



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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See also the Westminster Hall debate “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action: Iran” included in the Foreign Affairs section below.

House of Lords Written Answers

Hamas: Proscribed Organisations

Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated) [HL2818] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to proscribe Hamas's political wing as a terrorist group following the UK's withdrawal from EU.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government does not routinely comment on whether groups are, or are not, being considered for proscription. The Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-04/hl2818>

Hamas: Flags

Baroness Eaton (Conservative) [HL2833] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ban the flying of the Hamas flag in the UK following its widespread use in demonstrations in 2021.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The military wing of Hamas remains a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000 enabling firm action against those who openly support it, including in displaying logos and flags.

We are committed to ensuring the police have robust powers to respond to activities that spread hate and maintain order. We are strengthening powers to manage disruptive protest through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-04/hl2833>

Senedd Debate

Eradicating racism and building an anti-racist Wales

421 Minister for Social justice (Jane Hutt): ... sadly, racism remains constantly around

us; it's on our streets, in our services provision, in our workplaces, and 2020 was the year we all confronted racism like never before. As a nation, we all started to have challenging conversations about the impact of racism. COVID-19 highlighted the impact of uneven outcomes on our black, Asian and minority ethnic communities as never before. ... And since December 2019, I've been discussing with the Wales race forum the development of a race equality action plan. In March this year, we launched the draft plan for an anti-racist Wales for consultation ... It reflects our ambitious and radical vision for Wales in which there is zero tolerance for racism in all its forms, with the single purpose of seeing measurable and significant changes to the lives of ethnic minority people. ...

422 The plan is different also in that at its heart are the lived experiences of ethnic minority people. ... It is imperative that the trust and goodwill gained by developing this work is maintained, and that it moves the burden of racism from the victims to everyone in society. ...

429 Finally, I would say that fighting racism calls for action, not words, and today I call on all leaders to take an active role in ending all race inequality and driving racism out of countries, societies, structures and systems. ... Join us in the vision that we can be an anti-racist nation. The time to act is now, so that we can make a measurable difference to the lives of black, Asian and minority ethnic people in Wales—our people in Wales. ...

433 **Altat Hussain (Conservative):** ... The motion today talks of equality. I am not convinced that we understand what equality means for people of colour, and how equality is achieved. To me, equality is about opportunities. The more we can offer people from diverse backgrounds the chances to succeed in life, the more the challenges and consequences of inequality will be addressed. It is also about promoting knowledge and mutual understanding between different racial groups, advancing education, and raising awareness about different racial groups to promote good relations, working towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, and promoting the values of cultural inclusivity and integration. ...

434 We should seek to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the minority ethnic and religious communities in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs, and to participate more fully in society. It is all too easy for those in authority to take a paternalist approach. To assume that people from minority ethnic groups need things done for them, whilst the best intention, can lead to people being disempowered. ...

436 **Sarah Murphy (Labour):** ... A study conducted in 2019 revealed that 70 per cent of black and minority ethnicity people had experienced racial harassment in the workplace, and, what's more, 40 per cent of those employees had reported cases to their employers and hadn't been taken seriously or just been simply ignored. In schools, the Show Racism the Red Card annual report found that 77 per cent of pupils in Wales had seen racially motivated offences, and this is echoed in the Race Alliance Wales 'Show Us You Care' report ...

441 **Sioned Williams (Plaid Cymru):** ... Black history is integral to Welsh history. There are aspects to celebrate ... There is also, of course, the history of racism: the 1919 riots that devastated Cardiff; the popularity of blackface minstrelsy in Welsh carnivals and on British tv, long after those racist practices had ceased in the US; and the contemporary examples of racism in our society. ...

444 I hope that we all stand shoulder to shoulder with those suffering racism, but there is room for us to be doing a lot more to tackle hate crimes. According to the Government's own figures for 2020-21, there was an increase in 16 per cent in hate crimes on the previous year, and 66 per cent of those hate crimes were racist hate crimes. This is consistent with the general trend, year on year, of an increase in hate crimes in Wales, and the number has more than doubled since 2012-13. ...

