



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Slaughterhouses

Chris Loder (Conservative) [50764] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will commission the Foods Standards Agency to undertake a survey on methods of slaughter earlier than 2022 as planned.

Victoria Prentis: Defra has been working with the Food Standards Agency on the design of a slaughter survey to take place in February 2022. The timing of the survey has been carefully selected to represent a typical week for the meat processing industry, avoiding religious festivals, and for consistency with the previous survey.

This timescale also reflects the intention to build bespoke data collection and analysis software to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the survey. It is our plan to collect data on a more regular basis in future and the new software will enable us to do this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-16/50764>

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Israel

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-01347] **World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel** – That the Parliament notes that World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel runs from 18 to 25 September 2021; understands that to mark the occasion the World Council of Churches invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the region; believes that the annual world week for peace in Palestine and Israel offers an opportunity for everyone who shares the hope of justice

and peace in Palestine and Israel to unite around the world in solidarity with that aim, and hopes the week can help raise awareness of the situation and help educate people on the conflict in Palestine and Israel.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01347>

United Nations

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas President of the State of Palestine United Nations General Assembly General Debate of the 76th Session 24 September 2021

... This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba. More than half the Palestinian people were uprooted from their land and deprived of their property in that time. Myself, my family and many others still possess the deeds to our land. These deeds are registered as part of the United Nations' records.

Here is that deed, and many Palestinians carry theirs, as they still hold onto the keys of their houses to this day. We have not been able to recover our properties due to Israeli laws that disregard international law and violate United Nations resolutions, which affirm the right of the Palestine refugees to return to their homeland and to recover their properties and receive just compensation ...

Contravening those rights, Israel, the occupying Power, enacts laws and holds court hearings to unlawfully and forcibly displace Palestinians from Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan in Jerusalem, which can only be characterized under international law as ethnic cleansing ...

This year also marks the passing of 54 years since Israel's military occupation of the rest of the Palestinian territory in the West Bank, including, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip in 1967.

This occupation persists despite having concluded an agreement of principles – known as the “Oslo Agreement” – to achieve peace and mutual recognition with Israel in 1993. While we remained committed to all of its elements to this day and agreed to every call and initiative to achieve a political solution on the basis of international legitimacy ... Israel has not honored its obligations ... and instead pursued its expansionist, colonial enterprise, destroying the prospect of a political settlement based on the two-State solution. ...

Does the Israeli occupying Power believe that it can elude its responsibility for the crime of uprooting more than half of the Palestinian people from their land and for committing numerous massacres ...? Does Israel believe it can simply ignore the legitimate rights, including political rights, of millions of Palestinians within and outside of Palestine ...? Does it believe it can continue its policies to steal their land, suffocate their economy and prevent them from breathing the air of freedom?

Does Israel believe it can endlessly promote a false narrative that ignores the historic and present right of the Palestinian people to their homeland? ...

There are still some countries that refuse to acknowledge the reality that Israel is an occupying Power, practicing apartheid and ethnic cleansing. ... This has emboldened Israel, only furthering its arrogance ...

At the same time, there are those who demand from the Palestinian people and institutions, who believe in the culture of peace and the rule of law, to provide explanations and justifications to demonstrate they do not incite hatred and promote violence. For example, we have to explain and justify what appears in our curriculum, which reflects our narrative and national identity, while no one is demanding to review the Israeli curriculum and media ... We reject these double standards.

Why should we have to clarify and justify providing assistance to families of prisoners and martyrs who are the victims of the occupation and its oppressive policies? ... I salute here the prisoners' heroic stand. ... I cannot but wonder ... is there anyone on this earth who would punish the dead and prevent their families from burying them except those who are

deprived of morality and humanity? ...

We have honored all our obligations under United Nations resolutions, we have pressured our people and ourselves to endure the suffering imposed on us in the pursuit of hope, but all for what outcome? ...

As regards unifying our internal front, we reiterate that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, and that we are committed to the unity of our people and land ...

