee Salt and from Ian Forsyth, one of the last living British servicemen who liberated the camp at Bergen-Belsen. Their courage to share their testimonies must inspire us all never to forget the holocaust and the fight against all forms of hatred and prejudice, wherever they are found. ...

Keir Starmer (Labour): May I begin by joining the Prime Minister in his remarks about Holocaust Memorial Day? This evening, I will be joining the UK ceremony and lighting a candle to remember the 6 million Jews murdered in the holocaust, along with, of course, the other genocides and persecutions that have taken place around the world. ...

col 368 Ian Blackford (SNP): May I associate myself with the Prime Minister’s remarks on the holocaust? We all remember the 6 million Jews who lost their lives and those terrible crimes against humanity. We should never forget that, nor, indeed, those who have sadly followed them in genocides around the world. ...

col 370 Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat): Can I associate myself and the Liberal Democrats with the Prime Minister’s comments on the holocaust? ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-27/debates/86061134-27CE-4595-8B6A-15EA751552A1/Engagements>

House of Lords Oral Answers

Education: The Holocaust

Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to Holocaust Memorial Day, what steps they are taking to improve education in schools about the Holocaust in order (1) to promote tolerance, and (2) to combat racism. ...

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade (Baroness Berridge): My Lords, the Government are fully committed to Holocaust education and believe that every young person should learn the lessons it teaches us today. That is why it is the only compulsory topic in the history curriculum. It is important that pupils understand the appalling events of the Holocaust and the possible consequences of anti-Semitism and extremism in order to understand how society can prevent the repeat of such a catastrophe. I am grateful to my noble friend for laying this Question on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Lord Holmes of Richmond: My Lords, survivors play such a profound role in our education programmes. As they become fewer in number, what steps are Her Majesty's Government taking to ensure that all their testimony is taken down and transformed through all modern means, not least AI, AR and VR, to ensure that all that testimony is available to future generations for ever? There are six million reasons.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, the Government have funded several initiatives of the nature my noble friend outlines. The new national memorial will ensure that the voices of survivors and witnesses are retained. We have included support for initiatives such as the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Newark, which uses AI to capture survivors' testimony.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour): My Lords, how have the Government ensured that schoolchildren know also about the Roma element of the Holocaust, which is so little known but was responsible for the annihilation of such a large proportion of Europe's Roma population? For instance, the Government could put Gypsy, Traveller and Roma history on the school curriculum, as requested by the Council of Europe, and as included in previous Holocaust Education Trust memorial day ceremonies. Would not this help to reduce the race hatred experienced by these communities?

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her involvement in the stakeholder group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and for the group's contribution to the national strategy that is being led by the Government for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the UK. There are resources available. When the Holocaust is taught on the curriculum it is of course open to schools to include other genocides. It is good to note that the IHRA has produced a non-legally binding definition of the genocide and discrimination against the Roma people.

Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I was able to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp during a visit arranged by the Holocaust Education Trust. There were more than 100 people in the party, mainly students, and it was an experience none of us is ever likely to forget. The Holocaust Education Trust is to be congratulated on the work it does in this respect. Has the Minister visited this camp? If not, a visit of this nature would be helpful in projecting the work of the trust. Perhaps I might add that I am trustee and patron of the Holocaust Education Trust and would be able to assist in this exercise.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, it is always good to hear of the valuable work that the HET is doing. That is why the Government give nearly £2.2 million a year to enable such visits by students. I am grateful for the invitation. I will take it up remotely because I believe that during the pandemic the HET has been very successful in moving trips online. I thank the noble Lord for his invitation, which I will duly consider.

Lord Polak (Labour): I thank my noble friend Lord Holmes for asking this Question on Holocaust Memorial Day. I praise Her Majesty's Government and the department for their support for Holocaust education, but this Holocaust Memorial Day is different from any other Holocaust Memorial Day. The newly formed interfaith group Sharaka, or "partnership", was set up last year in the wake of the historic Abraham Accords. Young leaders from Bahrain, the UAE and Israel have just committed themselves to a five-point action plan to include promoting Holocaust awareness, combating online anti-Semitism

and countering anti-Semitic delegitimisation of Israel. Does the Minister agree that the promotion of Holocaust education in the Gulf region is a most welcome difference in this year's observance of Holocaust Memorial Day? Would she be prepared to share good practice and education materials with Sharaka, a great organisation of forward-thinking young people?

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I welcome the extension of that education to the countries that my noble friend outlined. I will write to the CPD element of the University College London project that we also fund to make sure it is aware of it so that teaching staff can also be made aware of these resources that will help them teach that curriculum well.

Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick (Crossbench): My Lords, yesterday President Biden abolished Trump's 1776 Commission, which sought to deny the ugly truths about America's slavery history and its treatment of indigenous Americans. We cannot eradicate intolerance and racism unless we face our own true full history, so is it not now time that Her Majesty's Government boldly set up a history curriculum commission to incorporate the truths and the facts, ugly or not, about our own slavery history, to honour the six million killed in the Holocaust and the millions killed and affected by institutional racist abuse, and teach the full truth of European history?

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, within the history, English and citizenship curriculums there is flexibility for schools to teach the matters outlined. They are inspected against producing a broad and balanced curriculum. As I am sure the noble Lord will be aware, characters such as Mary Seacole have had increasing prominence in the curriculum for key stages 1 and 2. The key stage 2 and 3 curriculums outline studying, for instance, a non-European society as a contrast, and it was encouraging to note that a Historical Association survey of teachers stated that there is increasing prominence of black British history.

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour): My Lords, the theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is "Be the light in the darkness". It encourages everyone to reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to, and also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to be the light during and after genocide. Schools are key in ensuring that young people understand history and the need to be more tolerant and respectful of those who are different. Five years ago, a House of Commons Education Committee inquiry into the provision of Holocaust education in schools noted that in many academies the Holocaust was not required to be taught because they do not follow the national curriculum, and urged the Government to take action. Can the Minister say what proportion of all schools now teach the lessons of the Holocaust?

Baroness Berridge: As I have outlined, the Holocaust is the only compulsory element of the national curriculum for history. The department does not have a role in inspecting schools to see how many schools are teaching a particular subject. That is a matter for Ofsted, which has a new excellence framework in education. Schools are inspected against the fact that they are teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, and of course schools need to teach the content that is outlined by awarding organisations for GCSEs and A-levels.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I am on a similar theme, and I want to press the Minister. In a Foreign Office commemoration yesterday, the Foreign Secretary quoted Holocaust survivor Gena Turgel about being "secure in the knowledge" that others would keep the candle alight, but in preparing the 2016 report on Holocaust education referred to by the noble Lord, Lord Watson, the Commons Education Committee heard shocking evidence from the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education that "the expectation of universal Holocaust education is no longer matched by reality."

Even in schools obliged to follow the national curriculum, Holocaust education can be cursory or patchy, and more than 50% of secondary schools in England, such as academies, are not even required to follow it. The Government's response to that

recommendation was vague. So I press the Minister now for a more forceful commitment to ensure that all schools teach about the Holocaust, preferably not only in history but in civic education.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, it is open to schools within various subjects such as citizenship, English and history to teach the Holocaust. The Government maintain that Ofsted inspects against a broad and balanced curriculum. Academies will retain the freedom that they have, but they are inspected, like maintained schools, by Ofsted. We have committed to not only a national Holocaust memorial but to a learning centre alongside it to ensure that children learn about these events.

Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated): I pay tribute to the amazing survivors who use their experience of these terrible events to teach young people about where racism and prejudice can lead. However, there will be a time when they are no longer able to speak directly to students so I reiterate the importance of ensuring that their testimony will still be available for schools to use. I ask the Government to consider how they could work with training providers to expand programmes such as Lessons from Auschwitz so that apprentices can benefit from that brilliant work as well.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, as I have outlined, the Government fund several initiatives to ensure that that testimony is available to future generations, and I will ensure that providers of apprenticeships and other courses are made aware of the work that we fund for the Holocaust Education Trust.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-27/debates/18E22F43-B99D-4671-B295-9786B064D790/EducationTheHolocaust>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/480/480.pdf>

and the Government response to the report can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/974/974.pdf>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and UK Holocaust Memorial

... The government will provide free entry, in perpetuity, to everyone visiting the proposed new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced today ...

Giving universal free access to the memorial puts the UK on the same footing as the most important monuments and museums and will reassure Holocaust survivors their testimony will be freely available to all when they are no longer able to tell the story themselves, forever.

The Memorial, which is planned to be built next to Parliament in Victoria Tower Gardens, will be the focal point for national remembrance of the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of Nazi persecution. ...

Government support will supplement funds raised from visitor donations and other charitable contributions to cover the running costs of the Memorial and Learning Centre which, subject to planning permission, is expected to open in 2024. ...

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said: Free entry, in perpetuity, to the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will mean that there are no barriers to people commemorating and learning about the evils of the Holocaust and is in keeping with our national tradition of free entry to monuments and museums of great national significance.