450 We all have a moral responsibility to be proactive in our anti-racism. We must take

more effective action to ensure that there is no space in our politics, in our media, in our workplaces or in our institutions for ideologies that bring forward racism and inequality. ...
453 In our journey towards full national status, it is crucial that we face the racism in our past—that we pass legislation and develop cultural, institutional and educational practices that tackle racism in the present, and that we hear and listen to the historic and contemporary voices of black and ethnic minority people ...

459 **Jane Dodds (Liberal Democrat):** ... I think it's worth drawing attention to the Government's commitment to language and to discontinue the use of the phrase 'BAME'. Whilst I acknowledge that, within my own party, we have some way to go to ensure that everyone, at all levels in the party structure, understand the implications of this phrase, it is incumbent on all of us to use the right language in our respective parties to show leadership on this issue. ...

471 **Jane Hutt:** ... we now have a responsibility. ... And you will hold us to account in terms of ensuring that we deliver on this plan in a way that has not been seen before. ... All of us will have to learn and change and deliver to make this a living document that is truly making a difference and that we can then see that measurable difference to the lives of black, Asian and minority ethnic people in communities here in Wales. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/12457#A67776>

The draft plan for an Anti-Racist Wales, referred to above, can be read at

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-03/race-equality-action-plan-an-anti-racist-wales_2.pdf

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://racealliance.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Show-Us-You-Care-Full-Report-1.pdf>

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Israel

See also the Westminster Hall debate “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action: Iran” included in the Foreign Affairs section below, and the House of Lords written answers 2818 “ Hamas: Proscribed Organisations” and 2833 “ Hamas: Flags” included in the Home Affairs section above.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Lack of progress continues to impact negatively the lives of Israelis and Palestinians

... I'd like to start by welcoming the increased engagement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority over recent months. We are confident this dialogue will continue, and it is our hope that it will deliver tangible results to tackle immediate and long-term threats to peace and stability. ...

The United Kingdom also welcomes the increased calm in Gaza, and recent steps taken by Israel to reduce constraints on access for goods and people into and out of the strip. We now ask Israel to set out a full and transparent plan to improve movement and access in Gaza, in line with International Humanitarian Law ...

A number of positive signals notwithstanding, we continue to see negative trends in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. As we have heard, rates of demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes have continued to rise, and this year may see

the worst rate of demolitions in five years. We urge the Government of Israel to ensure that Palestinian families living in the Occupied Territories can remain safely in their homes.

Violence in the West Bank, including settler attacks against Palestinian people and property, is also on the rise. ... We call on Israel to provide appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, to ensure all such incidents are investigated thoroughly, and for those responsible to be brought to justice. ...

We are also concerned about the Israeli Security Forces' use of excessive force. We continue to urge Israel to uphold the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interests.

The Palestinian Authority's (PA) dire fiscal situation carries the risk that it is unable to pay salaries or its suppliers in full from next month onwards. Rapid action is needed to improve the situation. ...

... as we celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child last week, we were reminded of the impressive educational attainment rates for girls across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We must celebrate this success ...

In conclusion, the lack of progress in the Middle East Peace Process continues to impact negatively the lives of everyday Israelis and Palestinians, and the ongoing conflict is in need of a just and lasting resolution. We continue to urge all parties to renew their commitment to peacebuilding, and to work to deliver it. The UK continues to believe that a two-state solution offers the only meaningful prospect for durable peace.

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lack-of-progress-continues-to-impact-negatively-the-lives-of-israelis-and-palestinians>

United Nations

'We Can No Longer Lurch from Crisis to Crisis' in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Special Coordinator Warns Security Council, Urges Parallel Steps by All Parties

... **Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**, welcomed the ongoing engagement between senior Israeli and Palestinian officials, strongly encouraging a further expansion of such efforts which can pave the way towards reinvigorating the peace process. "But we should have no illusions about the current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," he stressed, noting that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to deteriorate and no progress has been seen towards realizing a two-State solution. ...