Let me state here that we did not cancel the elections, but only postponed them as we could not hold them in Jerusalem. ...

... we stress that we have a full-fledged State with institutions that act in accordance with the rule of law and the principles of accountability and transparency, democracy and pluralism, respect for human rights and empowerment of women and youth. ...

I have issued instructions to take the necessary measures to correct any wrongdoing and continue upholding the rule of law, the freedom of expression and human rights as the path our country insists to remain on.

I reaffirm to the international community our commitment to political engagement and dialogue as the path to achieve peace, and to peaceful popular resistance and to combating terrorism in all its forms and origins in our region and the world. ...

However, the current and former Israeli governments have persisted in evading the two-State solution based on international law and UN resolutions, and insisted in pursuing occupation and military control over the Palestinian people while presenting illusionary economic and security plans as an alternative. These unilateral plans ... undermine efforts for a genuine peace and prolong occupation and entrench the reality of one apartheid state. ...

We have extended our hands time and time again for peace and still we cannot find a partner in Israel that believes in and accepts the two-State solution. ...

Our people will not surrender to the reality of occupation and its illegal policies and practices. ...

If the Israeli occupation authorities continue to entrench the reality of one apartheid state ... our Palestinian people and the entire world will not tolerate such a situation and circumstances on the ground will inevitably impose equal and full political rights for all on the land of historical Palestine, within one State. ...

I call on the Secretary-General António Guterres ... to take the necessary steps towards developing an international mechanism for protection ... and to activate this mechanism on the borders of the occupied State of Palestine in 1967, including East Jerusalem, to avail our people of international protection. ...

I call on the Secretary-General to convene an international peace conference ... under the sole auspices of the international Quartet.

To ensure our initiative is not open-ended, we must state that Israel, the occupying Power, has one year to withdraw from the Palestinian territory it occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and we are ready to work throughout this year on the delineation of borders and solving all final status issues under the auspices of the international Quartet and in accordance with United Nations resolutions. If this is not achieved, why maintain recognition of Israel based on the 1967 borders? Why maintain this recognition? ...

... we will go to the International Court of Justice ... on the issue of the legality of the occupation of the land of the Palestinian state ...

Why should a Palestinian continue living either under Israel's racist occupation or as a refugee in neighboring countries? ...

I call on the sons and daughters of Palestine everywhere around the world to continue pursuit of their peaceful and popular struggle that has shown the true image of the valiant Palestinian people striving for freedom and independence by resisting occupation and apartheid. ...

Opposing aggressive policies and practices of the Israeli occupation and settlers and of

the Zionist narrative in general is not an act of incitement or anti-Semitism, but rather the duty of every free man and woman in the world. ...

I say to Israel's leaders: do not oppress and corner the Palestinian people and deprive them of dignity and their right to their land and State as you will destroy everything. Our patience and the patience of our people have limits. I reiterate yet again that the Palestinian people will defend their existence and identity and will not kneel or surrender, they will not leave and will remain on their land defending it, defending their fate and pursuing their great journey towards ending the occupation. Of the land of the State of Palestine and its capital East Jerusalem. We say once more: this is our land, our Jerusalem, our Palestinian identity, and we shall defend it until the occupier leaves, as the future belongs to us and you cannot claim peace and security for yourselves alone. Let us be.

Peace be upon you.

To read the full transcript see

https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/10.0010/20210924/7gIp44D6mxWV/8xz66G7sjKRg_en.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

Charities Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877>

Education (16 to 19 Academies) (Religious Character) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2946>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 4 days**

Dispute Resolution in England and Wales (closing date 30 September 2021)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008174/dispute-resolution-call-for-evidence.pdf

**** closes in 4 days**

Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025 (closing date 30 September 2021)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/our-strategic-plan-2022-2025-have-your-say>

The Scottish Government's international work (closing date 29 October 2021)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cteea/international-engagement-external-affairs/>

Labelling for Animal Welfare (closing date 6 December 2021)

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-welfare-market-interventions-and-labelling/labelling-for-animal-welfare/>

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

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