Home Affairs

House of Commons Debate

Dignity in Dying
col 533 Andrew Mitchell (Conservative) … Our constituents are, according to every single opinion poll over the past three decades, in strong support of this change in the law. I remind the House that the Bill introduced by the noble Lady Meacher in the other place, which has recently commanded their lordships’ support and builds on the consensus so painstakingly and skilfully assembled over many years by Lord Falconer, sets out that those who are within six months of the end of their life and who, in the opinion of two doctors and a High Court judge, have reached the decision independently and in sound mind that they wish to end their life to avoid the often undignified and extraordinary suffering that would otherwise assail them, should be able to do so.

Fiona Bruce (Conservative): Is it not extremely difficult to assess when a life will end? …

Andrew Mitchell: … social security law means that the Government—society—already have a way of determining a period six months before the end of someone’s life. …

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (Conservative): How would my right hon. Friend’s Bill prevent relatives or others from putting pressure on the person to ask for this procedure to be put in place?
col 534 Andrew Mitchell: In the past several days, we have seen the rules on international travel tighten once again; in the space of a week, the Swiss Government closed their borders to travellers from the UK unless they undertook a quarantine of 10 days, before changing the rules back a few days later. The dismay that that has caused people seeking an assisted death in Switzerland is overwhelming, with their having to spend their final days confined to a hotel room, scrambling to update plans when time and energy are in such short supply, and unable to have all—or perhaps any—of their loved ones there to accompany them. The already cruel situation where British citizens can have the death they want only if they travel to another country becomes yet more unacceptable when even that most exceptional option can be withdrawn with such short notice. …

Last year, I raised the question of travel during the pandemic with the Secretary of State
for Health and Social Care. He confirmed that the ban on travelling overseas did not apply to those travelling for an assisted death in another country. That announcement was a welcome relief to many, although it once again highlights our heavy reliance on other jurisdictions to provide our own citizens with the deaths that they want. …

Furthermore, this leniency does nothing for those who cannot afford a trip to Switzerland; who cannot access the necessary medical records; who cannot travel due to illness or disability; or who cannot access the services of Dignitas for a host of other reasons. It forces all those who accompany the dying person to break the law and run the risk of prosecution on their return to this country. …

col 535 Those who cannot travel to Switzerland have only a few agonising choices here at home. … even with the very best care, 17 people a day will die in excruciating pain, to say nothing of those who die with uncontrolable symptoms, or without dignity in their final days. …

We must be honest about recognising the victims of our laws—the dozens of our citizens who feel they must travel overseas to achieve the death that is right for them; the hundreds of terminally ill people who die by their own hand; and the thousands of people who die beyond the reach of the very best end-of-life care we can offer. …

Danny Kruger (Conservative): … I recognise the extraordinary pain and distress of those individuals and their families, but is he aware that in Oregon—the legislation being proposed in the other place is based on the law there—over half the people who apply for assisted death do so not because of terrible pain and suffering, but because they do not want to be a burden on their family? That is the consideration that motivates them. Does he not agree that that is likely to be replicated here, given the sad prevalence of abuse and neglect of elderly relatives in our country?

col 536 Andrew Mitchell: … Of the jurisdictions that have introduced assisted dying solely for people who are terminally ill and mentally competent, not a single one has subsequently extended its laws beyond that point. …

… we are told by those who oppose law change that other countries provide clear warnings of the horrors that would befall the elderly, the vulnerable and others in society if we were to legalise assisted dying. Not only is there no evidence to that effect, but no single jurisdiction has legalised assisted dying and then subsequently repealed that law. …

Perhaps most important is the proposed legislation in the Scottish Parliament, introduced by the long-serving and well respected Liam McArthur MSP. Indications are that the resulting legislation is likely to secure the support of MSPs, as long as it is tightly drafted and contains robust safeguards. Scotland would become the first constituent nation of the United Kingdom to legislate on assisted dying and, inevitably, that may shine a light on our successive failures to progress law changes here in Westminster. …

col 537 It should be common ground that, whatever our view on assisted dying, health and care professionals should not have to actively participate in the practice if they believe it contravenes their conscience and beliefs. …

col 538 Minister for Care and Mental Health (Gillian Keegan): … It remains the Government’s view that any change to the law in this sensitive area is a matter for Parliament to decide and an issue of conscience for individual parliamentarians, rather than one for Government policy. …

We know that this issue is also being considered across the wider UK family, with—as my right hon. Friend mentioned—an ongoing consultation with the Scottish Parliament and legislation being drafted by Jersey’s Council of Ministers. We will await further details of any proposals that may be presented, at which point we will be able to say more about how medical professionals can work within the different countries. The Government are, however, committed to ensuring that patients of all ages are treated with dignity at the end of life, and have the opportunity to benefit from high-quality personalised care that takes account of their wishes.
We know that the covid-19 pandemic brought new challenges, with a sudden and significant increase in both the number of deaths overall and the proportion of people who passed away at home, but despite those challenging circumstances, our dedicated and exceptional palliative and end-of-life care workforce demonstrated their pragmatism and resilience and continued to provide world-class care for patients around the clock, working hard to adapt to meet the needs of patients and their families and ensure that dignity was maintained. We are immensely grateful to them.

However, despite the efforts of our health and care colleagues across the system, before and during the pandemic, we know there is still more that we can do. …

we know that demand for palliative and end-of-life care services has increased and will continue to do so as our population ages. The Government will continue in their commitment to enable high quality personalised palliative and end-of-life care, and we are committed to ensuring dignity and choice for all, even at the most difficult of times.

To read the full transcript see
https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-08/debates/B19D52D4-55EE-4713-9887-9ECD9A7FFD10/DignityInDying

House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [85237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of making Holocaust denial a criminal offence.

Rachel Maclean: There are no plans to make Holocaust denial a criminal offence. The Government believes that Holocaust denial is both immoral and factually wrong. However, legislation reflects the enormous value this country rightly places upon free speech. It enables people to engage in debate freely, while protecting people from criminal activity including threatening and abusive behaviour or behaviour which is intended to, or is likely to, stir up hatred.

I am clear that antisemitism in any form is inexcusable and this Government has taken a number of steps to help eliminate it over the last five years. In 2016 we became the first country in the world to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. We’ve since had organisations such as the Premier League and over three-quarters of councils adopt the definition.

In July 2019 we also appointed Lord John Mann as an independent antisemitism advisor, to provide advice to the Government on the best ways to tackle antisemitism. Finally, we have provided £14m in funding this financial year (2021/22) for protection of Jewish institutions through the Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant, administered through the Community Security Trust (CST).

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85237

Educational Institutions: Antisemitism

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [85236] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department plans to take steps against (a) universities and (b) other bodies receiving funding from his Department who (i) refuse to accept the IHRA definition of antisemitism and (ii) take insufficient action to protect Jewish students on campus.

Michelle Donelan: On 10 November 2021, the Office for Students (OfS) published a list of higher education (HE) providers who have adopted the definition. I am pleased to report good progress in the last year: an increase from around 30 to over 200 providers have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition. This includes the vast majority of universities and I continue to
urge all providers to adopt this definition. The government has also asked the OfS to undertake a scoping exercise, to identify providers that are reluctant to adopt the definition and find out why. The department has asked them to consider introducing mandatory reporting of antisemitic incident numbers by providers, with the aim of ensuring a robust evidence base, which the OfS can then use to effectively regulate in this area. Adoption of the IHRA definition is only a first step towards ridding HE of antisemitism. I want to be very clear that, whilst the government considers that adoption of the definition is crucial, it is not enough on its own. That is why I will continue to work with the sector to ensure it better understands antisemitism and does more to end it.

