Scottish Government

Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): safe use of places of worship

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

**Occupied Territories: Schools**

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [92871] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what mechanisms are in place to assess the suitability of educational materials used in schools operated by the UN Relief and Works Agency in (a) the West Bank and (b) Gaza.

James Cleverly: We strongly condemn all forms of violence and incitement to violence. We accompany our support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) with stringent attention to implementation of their neutrality policy, including how they apply this to textbooks and other learning material to ensure they reflect UN values. In Gaza and the West Bank, UNRWA uses the PA's curriculum in their schools after rigorously reviewing that it is in line with UN values.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92871

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Five years after UNSC Resolution 2334, international accountability to end the Israeli occupation is more important than ever
The international community must hold Israel to account for its 54-year occupation of
Palestine, a UN human rights expert said today, five years after the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for an end to all settlement activities in Palestinian territories. "On the fifth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 2334 by the United Nations Security Council, the international community has to take its own words and its own laws seriously," said Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.

"Without decisive international intervention to impose accountability upon an unaccountable occupation, there is no hope that the Palestinian right to self-determination and an end to the conflict will be realized anytime in the foreseeable future," Lynk said. Resolution 2334, adopted by the Security Council on 23 December 2016, stated that Israeli settlements constitute "a flagrant violation under international law" and said that all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, must "immediately and completely cease."

The resolution said the expansion of settlements threatens the viability of a two-State solution and international law must govern the occupation and the relations between Israel and the Palestinians. It also called on States to distinguish between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories Israel has occupied since 1967.

"If this resolution had been actually enforced by the international community, and obeyed by Israel, we would most likely be on the verge of a just and lasting peace," the Special Rapporteur said. "Instead, Israel is in defiance of the resolution, its occupation is more entrenched than ever, the violence it employs against the Palestinians to sustain the occupation is rising, and the international community has no strategy to end the world’s longest military occupation."

Lynk said. "Is it not clear by now that the Israeli political leadership has no interest, and no incentive, to end the occupation?" …

The Special Rapporteur called upon the international community to develop a rights-based approach to Middle East peace-making, and to employ the plentiful tools of accountability measures to bring Israel back into compliance with international law. …


Resolution 2334, referred to above, can be read at https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf

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Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Oral Answer

Religious Freedom

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [92816] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations she is making to countries in which Christians and other religious minorities face persecution on upholding freedom of religion or belief.

James Cleverly: The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities. Promoting the right to FoRB is one of the UK’s longstanding human rights priorities. Bilaterally, Ministers and officials regularly raise specific cases of concern, and do not shy away from challenging publicly or in private those we believe are not meeting their obligations.

Multilaterally, we work with the UN, Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe, Council of Europe, G7 and other fora to promote FoRB. Lord Ahmad hosted a successful Arria meeting in the margins of the Security Council in March 2021, raising awareness on persecution of religious minorities in conflict. In May this year, we secured the inclusion of language on FoRB in the G7 communique for the first time, ensuring FoRB remains firmly on the international agenda. The UK will host an international Ministerial conference on FoRB in 2022 to energise collective efforts on this agenda.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92816

**Relevant Legislation**

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

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill