



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answer

Marriage: Churches

Baroness Rawlings (Conservative) [HL2099] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether clergy are no longer permitted to register marriages conducted in their churches; if so, why not; and what consultations they undertook with the Church of England prior to the introduction of the electronic register for marriages.

Lord Greenhalgh: As a result of changes implemented under The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019 all marriages in England and Wales are registered in an electronic register by a registrar for the district in which the marriage took place rather than in hard copy registers.

The Church of England were fully involved in the development of this policy, including direct engagement with Home Office Ministers. The Church of England has been supportive of the move to an electronic system of registration, including the move to include Mothers on Marriage Certificates as part of this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-15/hl2099>

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

Urgent action needed to tackle deep rooted and persistent racial disparities in policing

The Home Affairs Committee calls for urgent action to tackle low levels of BME recruitment and retention, unjustified racial disparities in the use of stop and search and other police powers, and a worrying decline of confidence in the police among some BME communities. ...

Twenty-two years on from the publication of the Macpherson report that followed the Inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, the Committee has found that whilst policing has changed for the better in many areas, there are still serious and deep rooted racial disparities, and that neither police forces nor governments have taken race equality seriously enough for too long.

The Committee warns that without real and sustainable change the effectiveness and legitimacy of the police will be undermined, and it will take another two decades for police forces in England

and Wales to reflect the communities they serve. ...

The Committee found that in the years following the Macpherson report there was a welcome focus by all policing organisations to implement the report's recommendations and to drive forward institutional change. However, over time that progress has stalled and race equality has too often not been taken seriously enough. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/157006/urgent-action-needed-to-tackle-deep-rooted-and-persistent-racial-disparities-in-policing/>

The Macpherson Report: Twenty-two years on

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7012/documents/72927/default/>

Scottish Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Updated guidance for the safe use of places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

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Holocaust

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Planning permission granted for new UK Holocaust Memorial

Planning permission has been granted to build the country's first national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, next to Parliament, with construction starting later this year.

The new Holocaust Memorial will be the national focal point to honour the 6 million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust, and other victims of Nazi persecution, including the Roma, gay and disabled people.

The co-located Learning Centre will also focus on subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The world-class facility will give visitors powerful and engaging experiences to learn about the Holocaust and subsequent genocides through a variety of mediums including historic photographs, film footage and audio recordings so that the stories of survivors can be heard by younger generations, present and future.

The government will provide free entry to all visitors, in perpetuity. 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 is expected to open in 2024. The government has already announced that it will contribute up to £75 million towards construction costs, to be supplemented by £25 million from charitable donations. Following planning approval, works will start on the site later this year with an anticipated completion date of 2025. ...

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said: This is an important moment for the whole country: today's decision means that the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be built in the heart of Westminster, right next to Parliament. The government will now move forward with the construction of the memorial, which will start later this year.

We have a duty to ensure that the history of the Holocaust is never forgotten and never repeated – the Memorial and Learning Centre will allow everyone to reflect, remember and honour those who suffered and died and to educate future generations in anti-Semitism,

where, if unchecked, antisemitism and hatred can lead. ...

Ed Balls and Lord Pickles, Co-Chairs of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, said: This is an important milestone, bringing closer the day when we have a national Memorial which properly commemorates the 6 million Jewish men, women and children and all others murdered by the Nazis.

Our planning system is rigorous, fair and transparent, and enables all points of view to be expressed. I'm grateful to the Minister and the Planning Inspector for giving such careful thought to our plans and to the objections raised. Our responsibility now is to move as quickly as we can towards completion, creating a Memorial that the whole nation can be proud of, and one which ensures that essential lessons are never forgotten. ...

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said: This is a significant moment on our journey towards a major national Holocaust memorial. Now the sacred work to enshrine our country's commitment to teaching the essential lessons of the Holocaust in a monument and learning centre beside parliament, can truly begin. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those responsible for bringing the project to this point, particularly Ed Balls, Lord Pickles and their team."

Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE, Survivor of the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda, said: I am extremely delighted by today's decision to grant planning permission to build the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre at such an iconic location in London. This is truly a ground breaking moment, and I most sincerely wish that the UK and the world will use this centre to learn more about the Holocaust and other Genocides, remember and honour the victims but more importantly, to renew our commitment to the concept and obligation of Never Again.

Sir Ben Helfgott, Holocaust survivor, said: Holocaust survivors like me came to the UK after liberation, and we made Britain our home; British forces liberated my sister at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The Holocaust is part of British history.

I am proud that the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is being built, in the heart of our country, so it can be visited by millions. I know that long after I, and the other survivors, are gone, the UK will continue to remember the Holocaust and learn what happened when hatred reigned.

Karen Pollock CBE, Chief Executive, Holocaust Educational Trust, said: As the Holocaust moves from living memory to history, there could not be a more important time to build this Memorial, in the shadow of Parliament, as a reminder for generations to come of what happened when antisemitism and hatred were able to flourish. This Memorial and Learning Centre will be an important addition to the excellent foundations of Holocaust education and remembrance already established in this country and will help to ensure the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come.

The Holocaust is part of our shared history that everyone should know about and remember, and I'm proud that this UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is going to be built at the very heart of our democracy.

Nina Olshan, Micro Rainbow: We support the decision to build this memorial in the centre of London, remembering the 6 million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust as well as all other victims of Nazi persecution. It is essential that this memorial captures the diversity of the communities the Nazi's murdered. This memorial can serve as a reminder of how far we still have to go. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/planning-permission-granted-for-new-uk-holocaust-memorial>

Downing Street

Boris Johnson: It is very welcome news that the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning

Centre has been granted planning permission. We have a duty to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten and that it will continue to be taught to future generations.

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1420845407945609220>

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Israel

Department for International Trade

Updated Trade and investment factsheet: Israel

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006996/israel-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2021-07-30.pdf

Updated Trade and investment factsheet: Occupied Palestinian Territories

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007057/occupied-palestinian-territories-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2021-07-30.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

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**

Animal welfare [EU legislation] (closing date 3 August 2021)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill (closing date not stated, but no later than 23 September 2021)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2021/july/have-your-say-on-the-higher-education-freedom-of-speech-bill/>

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