



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Home Office

#### **Hate crime, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021>

#### **Hate crime, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021: Data Tables**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1023577/hate-crime-2021-tables-121021.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1023577/hate-crime-2021-tables-121021.ods)

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### **Islamophobia: Inequalities**

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-03290] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recommendations of the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland, what steps it is taking to pay specific and ongoing attention to issues relating to ethnic and religious health inequalities, employment experiences and poverty.

**Shona Robison:** The Scottish Government is committed to tackling racial inequalities. Our recently-published Immediate Priorities Plan (IPP) sets out how we will work across government and beyond to tackle deep rooted inequalities, and implements the recommendations of the Expert Reference Group on Covid-19 and Ethnicity. The IPP captures work ongoing across government, including our Fair Work First approach; the development of a race equality toolkit for employers; a Workplace Equality Fund to support minority ethnic people into employment; an ethnicity pay strategy; and a £20 increase to the Scottish Child Payment. We recognise the need for our work to tackle poverty to reach minority ethnic families in particular. That is why they are one of six priority groups we want to focus on in our national mission to eradicate child poverty in Scotland. Health inequalities are being tackled through a concurrent focus on improving Covid-19 health outcomes and targeting diseases, such as diabetes, which are overrepresented in certain minority ethnic communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03290>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/13n.f55.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Report-AWK.pdf>

The Immediate Priorities Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/immediate-priorities-plan-race-equality-scotland/>

The Expert Reference Group recommendations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/expert-reference-group-on-covid-19-and-ethnicity-recommendations-to-scottish-government/>

The toolkit referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/minority-ethnic-recruitment-toolkit/pages/9/>

### **Islamophobia: Data**

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-03291] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recommendations of the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland, what steps it is taking to address the reported shortfall in data about Islamophobia in Scotland.

**Shona Robison:** We recognise that there is very limited data on Islamophobia in Scotland and that this is essential to effectively tackle Islamophobia in Scotland.

In respect of anti-Muslim hate crime, in February 2020, the Scottish Government published a research report 'A Study of the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland'. This is the first time that such information has been publicised, and includes information on the type of prejudice shown. In around one-quarter (26%) of religiously-aggravated hate crimes recorded in 2018-19, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Muslim community.

Another study into the characteristics of hate crimes recorded in 2020-21 is ongoing and is currently planned to be published in 2022. The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 includes provision to require disaggregated data on hate crime to be published annually and we are currently developing our approach in partnership with justice agencies. This will provide key information about the nature of hate crime in Scotland, including information about those involved. Such data will be essential to effectively tackle hate crime in Scotland and to inform future interventions in this area.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03291>

The report into Islamophobia referred to above can be read at

<https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/13n.f55.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Report-AWK.pdf>

The Hate Crime report referred to above (published in 2021 not in 2020 as stated in the answer) can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/study-characteristics-police-recorded-hate-crime-scotland/>

### **Islamophobia: Definition**

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-03292] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland, whether it will adopt a formal definition of Islamophobia to promote understanding, encourage reporting, and indicate a commitment to addressing Islamophobia.

**Shona Robison:** Our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan includes a number of actions around raising awareness of hate crime and to encourage reporting. For information, a full list of action commitments in this area can be found at

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/1336/5>

We will publish a report on progress made in delivering those actions during the coming months.

Implementation of the Hate Crime Act provides a good opportunity for the Scottish Government, justice partners and stakeholders to take stock of and refresh our approach to tackling hate crime and we are committed to developing a new hate crime strategy later this year. The new strategy will support implementation of the Hate Crime Act, as well as further work to consider the need for the Scottish Government to define Islamophobia, including consideration of the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group's definition.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03292>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/13n.f55.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Report-AWK.pdf>

*The Action Plan referred to above is not currently available online, but the government response can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-prejudice-building-connected-communities-scottish-government-response-report-independent/>

### **Islamophobia: Review**

**Anas Sarwar (Labour) [S6W-03293]** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland, whether it will commit to instigating an independent review into Islamophobia in Scotland and, if so, within what timetable.

**Shona Robison:** The Scottish Government unequivocally condemns any form of hatred or prejudice, including towards our Muslim communities. Scotland is a diverse, multi-cultural society and this diversity strengthens us as a nation. That is why we are determined to tackle all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

In June 2017, we published our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan in response to recommendations made by the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion. We established a ministerial-led group to take this ambitious action plan forward. A report on implementation of these actions will be published and we will begin development of a new hate crime strategy in conjunction with key partners and stakeholders later this year. The new strategy will support implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.

It is in all of our interests to eliminate prejudice in Scotland, regardless of race or religion, and we would like to reiterate our commitment to working collaboratively with you and the Cross Party Group on Islamophobia to do so, including offering engagement on the range of issues highlighted within the report of the public enquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03293>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/13n.f55.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Report-AWK.pdf>

*The Action Plan referred to above is not currently available online, but the government response can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-prejudice-building-connected-communities-scottish-government-response-report-independent/>

The recommendations referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-independent-advisory-group-hate-crime-prejudice-community-cohesion/pages/4/>

## Scottish Parliament Petition

### **PE1911: Review of Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 and relevant guidance to ensure that all post-mortems—

- can only be carried out with permission of the next of kin;
- do not routinely remove brains; and
- offer tissues and samples to next of kin as a matter of course.

