Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answer

Islam: Discrimination

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL4705] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to appoint the second independent expert to consider the definition of Islamophobia.

Lord Greenhalgh: This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred.

We will outline our next steps with the review on the Definition of Islamophobia in due course, following the publication of the forthcoming Hate Crime Strategy.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/HL4705

Northern Ireland Executive

Minority Ethnic Development Fund 2022-25

The Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) provides support for voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups. The aim of the Fund is to assist minority ethnic and local community organisations to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

For application form and guidance notes see


Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Call to alleviate food shortages for Jewish community

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights...
Commission are calling on the UK Government and the European Union to find an urgent solution to alleviate the ongoing shortages of kosher food in Northern Ireland following Brexit.

Despite reports that the Secretary of State RT Hon Brandon Lewis CBE has pledged his support to resolve the matter, the Jewish community continues to face major issues sourcing kosher food here. This is because of the practical difficulties of finding suppliers from Great Britain to undertake the complicated process of delivering these supplies to Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Black, Chair of the Belfast Jewish Community, said: “Due to the new barriers, our cupboards are nearly bare of kosher foods. Our local community is facing enormous difficulties in the practice of our faith. If these shortages are not addressed soon, we will face real difficulty daily as well as in celebrating major events in our religious calendar such as the Jewish Passover in April. Ultimately these shortages may impact on the viability of our historic community in Belfast. We have had many promises, but we need action and would urge all parties to get involved to work constructively and quickly to find a solution.”

Geraldine McGahey, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for NI and Alyson Kilpatrick Chief Commissioner, NIHRC, said: “It is really important that minority groups such as our local Jewish community are protected in post-Brexit Northern Ireland. The Commissions have raised this matter with the House of Lords Sub Committee on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

"Under Article 2 of the Northern Ireland/Ireland Protocol, the UK Government has committed to maintaining certain equality and human rights after Brexit. Both Commissions have been given additional powers and responsibilities to ensure that the UK Government upholds this commitment and also have a role in considering and assessing the impact of Brexit on our faith-based communities.

“We will continue to monitor closely the negotiations in relation to the export of chilled meats from GB to NI and assess the potential impact on religious groups and their ability to access food and ritual products.

“As small communities, minority faith groups must not be overlooked in Northern Ireland. Failure to deal with this issue will have a serious detrimental effect on the Jewish community. It is important that the EU and the UK Government find a solution to this issue as soon as is practicable.”


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**Holocaust**

**Scottish Parliament Motion**

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative) [S6M-02600] **Holocaust Memorial Day to be Marked on 27 January 2022** – That the Parliament reflects on the horrors of the Holocaust; believes that it is important to impart the lessons of this despicable event to each generation so that everyone is instilled with an ethos of tolerance and respect for all, irrespective of background; recognises that the Holocaust was the systematic attempt to murder all Jewish people living in Europe from 1941 to 1945; acknowledges that the Holocaust resulted in 6 million Jewish men, women and children being murdered in concentration and extermination camps and in ghettos and mass shootings; notes that Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on 27 January 2022 and that its theme will be “One Day”; understands that this theme, which can be interpreted in many different ways, has
been chosen with the general aim that for the One Day of 27 January, people will come together to learn about and reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides that took place in the years following 1945, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; further understands that underpinning the theme is the hope that, by educating others about past genocides, it will be possible to look forward to a future One Day where there is no genocide; agrees that the Holocaust is an incredibly dark chapter in human history and that the Memorial Day held on 27 January is an important opportunity to reinforce the necessity of striving to ensure that One Day, genocides will become a thing of the past.


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**Israel**

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

James Cleverly  Horrified to hear about the attack on 3 Israeli citizens near Nablus last night, in which a young man lost his life. Our hearts go out to the family of Yehuda Dimentman. We fully support Israel’s right to ensure its security and bring the perpetrators to justice.

https://twitter.com/JamesCleverly/status/1471809429213433864

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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 (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
Updated Explanatory Notes

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 3 days
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)

Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights (closing date 8 March 2022)

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