Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

**Islam: Religious Hatred**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [92144] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of the Government adopting a definition of Islamophobia.

**Kemi Badenoch:** 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.

The adoption of a definition of Islamophobia by the Government remains under consideration.

[https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/92144](https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/92144)

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

**Overseas Trade: Israel**

**Michael Fabricant (Conservative)** [92805] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what recent steps the Government has taken to support bilateral trade with Israel.

**Mike Freer:** On December 2nd, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade confirmed to the House that the UK will open a public consultation on an enhanced bilateral free trade agreement with Israel early next year.

Officials are in regular contact with their Israeli counterparts to implement the existing UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement. The UK is due to hold the
inaugural UK-Israel Joint Committee early next year and is also planning to host a joint UK-Israel Innovation Summit in March. This will be an opportunity to highlight our ambitious trade, science and innovation relationship, and showcase the shared talents of leading British and Israeli businesses.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92805

The existing Agreement referred to above can be read at

Health Services: Israel

Michael Fabricant (Conservative) [92804] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what collaboration is taking place between the UK and Israel in the digital health sector; and if he will make a statement.

Gillian Keegan: Digital health collaboration between the United Kingdom and Israel includes the UK-Israel Tech Corridor, where the Leeds Corridor pairs National Health Service organisations with Israeli health technology companies to advance their product or clinical work. The UK also plans to host a UK-Israel Innovation Summit next year, where digital health will feature.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92804

Israel: Hamas

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [90527] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the impact of Hamas’s recent statement calling for an escalation of violence against Israel on stability in that region.

James Cleverly: Our position on Hamas is clear: we condemn Hamas' continued attacks against civilians which are unacceptable and unjustifiable. We continue to call upon Hamas and other terrorist groups to permanently end their incitement and indiscriminate rocket fire against Israel. 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/2021-12-09/90527

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL4739] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of comments made by UN Mideast envoy, Tor Wennesland, on 18 November to the UN Security Council concerning (1) the need to reduce the activities of the government of Israel in and around Jerusalem and the West Bank, (2) the importance of financial stability for the Palestinian Authority so it can pay salaries, and (3) the need to halt to settlement activities.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to urge the Government of Israel to permanently end its settlement expansion and settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Minister Cleverly raised UK opposition to settlement expansion with the Government of Israel on 9 November. We share the concerns of the UN Middle East Envoy over the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s fiscal crisis and are actively working to help mitigate it. The UK has a substantial technical assistance programme within the Palestinian Ministry of Finance, strengthening public financial management. This programme is credited by the Palestinian Minister of Finance with helping to increase domestic revenues. We are also actively working with the PA and Government of Israel to resolve a number of long-
standing issues that have the potential to substantially increase the clearance revenues collected by Israel on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Security Council did not sit on 18 November. The question may be referring to the meeting of 30 November. Tor Wennesland’s briefing to that meeting can be read at

Palestinians: Water Supply
Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL4738] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the confiscation of a water pipe for Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has raised the issue of access to water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities, including stressing the urgent need for Israel to take immediate and practical measures to improve the current situation and ensure fair distribution of water in the West Bank. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions, confiscations and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel, most recently with Israel's Ministry of Defence on 19 October.

Gaza: Coronavirus
Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4714] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that residents in Gaza receive their fair share of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Tackling COVID-19 remains a priority for the Government. We welcome the steps that the parties have taken so far to coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that essential medical supplies and staff can access Gaza, and encourage further dialogue in this regard. The UK is committed to global equitable access to effective vaccines as demonstrated by our £548 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment - the international initiative to support global equitable access to vaccines. The Occupied Palestinian Territories was one of the first to receive vaccines from this scheme. The UK has raised the need for equitable access to vaccines in discussions with both the Palestinian Authority and Government of Israel.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Updated Travel Advice: Israel

Updated Travel Advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories
Overseas Aid

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [90528] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that UK aid does not promote antisemitism.

James Cleverly: The Government and UK aid is committed to combatting the rise of antisemitism in all its forms, both domestically and internationally. The UK Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, Lord Pickles, engages with the issues relating to Holocaust denial and antisemitism, and the UK was the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, which we encourage others to adopt.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-09/90528

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
Joint Committee on Human Rights report: Legislative Scrutiny: Nationality and Borders Bill (Part 5)—Modern slavery
https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8328/documents/84688/default/

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 tomorrow
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)

** Outdoor marriages and civil partnerships (closing date 24 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