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House of Commons Written Answer

Sports: Religious Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [81088] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of the prevalence of Islamophobia in organised sport.

Nigel Huddleston: Recent reports of racism in cricket have highlighted that discrimination, including anti-Muslim hatred, is sadly too prevalent within sport. There can be no place for it. The Government expects sports bodies to take robust action to tackle discrimination whenever and wherever it occurs. Earlier this year UK Sport, Sport England and the other UK sports councils published reports into racism and racial inequalities in sport, including a report capturing people’s lived experiences of racism in sport. The sports councils have agreed some initial overarching commitments, and are working to develop their own action plans to further deliver on these commitments. This is in addition to steps such as the forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England’s Code for Sports Governance, which will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the communities they serve. Sports receiving the most funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually. Getting faith groups more involved in sport and activity is also a key part of Sport England’s 10-year strategy “Uniting the Movement”, published earlier this year. Through this strategy Sport England have committed to providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind and helping to remove the barriers to activity. The Government, and our sports councils, are committed to making sure sport is inclusive for everyone. Where action taken by sports does not go far enough, the government is prepared to step in.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81088
The reports referred to above can be read at
https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-06/Tackling%20Racism%20and%20Racial%20Inequality%20in%20Sport%20Review.pdf?VersionId=34IYJ7qJaRqs60aR2BPgSWFnco5keEeH
and
and
The Code of Governance referred to above can be read at
https://www.sportengland.org/campaigns-and-our-work/code-sports-governance
The Strategy referred to above can be read at
https://www.sportengland.org/why-were-here/uniting-the-movement

Downing Street

Chanukah message from the Prime Minister (video)
https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1465435187888632960

Department for Education

Updated guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (England)

Holocaust

United Nations

United Nations Outreach Programme on the Holocaust to Mark Anniversary of Nazi Doctors’ Trial with Medical Ethics Panel Discussion, 2 December
The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme will host an online panel discussion on medical ethics during and in response to the Holocaust, as well as educational initiatives that draw on the history of the Holocaust to develop ethical leadership in the contemporary context.
The online panel discussion, titled “Ethics, Justice and the Holocaust”, will take place on Thursday, 2 December 2021 at 12:00 p.m. EST. It marks the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Doctors’ Trial that opened on 9 December 1946 in Nuremberg, Germany.
The Doctors’ Trial charged 23 Nazi German physicians and administrators with war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust. Accepting the ethical perversions and racist ideology of the Nazi regime, the defendants had planned and implemented inhumane and unethical medical experiments in the name of medical science. There were countless doctors and nurses not brought to trial, some of whom carried out the so-called Euthanasia Programme — the first expression of organized and State-sanctioned murder of women, children and men deemed by the Nazis as “life
worthy of life” because of psychiatric, neurological or physical disabilities.
The panel discussion will bring together experts to consider the issues of medical ethics, racism and justice in the context of the Holocaust, and the importance of cultivating the values of human rights and dignity among current and future medical practitioners. …

To read the full press release see

To register to attend the online panel discussion see
https://bit.ly/31gZ17T

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

UNRWA: Finance

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [80427] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the impact of the reduction in Government funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency on the number of (a) children being provided with basic education each year, (b) Palestinian refugees that have access to health services and (c) the most vulnerable people across the region who have access to the Social Safety Net Programme.

James Cleverly: As I said in my reply of 22 November, the United Kingdom is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise UNRWA's unique mandate from the United Nations General Assembly, to provide protection and core services including health and education to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK’s annual contribution to UNRWA's programme budget helps UNRWA to provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees and social safety net assistance for around 255,000 of the most vulnerable across the region. I reiterated this at the International Ministerial Conference on UNRWA in Brussels on 16 November.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80427

The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/76784

The following two questions both received the same answer

Israeli Settlements

Lyn Brown (Labour) [77408] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent representations she has made to her Israeli counterpart on plans for settlement expansion or construction in (a) the settlement designated E1 in area C, (b) Atarot/Qalandiya and (c) Ariel West.