Universities also have clear responsibilities to ensure that there is no place for antisemitism. All HE providers should discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to address hate crime, including any antisemitic incidents that are reported. The department and I are keen to hear from Jewish groups about what more can be done to make Jewish students and staff feel safe on campus. As part of this, we intend to set up a round table in the new year, specifically focused on tackling antisemitism in HE.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85236

The list referred to above can be read at https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/acdd72d9-ee9a-4959-8c11-1116232328ce/providers-who-have-adopted-the-ihra-working-definition-of-antisemitism.pdf

Schools: Freedom of Expression

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [86067] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to promote free speech in schools.

Robin Walker: Schools play an important role in preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. There are opportunities in the school curriculum and other school duties for pupils to learn about their rights as citizen of the United Kingdom, including about free speech.

The programmes of study for citizenship cover topics that help to prepare pupils to play a full and active part in society and teach them how to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. Further information on the programmes of study can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-citizenship-programmes-of-study

Pupils should be taught about the liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom and use and apply their knowledge and understanding while developing skills to research and interrogate evidence, debate and evaluate viewpoints, present reasoned arguments, and take informed action.

Since September 2020, relationships education has been compulsory for all primary school-aged pupils, relationships and sex education compulsory for all secondary school-aged pupils, and health education compulsory for all pupils in primaries and secondaries.

The statutory guidance sets out that pupils should know their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online and the Teacher Training Modules set out that teachers should explain that this includes the right to freedom of expression. Further information on the statutory guidance can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education

and further guidance on the teacher training modules can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health
The department has produced a relationships, sex and health education ‘Teacher training: respectful relationships’ module that includes advice on how to explain the harm caused by ‘cancel culture’ and the importance of freedom of speech and freedom of association to a tolerant and free society. It also includes teaching that censorship and ‘no platforming’ are harmful and damaging, and that seeking to get people ‘cancelled’ simply because you disagree with them, is a form of bullying and is not acceptable. Further information on this can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-training-respectful-relationships

Schools are required to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. Freedom of speech is relevant to, and could be considered, in the context of all these values. Ultimately, school leaders are best placed to make their own decisions about what they teach in this respect and how they teach it, subject to their obligations to ensure political balance.

The department is developing guidance for schools on political impartiality, to help schools to understand their responsibilities in this area, including the importance of exposing pupils to a diverse range of views during their time at school. The department expects to publish this guidance early next year.

With regards to flying the Union Flag, schools are free to display the national flag and it is a matter for individual schools to decide. The department does not provide specific guidance or restrictions on this.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-02/86067

**Department for Education**

**Out-of-school settings: Updated COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers**  

**COVID-19: Updated Actions for out-of-school settings**  

**Scottish Government**

**Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safe use of places of worship**  

**Welsh Senedd Written Answer**

**Religious Services: Face Masks**

Russell George (Conservative) [WQ83962] Will the Minister confirm if face masks are required to be worn at a religious services where food or drink is also served?

The First Minister: The use of face coverings is a legal requirement in indoor public spaces, including places of worship. It is a reasonable excuse for a person to remove their face covering to eat or drink, where reasonably necessary; for example if it forms part of a religious service. A face covering should still be worn when not actively eating or drinking.

https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/83962
National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85171] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 15 October 2021 to Question 56724 on the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, on what date the estimate of the total cost of the proposed Memorial and Learning Centre was last reviewed; and what the estimate was following that review.

Kemi Badenoch: Costs are regularly reviewed and updated figures will be published in due course in line with the Government Major Projects Portfolio reporting process.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85171
The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56724

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Costs

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85172] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2021 to Question 65351 on the cost of the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, for what reasons the information requested on the (a) category of project, (b) mitigation factor and (c) optimism bias factor used would risk being misleading.

Kemi Badenoch: Financial information will be published in due course in line with the Government Major Projects Portfolio reporting process.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85172
The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65351

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85173] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2021 to Question 65352 on the cost of the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, who is conducting the independent verification of the planned mitigation relating to optimism bias.

