Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answers

Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry

Baroness Blackstone (Labour Independent) [HL4990] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how, and (2) when, they plan to respond to the report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse Child protection in religious organisations and settings: Investigation Report, published in September; and in particular the recommendations that they should (a) “change the definition of full-time education and bring any setting that is a pupil’s primary place of education within the scope of a registered educational setting”, and (b) “provide Ofsted with sufficient powers to examine the quality of child protection when it undertakes inspections of suspected unregistered institutions”.

Baroness Barran: The department is considering the recommendations made by the report on 'Child Protection in Religious Organisations' from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The government is already committed to legislating on both matters. We expect to provide the Inquiry with our response within the standard 6 month timeframe.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/hl4990


Out-of-school Education

Baroness Blackstone (Labour Independent) [HL4991] To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms they have to monitor the number of children at risk in unregistered religious settings.

Baroness Barran: Local authorities are legally responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their areas, regardless of the educational setting they attend. Where local authorities have safeguarding concerns, the department expects their services to intervene. There are a range of powers held by local agencies which can be utilised where concerns have been identified, for example, around health
and safety, premises regulations and general safeguarding. Where local authorities believe that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, they have a legal duty to investigate where necessary.

The department consulted in 2020 on widening the registration requirement to settings that operate full time but only offer a very narrow curriculum, which would include a number of full-time religious settings that are currently allowed to operate without having to register. The department will respond to this consultation soon, setting out next steps.

The department has also committed to taking forward measures to make it easier to investigate and prosecute unregistered schools, working with Ofsted and the Crown Prosecution Service. The department intends to take forward these measures when a suitable legislative opportunity arises.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/hl4991

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**Holocaust**

**Scottish Parliament Motion**

Sarah Boyack (Labur) [S6M-02700] Holocaust Memorial Day – That the Parliament notes Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January; understands that, across Scotland, there will be multiple events organised to pay respect to those who lost their lives in the holocaust and subsequent genocides, and attempt to learn the lessons from humanity’s dark past; notes that the Edinburgh Interfaith Association plans to hold a virtual event on 26 January and sends its best wishes to those who are attending, and encourages people across Scotland to consider the message of Holocaust Memorial Day, which includes that genocide does not just take place on its own, but that it is a steady process that can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.


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**Israel**

**House of Commons Written Answer**

Palestinians: Terrorism

Robert Largan (Conservative) [93088] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her (a) EU and (b) US counterparts on the Palestinian Authority's alleged payment of monthly salaries to convicted Palestinian terrorists.

James Cleverly: No UK aid is used for payments to Palestinian prisoners, or their families or the "Martyrs Fund". Alongside Government of Israel and US we continue to deliver a clear and long-standing message to the highest levels of the Palestinian Authority that the prisoner payments system should be reformed so that it is needs based, transparent and affordable. Officials maintain a regular dialogue with the EU and US on this issue.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/93088
Relevant Legislation  ** new or updated today

**UK Parliament**

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867)

Assisted Dying Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875)

Charities Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877)

Education (Assemblies) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878)

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862)

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025)

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017)

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900)

Nationality and Borders Bill  
[https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023)

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

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)