Israel: Palestinians

Lyn Brown (Labour) [77409] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the impact of settlement expansion or construction in (a) the settlement designated E1 in area C, (b) Atarot/Qalandiya and (c) Ariel West on the (i) territorial contiguity and viability of a future Palestinian state, (ii) human rights of nearby Palestinian residents and (iii) prospects for a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.

James Cleverly: As I made clear on 28 October, we urge the Government of Israel to reverse the decisions on 24 October and 27 October to advance the construction of settlement units in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. The UK’s
position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an
obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution. We
continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to avoid actions which make
peace more difficult to achieve.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-18/77408
and

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-18/77409

The ministerial statement referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-on-israel-settlement-construction

Qatar: Foreign Relations
Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [81137] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the strength
of relations between Hamas and Qatar and (b) the potential effect of those relations on the
strength of the UK's relations with Qatar.

James Cleverly: The long-standing friendship between the UK and Qatar is more
important than ever. We look forward to our continued collaboration to strengthen
our shared security interests for both regional and global stability. Our position on
Hamas is clear and public; we condemn Hamas' continued attacks against civilians
which are unacceptable and unjustifiable. Hamas must renounce violence,
recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements. We call on those in the
region with influence over Hamas to encourage them to take these steps.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81137

House of Lords Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

UNRWA: Finance

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4007] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they
have to reinstate the full UK contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL4010] To ask Her Majesty's Government what
assessment have they made of reports that the United Nations Relief and Work agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is close to collapse following a reduction in
funding.

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4014] To ask Her Majesty's Government
whether they have reduced aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees (UNRWA); if so, (1) by how much, and (2) for what reasons; and what
plans they have to ensure that Palestinian refugees continue to be provided with UNRWA
services.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom (UK) is a long-term supporter of
the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise UNRWA's
unique mandate from the United Nations General Assembly, to provide protection
and core services including health and education to Palestinian refugees across
the Middle East. The UK’s annual contribution to UNRWA's programme budget helps
UNRWA to provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year
(half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian
refugees and social safety net assistance for around 255,000 of the most vulnerable
across the region. The UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to improve
UNRWA's financial viability. This includes broadening UNRWA's donor base,
encouraging the full disbursement of pledges and encouraging support through
multi-year funding.
Israel: West Bank

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL4011] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following reports of overnight raids on homes in the West Bank village of Fahma by Israeli forces.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we recognise Israel’s legitimate need to deploy security measures, we encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15.hl4011

Mohammed Daadas

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL4009] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about the killing of Mohammed Daadas.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 6 November Minister Cleverly publicly expressed condolences to the family of 13 year old Mohammed Da’das, who was killed near Nablus following clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Defense Forces. We have urged the Israeli authorities to carry out a swift and thorough investigation. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the case with Israeli Defense Forces directly. We regularly raise the importance of the Israeli security force’s adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15.hl4009

The condolences referred to above can be read at
https://twitter.com/jamescleverly/status/1456976599010746375

Raed Jadallah

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL4046] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding reports of the killing of Raed Jadallah by Israeli snipers.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations into whether the use of live fire had been appropriate. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israeli security force’s adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15.hl4046
Foreign Secretary's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid

The Foreign Secretary welcomed Foreign Minister Lapid to the UK and wished him and all Jewish people in Israel and around the world a Happy Chanukah. They discussed how the UK and Israel are close allies and, through the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), our 2 democracies will transform our relationship into an even closer partnership by formally agreeing a new strategic plan for the next decade spanning cyber, tech, trade and defence.

The Foreign Secretary and Foreign Minister Lapid also looked ahead to the start of consultations on a new, enhanced UK-Israel trade deal next year. The 2 noted that the MOU will see the UK and Israel forge a closer alliance on cyber and tech, and will help to ensure that future standards on new technology are shaped by democratic nations.

They discussed a shared desire to work more closely together on honest and reliable investments into low and middle income countries. They also discussed the Middle East Peace Process, including how to improve the situation in Gaza. Foreign Minister Lapid thanked the Foreign Secretary for the UK's recent decision to proscribe Hamas in its entirety.