Israel's settlement activity, evictions, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property, military operations, particularly in Area A, and movement and access restrictions, including the severe closures on Gaza, further feed the cycle of violence, he continued. A large number of Palestinians, including children, continue to be killed and injured by Israeli security forces. Settler-related attacks against Palestinians and their property — including in the presence of Israeli security forces — also continue. Israeli civilians continue to be subjected to attacks by Palestinians that have caused deaths, injuries and damages. ...

He went on to underscore that all settlements are illegal under international law and remain a substantial obstacle to peace. Israeli demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian homes and other structures continued during the reporting period. ... In a welcomed development earlier today, he said, Israeli and Palestinian officials announced that some 4,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank without proper documentation would be registered in the Palestinian population registry and receive identity documents.

Turning to the situation in Gaza, including the support recovery and reconstruction following the May escalation, he said that the United Nations has launched reconstruction efforts for severely damaged housing units. ...

"We can no longer lurch from crisis to crisis", he said, underlining the need to avoid

approaching the current situation piecemeal — incident by incident, on a short-term day-to-day basis as stand-alone issues. A broader package of parallel steps by the Government of Israel, the Palestine Authority and the international community is needed. Such a framework should begin to address key political, security and economic challenges that are preventing progress ...

On the Golan, he noted that, while the ceasefire between Israel and Syria has been generally maintained, violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement by the parties continue, increasing tensions. ...

Daniel Levy, President of the U.S./Middle East Project, citing a report he co-authored, “Breaking the Israel-Palestine Status Quo” (published by Carnegie Endowment), said it sets out a rights-based approach on the intractable issue. Pursuing the same process as before guarantees failure and reinforces the negative trends described by Mr. Wennesland. Moreover, the recent acknowledgement by many, including Human Rights Watch, that Israel’s actions meet the legal definition of apartheid constitutes a “wake-up call”, he said, adding that it also demonstrates that the “endless incantation of worn-out slogans get us nowhere”. ...

First, he said, there is a legitimacy deficit with Palestinian leadership. The Palestine Liberation Organization needed to become far more inclusive and representative in order to be better able to negotiate. Moreover, leadership and the international community needed to recognize Palestinians’ right to elect leaders to their national institutions. Second, there is an accountability deficit pertaining to Israel action. They are able to act with impunity because they can and because there is no expectation of the possibility of change. Third, there is a symmetry deficit, which means that, despite the tendency of some towards “both-sides-ism”, there is a fundamental asymmetry in the defining relationship of power between occupiers and an occupied people. ...

Turning to Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), he stressed: “Implement it; really implement it.” This resolution is violated every time Israeli illegal settlements benefit from bilateral cooperation. The Human Rights Council maintains a database of all those who are complicit in such violations while doing business. ...

Hanan Ashrawi, political and civil society leader, said ... The absence of accountability for Israel and of protection for the Palestinian people has enabled Israel to tread over the rights of an entire nation, allowing the perpetuation of a permanent settler colonial occupation. ...

The disillusion of imposing calm under siege and systematic aggression particularly as in Gaza is an oxymoron for calm or security and occupation or captivity on the other are antithetical and irreconcilable. The oppressed cannot be brought to trust or accept handouts from their oppressor as an alternative to their right to freedom and justice. Israel’s impunity is further enhanced by using excuses such as being the so-called only democracy in the Middle East, a strategic ally or having shared values. Maligning or even labelling all Palestinians as terrorists or a demographic threat is dehumanizing and denies the rights of millions of refugees to return. ...

Noting Israel’s lawless system of control, she asked the Council to empower her people to amplify their voice both in governance and in liberation. Peace is not achieved by normalizing the occupation, side-lining the Palestinian question or rewarding Israel by repositioning it as a regional superpower. ...

Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, said that the international community determined its desired destination a long time ago and has never deviated from that goal: an international consensus on a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. However, it is obvious that this is not the designation Israel has in mind, according to their colonial policy, actions on the ground and the statements of its officials. ... Israel’s vision is guided by a colonial appetite. Israel wants Palestinians to lose hope and eventually surrender. However, Palestinians have deep-seated faith that humans cannot surrender to their chains. ...