As first-hand testimony from survivors becomes rarer and rarer, it is incumbent on all of us to be their witnesses. The Memorial will serve as a continual reminder to us all of why we need to make a stand against antisemitism, racism and hatred, whenever and wherever

we find it – something that this government will always do.

Ed Balls and Lord Eric Pickles, Co-Chairs of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, said: This is the clearest demonstration of the Government's commitment to addressing Holocaust Remembrance. Free access will widen the visitor base and enable the centre to extend its message and work to a greater range of people. The centre will work closely with other institutions, both national and international, to tackle Holocaust denial and Antisemitism.

Marie van der Zyl, Board of Deputies of British Jews President, said: We welcome the news that entry to the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be free to all visitors. We thank the government and the Secretary of State for this important announcement.

UK and international visitors will now have the opportunity to discover the truth about the Shoah, genocide and the dangerous places to which racism leads.

We hope this will increase understanding; help stop the lies and falsehoods surrounding this terrible period; and enable us all to confront prejudice wherever it is found.

Karen Pollock CBE, Chief Executive, Holocaust Educational Trust, said: The Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will do immeasurable good for Holocaust education and remembrance in this country and I am delighted that it has been confirmed that this important resource will be accessible to all. We must ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten, and that its lessons are learnt for generations to come.

Sir Ben Helfgott MBE, Holocaust survivor, said: The Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will ensure that the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust are never forgotten and that the testimonies of those who survived are protected and remembered. These are fundamental to conveying the lessons of tolerance and understanding.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jenrick-announces-free-admission-to-the-proposed-uk-holocaust-memorial>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Holocaust Memorial Day: UK statement delivered by Ambassador Neil Bush at the OSCE Permanent Council, 28 January 2021

... Yesterday I and my family joined thousands of people across the world – each in our separate places, but united in our actions – to light a candle to honour the memory of the six million Jewish men, women and children who lost their lives during a time of unparalleled depravity and inhumanity. We remembered the thousands of Roma, Sinti, and all other victims of Nazi persecution. And we remembered the victims of other genocides. ...

We must never forget that the Holocaust was committed by ordinary people, its victims were ordinary people.

The [Arolsen Archives](#), a copy of which is housed in London at the [Wiener Library](#) for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, shines a light on what happened.

It shows it in all its horrible banality. Each bureaucratic record shows that there was once a government that decided to murder any Jew it could get its hands on. That murder was an integral part of its statecraft. Chillingly, it would use the efficiencies of mass production to commit mass murder.

Each record in the archive is a testament to lives cut short, of families wrecked. ...

We should not be lulled into a false sense that the Holocaust happened in darkness, nor should we over emphasise the importance of those few individuals whose acts of courage saved Jews.

The proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to our Houses of Parliament will be a powerful symbol of the UK's commitment to remembering the Holocaust. It will

explore the role of Britain's Parliament and democratic institutions - what we did and what more we could have done to tackle the persecution of the Jewish people and other groups. Most importantly, our new memorial will allow us to continue to confront the immense human calamity caused by the destruction of Europe's Jewish communities during the Holocaust, and to demonstrate our sincere commitment to mourn, remember and to act. Today, in a world where Holocaust denial, distortion and revisionism is gaining a foothold, we must remain resolute and recognise that attempts to attack the facts of the Holocaust all undermine the truth and our understanding of history.

We must face this challenge head on. It is not enough to know that facts are on our side; we must actively ensure that we never forget.

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/holocaust-memorial-day-uk-statement>

Welsh Assembly 90-Second Statement

David Melding (Conservative): Today is Holocaust Memorial Day. This year, we are called to be a light in the darkness, and at 8 p.m. to light a candle and display it carefully. The Senedd will be lit purple to mark the memorial. To be a light in the darkness, we are called to remember those who were murdered for who they were and stand against hatred and prejudice today. As a Senedd, it is our duty to ensure that all people in Wales recognise the shared responsibility we have to prevent genocide in the future. We must be a light in the darkness, in public, in the workplace, at home and online.

On this day in 1945, Primo Levi wrote the following, while at Auschwitz: 'Dawn. On the floor, the shameful wreck of skin and bones, the Sómogyi thing. There are more urgent tasks: we cannot wash ourselves, so that we dare not touch him until we have cooked and eaten.... The Russians arrived while Charles and I were carrying Sómogyi a little distance outside. He was very light. We overturned the stretcher on the grey snow.

'Charles took off his beret. I regretted not having a beret.'

Dirprwy Lywydd, we are all called to be a light in the darkness.