On Iran, the Foreign Secretary updated on the UK’s efforts to restore the JCPOA through talks that have restarted today (29 November) in Vienna, Austria.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office on the UK-Israel Strategic Partnership


Liz Truss My friend @yairlapid and I have signed an agreement to take the UK-Israel relationship into a bold new era. Our likeminded democracies will work more closely on: Science and tech, Trade, investment and development, Security and cyber

https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1465314745930629121

Liz Truss [Britain (flag) and Israel (flag)] stand together as freedom-loving democracies. We’re taking our friendship to even greater heights. Read my @Telegraphpiece with Israeli FM @yairlapid on how we will deepen our economic, tech and security ties over the next decade and beyond

https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1465219749315592194

As allies, Britain and Israel can be trade and tech superpowers


Updated Travel Advice: Israel

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

Updated Travel Advice: Occupied Palestinian Territories

https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories
Northern Ireland Assembly Member’s Statement

Palestine: International Day of Solidarity

Liz Kimmins (Sinn Féin) Today marks International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. It is important that the international community takes the opportunity to show support for the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people to live in peace and freedom. Palestinian people continue to live under a brutal Israeli occupation that ignores international law, lays siege to Gaza and practises routine repression in the West Bank. If international laws are to mean anything, the international community must stand up against that illegal aggression. That is why I am proud that Sinn Féin successfully passed an historic motion in Leinster House that resulted in the Irish Government becoming the first Administration in Europe to recognise that a de facto annexation has taken place in Palestine. My party now calls on the Irish Government to recognise the state of Palestine and use their influence on the UN Security Council to demand the enforcement of international law and the full implementation of the international resolutions that Israel continues to flout. Those are tangible steps, but, as the fight against apartheid in South Africa showed, every show of international solidarity is important. We send this clear message to the Palestinian people: we stand four-square with you in your long struggle for peace and justice in your homeland.

http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2021/11/29&docID=359050#3766711

United Nations

Marking International Solidarity Day, Permanent Observer Tells Palestinian Rights Committee Israel’s Illegal Settlements Signal Rejection of Two-State Solution

… Cheikh Niang (Senegal), Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people, said that on this day — the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People — the promise of the independence of the Palestinian State remains unfulfilled. Since 1967, and more than seven decades since the 1948 Nakba, the Palestinian people continue to experience increasing levels of dispossession, violence and insecurity under Israeli occupation. … “Israel continues to deepen its occupation by expanding its illegal settlements, confiscating Palestinian property and structures, demolishing homes and forcibly displacing Palestinian families,” he said.

In response to Israel’s further expanding its settlement enterprise — with now close to 700,000 Israeli settlers living in illegal settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem — the Committee, in its quarterly statements to the Security Council open debates, consistently condemned this flagrant breach of international law. … When deadly conflict broke out in May, the Committee expressed grave concern at ongoing attempts to expel Palestinian families from their homes in Occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli incursions and outbreak of violence at Al-Aqsa Mosque and the escalation in Gaza, where many civilians, including children, were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

He went on to say that in October, the Committee joined the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, as well as several United Nations experts and other organizations, to express deep concern at Israel’s decision to designate six Palestinian civil society groups as “terrorist organizations”. … Abdulla Shahid (Maldives), President of the General Assembly, expressed disappointment that so little has been accomplished towards implementing a just settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute despite the amount of energy expended, the multiple United Nations resolutions adopted and the decades of negotiations, dialogues
and engagements held. The people of Palestine continue to suffer alongside their Israeli counterparts; the vision of a two-State solution remains elusive; and Palestinian aspirations for self-determination and sovereignty remain unfulfilled. …

“We must do much better,” he stressed. The international community must continue to support Palestinians and Israelis in resolving the conflict, based on relevant resolutions, within the parameters of international law and the ongoing Middle East Peace Process. …

Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, delivering a message on behalf of Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, said the international community decades ago determined its vision for peace: the two-State solution based on 1967 borders. Israel’s blatant rejection of the two-State solution and its insistence to entrench its occupation rather than end it means, in practical terms, allowing Israel to finalize annexation through its illegal actions and its altering of the facts on the ground; this renders the possibility of achieving the two-State solution more remote, if not impossible. Israeli authorities are entrenching a reality of racial discrimination and a reality of apartheid, as its military forces continue to exert their control over the Palestinian people. …

… he spotlighted how [Israel] is advancing settlements and allowing settlers’ violence to rampage; persisting in its aggression against the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, in the Old City, in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan; besieging the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip; and maintaining an occupation that subjects prisoners to ill-treatment and forcibly displaces children. … What Israel seeks is to devour the maximum extent of Palestinian land with the minimum Palestinian demography at a time where in historical Palestine - from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River – where around 13.5 million people, half of whom are Palestinian and the other half Israeli Jews, live. …

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, in a video message, expressed her solidarity with the Palestinian people. After decades of oppression against Palestinians, the international community cannot deny the asymmetry of power and brutality, she said. People around the world, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, are calling on leaders to protect Palestinians' Human Rights. …

Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, in a video message, said that Palestinians have been living through a human rights crisis for decades. …

Mohammed Al-Kurd, Palestinian activist, recalling his childhood experience of forced eviction in the Sheikh Jarrah in occupied Jerusalem, described the occupation by Israel as theft. Pointing out that the Israeli judicial system is created by and for those who benefit from the Israeli settler-colonial regime, he argued that the unjust laws are preferential and concealed behind a cloak of quasi-democratic legislation. … The situation in Sheikh Jarrah is a perfect illustration of settler colonialism, a microcosm of the reality for Palestinians across 73 years of Zionist rule, he said.

Expressing his faith in people around the world who protest and pressure their Governments to end unconditional support for Israeli policies, he underscored that the problem is not ignorance, but inaction. “Impunity and war crimes will not be stopped by statements of condemnation and raised eyebrows,” he said, calling for transformative political measures, such as civil society boycotts and State-level sanctions. …

Peter Mohan Maithri Pieris (Sri Lanka), Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories … [spoke about] reports that Israel had failed to fulfil its international legal responsibility to ensure the vaccination against COVID-19 of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. These concerns were based on reports indicating that Israel had been donating surplus COVID-19 vaccines overseas, while Palestinians remained largely unvaccinated. …

Agshin Mehdiyev, Permanent Observer for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), speaking on behalf of Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Secretary-General of OIC, reiterating his group’s condemnation of the Israeli occupation measures,
rejected that country’s illegal practices to alter the demographic character of the occupied city of Al Quds and obliterate its Arab and Islamic identity. …

To read the full press release see

Establishing Middle East as Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Would Help Bring Durable Peace to Strife-Torn Region, Advance Global Security, Speakers Say as Conference Opens

Ridding the Middle East of its nuclear arsenal will help bring lasting peace to the chronically strife-torn region and make the world a safer, more secure place, the United Nations Secretary-General said today, as he opened the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

“States must join forces and seek every opportunity to ease tensions, resolve conflicts and build lasting peace and security. …

The Secretary-General noted that since 1967, five nuclear-weapon-free zones have been declared worldwide, including 60 per cent of Member States and covering almost all of the southern hemisphere. Expanding such zones to more regions will strengthen global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation norms. It will also contribute to building a safer world, particularly in the Middle East where concerns over nuclear programmes persist, and conflicts and civil wars are causing widespread civilian casualties and suffering, undermining stability and disrupting socioeconomic development.

“I reiterate my call upon all parties to exercise restraint and avoid escalation,” he said, stressing that the return to dialogue for the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Programme of Action is an important step. Further, the perpetrators of chemical attacks must be identified and held accountable. …

To read the full press release see

** 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
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

Consultations **new or updated today**

**closes in 6 days**

Labelling for Animal Welfare (closing date 6 December 2021)

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 22 December 2021)

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

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (closing date not stated)

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