Those who are leading colonial policies are hoping to turn the international community into a bystander, a silent witness, or at worst a critical commentator. ...

Gilad Menashe Erdan (Israel) ... [said] The 2020 Abraham Accords put Israel on the road to a new era, where the Middle East could turn into a centre of solutions for global challenges, including tackling climate change and managing water. Instead, biased debates in the Security Council create an alternate false reality that perpetuates conflict. This gives Palestinians the impression that their radical demands can be realized. ...

The Palestinian Authority is paying hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorists, he continued, adding that Council proceedings not just stopped the train of peace, they “knocked it off the tracks”. ... He also questioned the decision to invite a long-time Palestinian politician as a civil society representative, noting that that person has condemned the Abraham Accords and has been associated with a platform which published anti-Semitic lies. The Council could instead give a platform to Israelis and Palestine entrepreneurs working to create coexistence. ...

Linda Thomas-Greenfield (United States) said that the Security Council spends a great deal on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but the substance of the discussions often centres around criticism of Israel, calling for a more balanced approach as there are other situations in the region that merit increased attention ... The United States supports the resumed, direct contact between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, and to that end, welcomed the re-engagement between Israeli and Jordanian leaders, as well as the progress from the Abraham Accords. ... Calling on Hamas to cease its cruel detention of two Israeli civilians, she also expressed concern over the violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank against Palestinians and their property. ...

Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), voicing deep concern over the rise in violence across the West Bank — particularly the increase in settler violence and use of live fire by Israeli forces — called on Israel to hold those responsible to account, end the culture of impunity and ensure that any response by security forces is proportional and in compliance with international law. Condemning all acts of violence, including rocket attacks from Gaza, she urged Israel to end all illegal settlement activity, demolitions and seizures and called for the status quo at holy sites to be upheld in both word and practice. ...

Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom) noted that the number of demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes in the Occupied Territories has continued to rise, urging Israel’s Government to ensure that families living there remain in their homes. Adding that violence in the West Bank, including settler attacks against Palestinian people and property, is also rising, she called on Israel to protect the Palestinian civilian population, ensure all such incidents are investigated and bring those responsible to justice. She also expressed concern about the Israeli security forces’ use of excessive force ... *[see above to read the speech in more detail]*

Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) said ... Unfortunately, tensions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continue unabated, exacerbating the problems of maintaining the ceasefire, providing humanitarian assistance to affected Palestinians and reviving the peace process. Against that backdrop, unilateral acts fraught with dangerous consequences continue: the expropriation and destruction of Palestinian property, settlement construction, including construction plans in the occupied Syrian Golan, and arbitrary arrests, as well as violations of the status of holy sites, and violence. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14668.doc.htm>

The Carnegie report referred to above can be read at

https://carnegieendowment.org/files/BreakingtheStatusQuo_final2.pdf

The Security Council resolution referred to above can be read at

<https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>

Foreign Affairs

Westminster Hall Debate

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action: Iran

col 250WH **Stephen Crabb (Conservative):** ... How sad and how tragic that [David Amess] is not here to contribute today, and that he will not be able to say something positive about the country that he knew very well and loved. ... He demonstrated that being a friend of Israel is no barrier to being a friend of Arab nations, too. In many ways, he was an embodiment of the Abraham accords long before they were signed. ...

Just a few weeks ago, Sir David tried to bend my arm into joining his delegation to Qatar. He was on the delegation on my first visit to Israel with the Conservative Friends of Israel, and I can say from first-hand knowledge just what a wonderful, funny, kind and generous travelling companion he could be. ...

col 251WH **Andrew Murrison (Conservative):** ... Does my right hon. Friend fear, as I do, that dealing with a man who deservedly has the title of the “Butcher of Tehran” is going to be murderously difficult ...