Kemi Badenoch: The programme management arrangements include independent scrutiny by officials outside the project team, with periodic assurance reviews.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85173
The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65352

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85174] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2021 to Question 65355 on the estimated running costs of the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, whether the total annual running cost remains the same whichever operating model is chosen.

Kemi Badenoch: Costs may vary depending on the chosen operating model.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85174
The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65355
Holocaust Commission

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85175] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2021 to Question 65356 on the proposed endowment fund for Holocaust education, for what reason no information has been published on progress in setting up the endowment fund.

Kemi Badenoch: Information will be published at the appropriate time.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85175

The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65356

Holocaust Commission

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85176] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2021 to Question 65356 on the proposed endowment fund for Holocaust education, what plans the Government has for public consultation on the size and operation of the proposed fund.

Kemi Badenoch: The recommendations in Britain’s Promise to Remember rested on extensive consultation.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85176

The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65356

Britain’s Promise to Remember, referred to above, can be read at

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Finance

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85177] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what budget allocation has been made by his Department for the (a) capital cost of building and (b) total cost of planning, managing, building and operating the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in each of the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Kemi Badenoch: Expected costs will be published in due course in line with the Government Major Projects Portfolio reporting process.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85177

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Finance

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85178] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how much of the £102 million estimated in 2018 as the cost of the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre was accounted for by contingencies for (a) construction cost inflation and (b) other contingencies; and which contingencies other than construction cost inflation were covered.

Kemi Badenoch: The 2018 cost estimate reflected a range of possible contingencies. Publishing a detailed breakdown of cost estimates would require the release of commercially sensitive information.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85178

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85179] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate the (a) UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation and (b) Government made of the cost of building the Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens (i) before the Foundation’s recommendation about the location on 13 January 2016 and (ii) before the announcement of the location on 27 January 2016.

Kemi Badenoch: In January 2015, the Government committed £50 million as its
contribution to kick-starting a society-wide fundraising effort to deliver the National Memorial and Learning Centre and its wider educational objectives.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85179

**National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85180]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what new information the Government obtained on the proposal to locate the Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens between the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation’s recommendation in principle on 13 January 2016 and the announcement of the decision on 27 January 2016.

**Kemi Badenoch:** The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation conducted a very extensive comparison of possible sites before recommending that Victoria Tower Gardens as the most fitting site for the Holocaust Memorial in terms of its historical, emotional and political significance and its ability to offer the greatest potential impact and visibility for the project. The Government accepted the Foundation’s advice and announced on 27 January 2016 that Victoria Tower Gardens was the chosen location.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85180

The recommendation referred to above can be read at

The announcement referred to above can be read at

**National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85181]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, on what date the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation decided that the criteria for the site of the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre set out in September 2015, including relating to number of square metres, should no longer apply; and how were those decisions recorded.

**Kemi Badenoch:** The objective throughout has been to build a striking new national memorial co-located with a world class learning centre.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85181

**National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [85182]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will provide the chronology of (a) Government departments, (b) ministers and (c) agencies holding responsibilities for the proposed national holocaust memorial and associated campus and learning centre.

**Kemi Badenoch:** The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities leads for Government on delivering the longstanding commitment to build the Holocaust Memorial, as did his predecessors in the post.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85182
Trade Agreements: Israel

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [86659] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her Israeli counterpart on ending the occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories in the course of negotiating the new Trade and Defence Pact.

James Cleverly: The UK's position on the Middle East Peace Process is clear and longstanding. The Foreign Secretary and Israeli Foreign Minister Lapid discussed the Middle East Peace Process, including how to improve the situation in Gaza, during their meeting on 29 November. The memorandum of understanding, signed on 29 November and accessible here:
commits to the development of a new, bespoke UK-Israel Bilateral Roadmap. This Roadmap will define UK-Israel cooperation for the next decade across the breadth of the bilateral relationship.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-03/86659

Israeli Settlements

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [84312] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her Israeli counterpart on the proposed construction of a settlement on the site of Qalandia airport.

