



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Social Media

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL3415] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to force social media platforms to stop amplifying hateful content via their algorithms.

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Under the new Online Safety Bill, companies will need to mitigate the risks of harm associated with their algorithms, for example by preventing them from recommending particular types of content, or by giving users additional control over the content with which they interact.

Major platforms will have to publish annual transparency reports, setting out what they are doing to tackle online harms, including information about algorithms.

Ofcom will have further powers available to help it assess whether companies are fulfilling their duties, including in relation to algorithms. This will include powers to require information from companies, to require an expert report on a platform, and to access premises, data and equipment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3415>

### Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answers

#### Hate Crime Legislation

**Sinéad Bradley (SDLP)** [AQW 24517/17-22] To ask the Minister of Justice for an update on the implementation of the 34 recommendations contained within the Marrinan Review of Hate Crime Legislation.

Since publication of the Final Report in December 2020 I have published the Departmental Response to the Review of Hate Crime Legislation and work has been taken forward to progress the implementation of non-legislative recommendations, in addition to the development of a Hate Crime Bill to be introduced in the next mandate. This work includes:

Commencement of an interim Victims of Crime Commissioner Designate, whose

functions will include a hate crime focus;  
Establishment of a dedicated Hate Crime Branch and a multi-agency Hate Crime Legislation Steering Group;  
Assisting PSNI in the public tender for provision of the Hate Crime Advocacy Service, to see the service put on a more secure footing to provide greater support to victims. The tender has closed and assessment is underway to facilitate the five-year contract with effect from April 2022;  
Liaising with the UK Government on its development of the UK Online Safety Bill to ensure concerns raised in Judge Marrinan's Report, aimed at protecting hate crime victims from harm, continue to be considered as this legislation develops;  
Reestablishment of the Restorative Justice Working Group with a view to finalising an Adult Restorative Justice Strategy and developing an associated multi-year Action Plan. This work incorporates Judge Marrinan's recommendations on restorative justice which are being actively considered and reflected in the Strategy and Action Plan; and  
Development of policy proposals on recommendations identified in the Departmental Response as requiring further consideration. A series of workshops and meetings with relevant partners is ongoing to inform policy development and assess the practical out-workings and operability of specific recommendations.  
Tackling hate crime and supporting the victims of hate crime continue to be key priorities within the remainder of this mandate. This legislative work will complement and strengthen non-legislative work being taken forward to address hate crime by working collaboratively with partners in relation to tackling enabling factors of intolerance, prejudice and hate.

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=354533>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

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

*The Departmental Response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/review-of-hate-crime-legislation-doj-response.pdf>

*and*

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/annex%20a%20-%20review%20of%20hate%20crime%20legislation-table%20of%20recommendations.pdf>

### **Social Media: Hate Speech**

**Justin McNulty (SDLP)** [AQW 24430/17-22] To ask the Minister of Justice, in light of recent violence and attacks on elected representatives, what action she will be taking to impede the ability of individuals to broadcast extremist views and hate speech on social media platforms.

It is vital that safeguards are in place to ensure that those intent on spreading hate and causing harm online are prevented from doing so. It is also imperative that we protect all those who may be vulnerable, including elected representatives serving their communities. The tragic death of MP Sir David Amess has highlighted the amount of abuse politicians face online and this is an issue that requires a collective response.

Whilst telecommunications legislation (including the regulation of social media platforms) is a reserved matter, my Department has sought to take a proactive approach towards supporting online safety. This includes engaging with the UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on its draft Online Safety Bill, published on 12 May 2021 for pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill seeks to put the onus on those who own the platforms and compel companies to take action to stamp out online abuse. This would include social media

companies being held accountable for removing extremist and terrorist propaganda hosted on their networks. The Joint Committee scrutinising the draft Bill is due to report by 10 December 2021. As many of the harms the Bill seeks to mitigate relate to devolved matters, my Department chairs a cross-departmental reference group to help ensure that departments are alert to the implications of the Bill in terms of relevant legislation, policy and practice in Northern Ireland.

Specifically, in relation to Northern Ireland, work has already commenced across a number of the recommendations from Judge Marrinan's Hate Crime Legislation Report including dealing with hate crime online through the Online Safety Bill. My department is working with key partners and stakeholders required to progress each of the 34 recommendations in the report, including delivery of a consolidated Hate Crime Bill in the next mandate. Judge Marrinan made several recommendations in relation to online hate crime in support of the UK Government's ongoing work in relation to online harms and made recommendations in relation to user verification and removal of offensive material. I wrote to DCMS and also to Home Office Ministers to encourage them to consider Judge Marrinan's recommendations in the development of the Bill, specifically in relation to the issues of online anonymity and user verification. I will continue to work with DCMS and the Home Office to highlight areas where I think the Bill could be strengthened.

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=354339>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

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

TOP

## Israel

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **Updated Travel Advice: Israel**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

#### **Updated Travel Advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-01849] Palestinian Human Rights** – That the Parliament condemns the reported decision of the Israeli government to designate six Palestinian civil society organisations as terrorist organisations; understands that Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have described the move as an “appalling and unjust decision” and as “an attack by the Israeli government on the international human rights movement”; believes that this is a deliberate attempt to silence legitimate human rights organisations that challenge what it sees as the grave human rights abuses of the Israeli government, and calls on the international community to put pressure on the Israeli government to reverse this decision.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01849>

## Scottish Government

**Humza Yousaf** A pleasure welcoming H.E. @DrShtayyeh the Prime Minister of Palestine to Scotland & hearing his insight. I reaffirmed Scotland's deep friendship with the Palestinian people and our ongoing solidarity

<https://twitter.com/HumzaYousaf/status/1454720837123194884>

TOP

## 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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/43207/documents/831>

#### **Charities Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Education (16 to 19 Academies) (Religious Character) Bill**

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

This Bill has been withdrawn

#### **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>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/amend/natbord\\_rm\\_pbc\\_1101.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/amend/natbord_rm_pbc_1101.pdf)

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

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

Evidence session, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Sub-Committee on Online Harms and Disinformation

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2898/html/>

## **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/>

TOP

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

### **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](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