Stephen Crabb: ... He is entirely correct. ... It is an uncomfortable truth that Iran can now be described as a threshold nuclear weapons state. The regime is enriching uranium to greater purities than ever before; it is in retention of ballistic missiles that can deliver nuclear and conventional payloads; and it continues to impede the International Atomic Energy Agency’s access to sites, personnel, and even monitoring equipment and data. ...

col 252WH **Christian Wakeford (Conservative):** ... When we talk about destabilising nations, we always think of China and Russia, but Iran, especially in the middle east, plays a fundamental part in failing the peace process, whether through Hezbollah or Hamas. We should proscribe every single group linked with the revolutionary guard, including the political wing of Hamas. ...

col 253WH **Stephen Crabb:** Iran has installed advanced centrifuges, capable of enriching uranium at greater purity levels and in greater quantities ... Iran now has stockpiles of enriched uranium far in excess of the limited amount permitted by JCPOA. The IAEA has confirmed that Iran has produced hundreds of grams of uranium metal, which is a significant component of nuclear weapons and has no credible civilian application. ...

Andrew Murrison: ... Does he agree with me that Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid are right to be deeply concerned about what is going on? I am sure my right hon. Friend agrees with me that the state of Israel has to be protected against an existential threat from what is happening in Iran.

Stephen Crabb: My right hon. Friend is right to draw attention to the position of Israel and the fears and concerns within Israel. However, it is not just Israel; numerous other countries throughout the region live in fear of an Iranian regime armed with nuclear weapons.

It is a view widely held in security and academic circles that Iran’s breakout time—the time required to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for one nuclear weapon—may now be as little as several months. Some analysts are even talking in terms of a matter of weeks. ...

col 257WH **Theresa Villiers (Conservative):** ... Before the JCPOA, the international

community had built up one of the most extensive arrays of sanctions against Iran ever imposed on any country, ever. That pressure brought the Iranian regime to the table. While some of those sanctions remain in place, many were lifted the moment the nuclear deal came into operation. That gave a significant boost to Iran's oppressive theocratic regime and to its enforcers, the Iranian revolutionary guard. It meant even more money to fund its violent proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, Yemen and Syria, and left it free to pursue its genocidal intentions towards Israel, which its supreme leader is clear he wants to destroy utterly. ...

col 259WH Steve McCabe (Labour): ... There will also come a point where any gains from the JCPOA will become meaningless if Iran's research and development passes the threshold beyond which the original agreement was designed to hold it. I do not say that our Government should not continue to work towards a new agreement, but I hope we will make it clear that it does not exclude international bodies from pursuing Raisi for his crimes against humanity ... It must also address regional activities and ballistic missiles, and it cannot ignore the behaviour of Iran when it comes to democracy, human rights or hostage taking ... It cannot ignore the regime's view that Israel does not have a right to exist. ...

col 265WH Scott Benton (Conservative): ... Just as so many feared at the time the agreement was signed, Iran's network of terror proxies is the principal beneficiary of sanctions relief. From reportedly providing the Hamas terror group with \$30 million per month, to cajoling the Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon, Iran's terrorist network reaches far and wide. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps directs this activity, and it really is time that the UK proscribes the IRGC to send a clear message that Iran's malign activities will not be tolerated. At a time when Israel faces greater threats from terror groups than ever before, the support of its neighbours and the international community is paramount. ...

Christian Wakeford: ... I am also going to highlight a different issue from those raised by my colleagues: the mendacious and pernicious Iranian regime being a real threat to Jewish communities in my constituency and beyond. Every Member participating in this debate and all right-minded Members of the House must continue to be shocked and appalled that a community here in the UK requires synagogues, schools and community centres to be behind gates, with security guards. I pay credit to the Community Security Trust for its work in keeping the Jewish community safe and secure. One of the many reasons it exists is that Iran remains a state sponsor of terrorism; the US Government designated it as such in 1984.