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1911>

## Welsh Government

### **National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021**

... The National Hate Crime Statistics for England and Wales 2020/2021 ... show a 16% increase in recorded hate crimes across Wales compared to 2019/2020. This compares to an overall 9% increase across the whole of England and Wales. There were 4,654 recorded hate crimes across the four Welsh Police Force Areas of which:

- 3,052 (66%) were race hate crimes;
- 884 (19%) were sexual orientation hate crimes;
- 150 (3%) were religion hate crimes;
- 504 (11%) were disability hate crimes; and
- 173 (4%) were transgender hate crimes. ...

Despite the work we have been undertaking in recent times, we cannot overlook the inadequacies in current UK hate crime law. Over recent years we have urged the UK Government to improve hate crime legislation by:

- ensuring parity with other groups in hate crime provisions for LGBTQ+ communities and disabled people;
- introducing misogyny as a category of hate crime;
- improving the speed of prosecutions; and,
- improving victim satisfaction rates with criminal justice processes. ...

Hate has no place in Wales. We encourage anyone who has experienced hate crime – or anyone who sees it - to report it, either via the police or the National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre. ... Let's stand up to hate crime together.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-national-hate-crime-awareness-week-2021>

## Northern Ireland Executive

### **Long: We must all work together to prevent hate crime**

We all have a responsibility to recognise and prevent hate crime, Justice Minister Naomi Long has said.

Launching a suite of hate crime guides for use in the workplace, the Minister said: "Hate crime in any form is unacceptable. Targeting a person because of who they are or what they believe – be it their race, religion, political belief, sexuality, gender identity or disability – is wrong, irrespective of where it takes place. ...

“Everyone has a responsibility to understand what hate crime is and to seek to prevent it. If you see behaviour which you believe to be motivated by hate, and you want to reach out to help your colleague, these guides will advise you and help you to achieve that too. By increasing awareness of hate crime, highlighting the support available as well as helping you understand how to report it, we hope to reduce the number of victims.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/news/long-we-must-all-work-together-prevent-hate-crime>

**Hate Crime Guidance for Employees**

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/hate-crime-employees.pdf>

**Hate Crime Guidance for Employers**

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/hate-crime-employers.pdf>

**Hate Crime Guidance for Managers**

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/hate-crime-managers.pdf>

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## Holocaust

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Gillian Mackay (Green) [S6M-01593] Grangemouth High School Receives Vision Schools Holocaust Education Award** – That the Parliament congratulates Grangemouth High School on receiving the Vision Schools Holocaust Education Award, which teaches pupils about the Holocaust in the Second World War, when Nazis killed millions of Jewish people, and also contributes to anti-racist education and education for citizenship, as well as supporting religious equality; recognises that the school is the first in the Falkirk area to gain this prestigious award; notes that the school has already received recognition through the Rights Respecting Schools Award and the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme, and looks forward to welcoming staff and pupils from the school to the Scottish Parliament building in November 2021 to receive the award.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01593>

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## Foreign Affairs

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**UN Human Rights Council resolution on racism, xenophobia and related intolerance: Foreign Secretary's statement**

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss issued a statement following the UK's decision to call a vote on the resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Council. ...

The UK called for a vote on the resolution to take place, and subsequently joined 9 other Council Members in voting against the resolution as tabled.

The Foreign Secretary said: The UK remains steadfast in its commitment to tackling racism around the world.

The resolution presented to the Human Rights Council today contains a number of references to the Durban Conference, from which the UK has repeatedly disassociated itself due to historic concerns over antisemitism.

Discrimination and intolerance has no place in society and we encourage countries to uphold their human rights obligations.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-un-human-rights-council-resolution>

### **UN Human Rights Council 48: Joint Statement on the Resolution Calling for Action Against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**

Simon Manley, the UK's Permanent Representative in Geneva, delivered a joint statement on behalf of the UK and Australia in relation to the resolution titled 'From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance'.

Madam President, We remain resolute in our commitment to combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance whether that be at home or abroad. Our common commitment on this issue is strong. Discrimination of any kind has no place in society, and we will continue to treat all forms of discrimination with equal seriousness.

Internationally, we believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate for respect among different ethnic groups is to encourage states to uphold their human rights obligations. We are committed to engaging on UN resolutions which consider how to eliminate racial discrimination. ...

With regard to resolution before us this morning ...

We do not agree with the multiple references to the Durban Conference, given the historic concerns over antisemitism. And we can not accept the references to the Durban Review Conference or the positive language welcoming the recent commemorative event in New York.

Madam President, fellow members of the Council, The UK and Australia did not attend the recent 20th anniversary commemorative event for the Third World Conference Against Racism. There were reportedly nearly 40 states who, like us, made the decision not take part. We think we all need to ask ourselves, why so many states stayed away and how we can move forward. If we are to be able to forge a consensus in the future then it is clear that we must come together to find a new approach. The importance of this topic requires that we move forward together on a common path.

Madam President, Racism should be tackled in all its forms and, regrettably, for far too long, the UN has downplayed the scourge of antisemitism. This must end. The UK is clear that we will not attend future iterations of the Durban Conference while concerns over antisemitism remain.

We therefore wish to call a vote on the resolution before us and will vote against the draft text before us. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-48-joint-statement-on-the-resolution-calling-for-action-against-racial-discrimination-xenophobia-and-related-intolerance>

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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>

House of Lords Library Briefing

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/assisted-dying-bill-hl/>

#### **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

**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>

**\*\* Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2022-2025**

(closing date not stated)

<https://nihrc.org/news/detail/we-want-to-hear-from-you-about-our-strategic-planning-2022-2025>

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