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/11174#C350168>

United Nations

Secretary-General Calls for Efforts against Resurgent Xenophobia, Marking International Holocaust Victims Remembrance Day

... Today, we honour the memory of the 6 million Jews and millions of others who were systematically murdered in the Holocaust by the Nazis and their collaborators. This year's anniversary takes place under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed long-standing fractures and injustices in our societies and contributed to a resurgence in anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

The Holocaust was the culmination of two millennia of discrimination, attacks, expulsions and periodic mass killings of Jews. It should have ended anti-Semitism for good. But, it did not. Anti-Semitism, unfortunately, remains alive and well.

Today, white supremacists and neo-Nazis are resurgent, organizing and recruiting across borders, intensifying their efforts to deny, distort and rewrite history — including the Holocaust. The COVID-19 pandemic has given them new opportunities to target minorities based on religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, disability and immigration status.

We must make urgent joint efforts to stop them. As we consider the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must address the fragilities and gaps exposed by the pandemic and strengthen our mutual bonds, based on our common humanity.

This year must be a year of healing. Healing from the pandemic, and healing our broken societies in which hatred has all too easily taken root. As we remember those who died in the Holocaust and honour the survivors, our best tribute is the creation of a world of equality, justice and dignity for all.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sqsm20555.doc.htm>

Attempts to ‘Deny, Distort and Rewrite’ Holocaust History Gaining Global Currency, Secretary-General Warns, Calling for Facts on International Remembrance Day

... We meet today to commemorate the seventy-sixth anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. We honour the memory of all the victims of the Holocaust: the 6 million Jews, the Roma and Sinti, people with disabilities, those of mixed descent, the LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] community, Poles, Slavs and all those who were persecuted and killed by the Nazis and their collaborators.

Today’s meeting takes place online, under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already cost 2 million lives and sickened more than 90 million people around the world. The pandemic has put societies to the test, revealing long-standing fractures and injustices. It has contributed to a resurgence in xenophobia and hate speech, including anti-Semitism — the oldest and most persistent form of racist and religious persecution.

From imperial Rome to medieval Europe to the modern world, Jews and their communities have suffered two millennia of discrimination, attacks, expulsions and periodic mass killings. Anti-Semitism found its most horrific expression in the Holocaust. The universal revulsion at this crime, followed by the founding of the United Nations and the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promised an end.

But, it did not end. Indeed, today, anti-Semitism is resurgent in many places around the world. As the number of Holocaust survivors diminishes every year, white supremacists and neo-Nazis intensify their efforts to deny, distort and rewrite history.

In Europe, the United States and elsewhere, white supremacists are organizing and recruiting across borders, shamelessly flaunting the symbols of the Nazis and their murderous ambitions. We saw shocking examples in this nation’s capital in recent weeks. The COVID-19 pandemic has given them new opportunities to exploit social turmoil, turn people against each other and target minorities based on religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, disability and immigration status.

After decades in the shadows, neo-Nazis and their ideas are gaining currency and even a kind of respectability. In some countries, their messages and ideology can be heard in debates between mainstream political parties. In others, they have infiltrated police and State security services. Together, we must urgently strengthen our joint efforts against the danger they pose. ...

Pour de nombreux juifs, la fin de l’Holocauste n’a été que le début d’un périple incroyablement douloureux et difficile. Aucune personne ayant survécu à l’Holocauste n’a jamais pu retrouver sa vie d’avant.

L’Holocauste a changé le monde à jamais, sans possibilité de revenir en arrière. ...

Pour se relever, il faut investir dans la cohésion sociale, afin que chaque communauté se sente valorisée à la fois pour elle-même et en tant que partie intégrante d’un tout. ...

... There is no vaccine for anti-Semitism and xenophobia. But, the most effective weapon remains the facts and the truth.

The United Nations will continue to stand for the truth and against lies, bigotry, anti-Semitism and hatred. Our best tribute to those who died in the Holocaust is the creation of a world of equality, justice and dignity for all.

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sqsm20556.doc.htm>

Stand against antisemitism with the ‘utmost determination’ – German Chancellor Merkel

The world must stand with the “utmost determination against antisemitism”, the Chancellor of Germany told the UN’s annual Holocaust remembrance ceremony ... Angela Merkel added that antisemitism must be thwarted, “be it open or veiled, and against denial or diminishing of the Holocaust”.

“We honour the victims of the Holocaust by remembering them and by learning from their plight. That is our everlasting responsibility – for today’s and future generations”, she stated ...

On 27 January 1945, exactly 76 years ago, the extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.

