



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [13041] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he plans to take in response to the latest figures published by the Community Security Trust on anti-semitism.

Eddie Hughes: The recent rise in antisemitic attacks is completely unacceptable and we condemn it. Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms.

Since May, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has met with Jewish communities affected by the recent increase in hate crime and has met with Lord Mann, the Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, who is providing independent advice on the most effective methods to tackle antisemitism.

This Government has an excellent track record of taking action to prevent antisemitism.

We have provided funding to a number of innovative projects to reinforce messages of tolerance for our young people and teach them about the dangers of hate and we are providing £14 million this year for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/13041>

The data referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/7/2/Incidents%20Report%202020.1615559608.pdf>

Public Transport: Antisemitism

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [13039] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what actions are being promoted by the British Transport Police to tackle anti-semitism on public transport.

Chris Heaton-Harris: BTP's anti-hate crime campaign, #WeStandTogether, has been in place since 2016 and aims to educate, raise aware of hate crime and

increase confidence and encourage victims of hate and intolerance to report all forms of hate, including antisemitism. BTP also works in partnership with the Community Security Trust (CST) on this campaign and signposts victims of antisemitism to them as an alternative third-party hate crime reporting organisation. BTP carry out regular 'Hate Crime Days of Action' across the railway network, which involves an enhanced presence at stations and on the network, with a focus on raising awareness of hate and intolerance and encouraging the reporting of hate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/13039>

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House of Commons Written Answers

Occupied Territories: Overseas Aid

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [14057] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much Official Development Assistance the UK has spent in the Palestinian Territories in each of the last three years; and on what programmes that funding was spent.

James Cleverly: UK funding has provided support to the Palestinian Authority, economic development programmes, humanitarian assistance and support to UNRWA to improve the lives of Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

UK spending on Overseas Development Assistance is detailed in the annual Statistics on International Development, available:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-international-development>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-10/14057>

Israel: Palestinians

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [14058] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 12 May 2020 to Question 42248, when he plans to publish the findings from the research element of the People for Peaceful Change Project.

James Cleverly: Our three-year People to People programme aimed to bring together Israelis and Palestinians to cooperate on issues which can have a positive impact on both communities, helping to build understanding between people on both sides of the conflict in support of a peaceful, negotiated resolution. The programme included a research component that looked more broadly at the impact of People to People work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. An internal panel of researchers analysed the findings and the final research report can be found via this link:

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300366>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-10/14058>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-05-01/42248>

Israel: Palestinians

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [14059] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on support for peacebuilding efforts between Israelis and Palestinians.

James Cleverly: The UK is in regular communication with key international partners, including the US, regarding support for peacebuilding efforts between Israelis and Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-10/14059>

Israel: Palestinians

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [14060] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 30 January 2020 to Question 8197 on Israel: Palestinians, whether he plans to renew the People for Peaceful Change programme, which ended in March 2020.

James Cleverly: The UK's People-to-People programme in the OPTs concluded in March 2020. The UK continues to fund on-going peacebuilding projects in Israel, as part of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) which will be subject to a separate review upon completion.

We remain committed to improving the lives of Palestinians and maintaining the viability of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-10/14060>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-01-27/8197>

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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 (Assemblies) Bill

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

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

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

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

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

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in the EU (closing date 5 July 2021)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13068-Strategy-on-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-Jewish-life-in-the-EU_en

Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance (closing date 16 July 2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultation-document-curriculum-for-wales-religion-values-and-ethics-guidance.pdf>

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