Iran directly and indirectly promotes terrorism against its perceived adversaries, which includes Jewish and Israeli interests worldwide. Iran and its proxy Hezbollah operate globally and possess international terrorist capabilities. The 2019 intelligence assessment of the US office of national intelligence stated that both Iran and Hezbollah will continue to develop global terrorist capabilities. In 2018 and 2019 alone, authorities in Poland, Albania, Denmark, France and Germany arrested or expelled Iranians or blamed Iran for engaging in assassination and terrorist-related activities in their countries. Iran and Hezbollah have been responsible for numerous anti-Jewish terrorist attacks, plots and operations for over 40 years. The highest profile incident was the appalling bombing of the AMIA community centre, which was ordered by Iran and executed by Hezbollah. CST's reports have detailed more than 30 examples of executed, failed or foiled Iranian and Hezbollah attacks worldwide, directed at Jewish communities and Israeli interests across the globe.

col 266WH Here in the UK, there have been many outspoken rallies and public displays of support for the Iranian regime and Hezbollah. Who could forget the awful antisemitic chanting through the streets of London during the annual al-Quds Day march? More recently, the al-Quds Day march has been organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission, which has a direct link to the Iranian regime through one of its co-founders. When General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force, was killed in an American

drone strike, there were vigils in Luton, Manchester, Birmingham and London. At one such event, the chair of the Islamic Human Rights Commission stated: “we hope and we pray and we work hard to make sure that there will be many, many more Qassem Soleimanis.” ...

In conclusion, this is an organisation based here, in our streets, in this country. It is hardly surprising that Jewish people feel anxious. Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon, but its mendacious actions across the UK and abroad must also be stopped. ...

Alyn Smith (SNP): ... not everything that happens in the middle east is about Israel. Plenty of other countries across the middle east have a great deal to fear from a nuclear Iran. As friendly outsiders to all communities in the middle east, it is incumbent on us to look at a wider prism than the interests of just one community or country....

col 268WH Wayne David (Labour): ... According to some commentators, it seems that President Raisi is adopting a hard approach. ... Because of Iran’s violations of the JCPOA, Iran could, if it was so inclined, produce enough nuclear material for a nuclear bomb literally during the next few months. In the past year, Iran has successfully enriched uranium to a new threshold just short of the grade needed for a nuclear weapon. In addition, there are other weapons-related activities that are currently prohibited by the JCPOA that Iran might develop under the guise of civil nuclear necessity. ... We know that both the United States and Israel have threatened to use force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons—I would suggest that it is in the back of the minds of one or two Members here that that might happen. However, we should be acutely aware of the huge risks involved in military action. ...

col 269WH The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa (James Cleverly): ... Iran has failed to comply with its JCPOA commitments for more than two years now. It continues to upgrade its nuclear capability, permanently and irreversibly. There is no doubt about this. The International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN’s nuclear watchdog, has verified Iran’s actions. Today, Iran’s nuclear programme is more advanced and worrying than ever before. The IAEA confirmed in August that Iran has produced uranium metal enriched up to 20% for the first time, and Iran has significantly increased its capability to produce uranium enriched up to 60% ...

It is impossible to overstate the severity of Iran’s actions. It has no credible civilian need to take such steps. It is unprecedented for a state without nuclear weapons to enrich uranium to 60%. ...

col 270WH While the JCPOA is not perfect, it is currently the only framework for monitoring and constraining Iran’s nuclear programme. We have fully upheld the JCPOA commitments from our side, including the lifting of sanctions. ...

We should be clear on this—time is running out to conclude a deal, and we may soon have to reconsider our approach. ...

We currently have more than 200 UK sanctions designations in place against Iran ... it is not useful to discuss or speculate on future sanctions regimes, as that might undermine their authority. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/AD9A837D-47FB-4067-8892-043A34CBDAF3/JointComprehensivePlanOfActionIran>

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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>

Public Bill Committee debates

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/c39ae4c1-325a-4447-8341-417aba6de9a3/NationalityAndBordersBill\(FifthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/c39ae4c1-325a-4447-8341-417aba6de9a3/NationalityAndBordersBill(FifthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/69c8f9cb-4500-4595-bae4-3b06d5823063/NationalityAndBordersBill\(SixthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/69c8f9cb-4500-4595-bae4-3b06d5823063/NationalityAndBordersBill(SixthSitting))

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 9 days**

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>

Animal Welfare – revision of EU legislation (Food Safety) (closing date 21 January 2022)

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

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>

TOP

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