



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answers

Antisemitism

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL5040] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following reports of intimidation of a group of Jewish youths on Oxford Street, London, on 29 November, what assessment they have made of antisemitism in the UK; and what steps they are taking to address this.

Lord Greenhalgh: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms.

This year we have provided £14 million to the Protective Security Grant to provide safety for Synagogues and other Jewish Institutions. We are bringing forward the Online Safety Bill to address hatred that manifests online and we will be introducing a new Hate Crime Strategy in 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5040>

Antisemitism

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL5041] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to encourage UK media organisations to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

Lord Greenhalgh: Antisemitism has no place in our society and this Government remains absolutely committed to tackling it.

We became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016, and we continue to encourage organisations to take this important step in combatting this form of hatred. It is encouraging that, following the Government's encouragement, organisations such as the Premier League, the Football Association, over 80 universities and over three-quarters of councils have adopted the definition – demonstrating their willingness to support the Jewish community.

We will continue to encourage organisations and combat antisemitism in all its forms.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5041>

Hate Crime

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL5039] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with OFCOM regarding guidance for (1) the BBC, and (2) other media organisations, concerning the (a) accuracy, and (b) sensitivity, of reporting of issues relating to hate crime.

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Ofcom has long-standing broadcasting rules through its [Broadcasting Code](#), protecting against hate speech and prohibiting material likely to incite crime or lead to disorder, which apply to all broadcasters, including the BBC. Ofcom rules ensure that news, in whatever form, is reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality. Ofcom rules allow broadcasters to include hate speech in their output as long as it is justified by the context. Ofcom guidance also requires that broadcasters take into account sensitivity across the public and/or within communities.

Separate [rules](#) for video-on-demand services prohibit incitement to hatred. In November 2021 Ofcom updated its guidance further to protect users from harmful material. In August 2021, the Government launched a [consultation](#) to level the playing field between traditional broadcasters and video-on-demand streaming services, in order to provide a fair competitive framework and ensure that viewers in the UK receive equivalent standards. We are now considering our response to that consultation and will publish next steps in due course.

Ofcom's Video Sharing Platform [rules](#) require providers to take appropriate measures to protect against harmful material, including incitement to violence or hatred against particular groups of people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5039>

Department for Education

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044532/OOSS_Parent_Guidance.pdf

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044531/OOSS_Provider_guidance.pdf

Scottish Government

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

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

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[Israel](#)

Downing Street

PM call with Israeli Prime Minister: 4 January 2022

The Prime Minister spoke to Naftali Bennett, Prime Minister of Israel, earlier today. They updated on progress in the fight against COVID-19 and booster vaccinations in the UK

and Israel, as well as efforts to reopen international travel. The leaders also discussed the ongoing talks on the Iran nuclear deal in Vienna. The Prime Minister said the UK wants to see the negotiations in Vienna lead to full restoration of the JCPOA, but that we need Iran to engage in good faith. The diplomatic door is open, but time is running out to reach an agreement. The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Bennett welcomed plans to negotiate a UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement, and looked forward to a joint innovation summit in the UK later this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-israeli-prime-minister-4-january-2022>

Department for International Trade

Trade with Israel

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summary-of-the-uk-israel-trade-and-partnership-agreement>

Trade with the Palestinian Authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summary-of-the-uk-palestinian-authority-political-trade-and-partnership-agreement>

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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>

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

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Animal Welfare – revision of EU legislation (Food Safety) (closing date 21 January 2022)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation/public-consultation_en

Outdoor marriages and civil partnerships (closing date 24 January 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/outdoor-marriages-civil-partnerships/>

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/human-rights-act-reform-a-modern-bill-of-rights>

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