



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Scottish Government

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

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-places-of-worship/>

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Israel

House of Commons Debate

Easter Adjournment

Jeremy Corbyn (Independent): ...there are people who have come from the most awful situations and wars around the world. They want to work and contribute—they are often very experienced and qualified—but are just languishing day in, day out in unsatisfactory and expensive temporary accommodation, unable to contribute to our health service, education service and so many other things. It is a crying shame and a crying waste.

There are victims of other wars in which we as a country have been involved. The war in Iraq created many refugees. The constant bombing in Palestine by Israel's occupying forces also creates refugees in that region, in Libya and around the world. In Yemen, which is now the world's worst humanitarian disaster, there has been constant bombing for a very long time by Saudi forces, which are armed and supplied by Britain. If we are serious about peace in the world and serious about these issues, we must question our own policies and our own activities. ...

None of these wars has happened by accident. ... This is also about the policies that led to them. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-31/debates/B22C5A38-30E9-4702-AB7E-089B05B984CF/EasterAdjournment#contribution-1EC46EFE-9F3B-4713-9192-68DFE5DDAB58>

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Human Rights

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [146751] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what support she plans to provide to the International Criminal Court in its investigation in respect of the situation in Palestine in the context of the findings of report of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Amanda Milling: The UK is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and we respect the independence of the Court. In this instance, we do not consider that the ICC has jurisdiction as the UK does not currently recognise Palestinian statehood.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-24/146751>

Palestinians: Human Rights

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [146752] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment her Department has made of the systematic discrimination faced by Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories as reported by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the UN Special Rapporteur; whether she accepts the conclusion of their reports; and whether her Department plans to carry out its own legal analysis of that matter.

Amanda Milling: The FCDO is aware of the reports listed above. As a friend of Israel, we have a regular dialogue on human rights. This includes encouraging the Government of Israel to abide by its obligations under international law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-24/146752>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

and

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MDE1551412022ENGLISH.pdf>

and

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/A_HRC_49_87_AdvanceUneditedVersion.docx

Home Office

Home Secretary meeting with Israel's Interior Minister

The Home Secretary expressed her pleasure at being able to welcome Minister Shaked to the Home Office in person and opened the meeting by expressing her condolences on behalf of the government to the families of the victims of Tuesday's terror attack in Bnei Brak, as well as those affected by recent attacks in Beersheba and Hadera.

Both ministers expressed their condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Home Secretary explained to her counterpart the various ways in which the government is helping Ukrainians seeking to come to the UK at this uncertain time.

Minister Shaked expressed her gratitude to the Home Secretary for the announcement last November of the proscription of Hamas in its entirety as a terrorist organisation. The Home Secretary reiterated that the UK stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel in the global fight against terrorism and that the government remains committed to working together with Israeli counterparts in the vital sphere of counter-terrorism.

Both ministers shared their concerns about the ways in which individuals can become radicalised and agreed to maintain a dialogue on dealing with this problem. They also agreed to work together on tackling harmful content online so as to help make the internet

a safer place, free from hate, terrorism and antisemitism.

Priti Patel said: The UK's relationship with Israel is extremely important and it was a great pleasure to host Minister Shaked at the Home Office earlier.

Our governments already work together closely and that cooperation could not be more important at a time of great international uncertainty, given current events in Ukraine.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-meeting-with-israels-interior-minister>

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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>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

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/>

Royal Assent

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2022/10/contents/enacted>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

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