“What happened there and in many other places where atrocities were committed during the National Socialist period, is and remains beyond belief”, Ms. Merkel said.

She expressed deep shame over the catastrophic killing of millions of European Jews by Nazi Germany - known in Hebrew as the Shoah - and of “the betrayal of all civilized values, perpetrated under the National Socialist regime”.

The German Chancellor emphasized that “it is, and remains, Germany’s everlasting responsibility” to remember the Holocaust and to commemorate the victims: the European Jews, Sinti and Roma, political prisoners and Polish intelligentsia, prisoners of war, resistance fighters, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and “countless other men, women and children, who were humiliated, persecuted, tortured and murdered”.

“We must never forget these people and their fates”, she stressed. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083122>

US witnessed ‘echoes of the Holocaust’ during breach of the Capitol, says concentration camp survivor

Having grown up a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Europe, Irene Butter said ... that the United States had seen for itself “echoes of the Holocaust” on 6 January during what she described as an ‘attempted coup’ at the Capitol, in Washington DC. Some of the rioters that day, “wore Nazi symbols and used Nazi slogans”, she attested. ...

“It is up to us, to the people, to preserve and protect our democratic institutions and our Constitution”, she stated, which is why she believes that everyone in the US needs to be educated about what took place during the Holocaust, from those who survived it. ...

Since the late 1980s, she has been teaching students about the Holocaust and the lessons she learned during those traumatic years, affirming the need never to become numb to what is happening in the here and now.

“We have to continue and be awake and act,” she said. “It’s very easy to get immersed in the day-to-day, but there are a lot of things that are happening around us and it’s really important to speak up”.

According to Israeli Professor, Yehuda Bauer, the Holocaust was an “unprecedented genocide...because of its global form”.

“Jews were intended to be annihilated all over the world”, not only in Europe, he said.

The professor warned that it was “a precedent” that can be repeated, “so, when we deal with mass atrocity hate crimes today, with genocides today, we need to start from the Holocaust...not just for remembering but acting in accordance with the history that we are witnesses of”.

“We have to remember it, and we have to act in accordance with the lessons that we have learned from it”, stressed Professor Bauer. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083152>

Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony with Young Leaders from the Middle East
Sharaka, which means 'partnership', was founded by young leaders from Israel and the Gulf in order to turn the vision of people-to-people peace into a reality. Arsen Ostrovsky, on whose YouTube channel this video has been posted, is a Board member of Sharaka.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykzi4aueXNs>

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Janet Daby (Labour) [140252] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for its policies of reports by Save the Children that Palestinian children are being detained in Israeli prisons; and what steps his Department is taking in response to those reports.

James Cleverly: We are concerned by the findings of the Save the Children's report entitled, 'Defenceless: The impact of the Israeli military detention system on Palestinian children'. UK officials are in contact with Save the Children over the report's findings. We remain concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons. Reports of the heavy use of painful restraints and the high number of Palestinian children who are not informed of their legal rights, in contravention of Israel's own regulations, are particularly concerning, as is the continued transfer of Palestinian child and adult detainees to prisons inside Israel in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv have a regular dialogue with Israel on this issue. We also fund projects providing legal aid to minors and capacity building to local lawyers. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140252>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18366/pdf/defenceless_the_impact_of_israeli_military_detention_on_palestinian_children_0.pdf

Israel: Palestinians

Janet Daby (Labour) [140255] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent steps his Department has taken in response to reports of violence by the Israeli Defence Force against Palestinian children.

James Cleverly: We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140255>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Lords Written Answer

Turkey: Religious Freedom

Lord Patten (Conservative) [HL12115] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which Jewish and Christian UK citizens resident in Turkey are free to practise their religion.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Under the Turkish Constitution freedom of religion or belief is protected by law, regardless of the nationality of the individual. We expect Turkey to safeguard the human rights, including that of freedom of religion, of all inhabitants of Turkey, be they Turkish citizens or citizens of other nationalities. The Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas, Wendy Morton MP, raised human rights with her Turkish counterpart on 16 December 2020. FCDO officials in Turkey will continue to engage fully with the Christian and Jewish communities, as well as with all other minorities within Turkey. The British Embassy liaises closely with likeminded foreign missions on human rights issues, including freedom of religion and belief and we regularly raise these issues with the Turkish authorities, both bilaterally and alongside other diplomatic partners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/hl12115>

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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>

Domestic Abuse Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

Freedom of Speech (Universities) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2820>

Genocide Determination Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Marriage (Authorised Belief Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2795>

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

Introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland

(closing date 19 February 2021)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation>

Human Rights Act Review (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

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