James Cleverly: Settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the physical viability of the two-state solution. 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 understand the Israeli authorities shelved their latest proposals for development at Qalandia airport on 25 November.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/84312

Jerusalem: Palestinians

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [85291] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment her Department has made of the equity of provision by the Jerusalem Municipal Authorities of essential (a) health, (b) education, and (c) welfare services to Palestinian neighbourhoods compared to Jewish Israeli neighbourhoods in Jerusalem.

James Cleverly: The UK remains firmly committed to ensuring access to essential health, education and welfare services for all Palestinians. The UK Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of access to essential services with the Israeli authorities.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85291

Jerusalem and West Bank: Demolition

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [85292] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many UK-funded humanitarian aid structures in the West Bank including East Jerusalem have been demolished or seized by the Israeli authorities since 1 January 2021.

James Cleverly: Data on demolition and displacement in the West Bank is published by The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at:
https://www.ochaopt.org/publications/west-bank-demolitions-and-displacement
On the issue of confiscations and demolitions, the UK’s position is clear; in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We call on Israel to end these practices, and to allow the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid for those who have had their homes demolished or confiscated.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-01/85292

House of Lords Written Answer

Iran: Nuclear Power

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4434] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel in advance of new talks, announced for 29 November, between the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia and Iran, on reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), including the prospect of the possible return of the United States to the JCPOA.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to have regular discussions with a range of regional and international partners, including Israel, on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Iran’s nuclear escalation. We are clear that our priority is to see the US return to the deal, and Iran return to compliance with its commitments. Most recently, on 29 November the Foreign Secretary hosted Israeli Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, to formalise a new plan for the UK - Israel bilateral relationship over the next decade. Iran was discussed, with the Foreign Secretary updating on the UK's efforts to restore the JCPOA through talks that restarted in Vienna on 29 November.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/hl4434

Other Relevant Information

European Commission

The Commission proposes to extend the list of ‘EU crimes' to hate speech and hate crime

Today, the European Commission is presenting an initiative to extend the list of ‘EU crimes' to hate speech and hate crime …

Hate speech and hate crime have seen a sharp rise across Europe and have become a particularly serious and worrying phenomenon – offline and online. … However, currently there is no legal basis to criminalise hate speech and hate crime at EU level. … Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová, said: “Hate has no place in Europe. It goes against our fundamental values and principles. …” Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, said: “We need a strong response to the challenges posed by hate speech and hate crime across the EU: now and in the future. Today’s initiative is an important step towards a more effective European response to such threats against pluralism and inclusiveness. We won’t allow such phenomenon to weaken our democracies.” …

Online hate speech spreads fast and is accessible to everybody anywhere. The ideologies behind hate speech and hate crime can be developed internationally and can be rapidly shared online. Hate crimes can be committed by networks with members from several countries. …
Hate speech and hate crime are particularly serious crimes as they undermine the EU common values and fundamental rights ... They have harmful impacts on the individuals, their communities and on society at large. ...

The external study published today confirms the scale and worrying trend of hate speech and hate crimes. The increase in the level of hatred manifested against for example of Roma, Jews, Muslims and persons of Asian origin, or those perceived to be of such origin, including racist attacks and beatings, violent bullying, threats and racist abuse has increased during the pandemic. …

To read the full press release see

A more inclusive and protective Europe: extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1_1_178542_comm_eu_crimes_en.pdf

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

Third Reading, House of Lords
https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-12-08/debates/6F5A44C8-837D-4475-9F35-17F72923BC83/Education(Assemblies)Bill(HL)

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](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023)  
Report Stage, House of Commons  
[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-08/debates/63B3AE86-2989-449D-97A5-EF78C8DC79CA/NationalityAndBordersBill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-08/debates/63B3AE86-2989-449D-97A5-EF78C8DC79CA/NationalityAndBordersBill)

Online Safety Bill (Draft)  

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942)

Northern Ireland Assembly  
Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill  

Consultations ** new or updated today  
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)  