



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs
 Israel

Relevant Legislation
 Consultations
 Back issues

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Department for Education: Discrimination

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [51613] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many allegations of discriminatory behaviour in the workplace were made in respect of each of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act in (a) the Department for Education, (b) Ofqual and (c) Ofsted in each of the last five years.

Jonathan Gullis: The number of allegations made in respect of each of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 in the Department are listed in the following table:

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022* | Total |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Disability | >5 | >5 | >5 | >5 | >5 | 6 | 16 |
| Race | 0 | >5 | >5 | 8 | >5 | 0 | 16 |
| Age | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | >5 | 0 | 9 |
| Sex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | >5 | >5 | 3 |
| Gender | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | >5 | 0 | >5 |
| religion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | >5 | 0 | >5 |
| Total | >5 | >5 | 5 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 46 |

* until July 2022

Details where the total number of allegations, complainants, and outcomes are five or fewer are withheld under section 40(2) of the Equality Act that relates to Personal Information. This is because releasing the numbers may potentially lead to the identification of individual(s).

No records are held centrally for Ofqual and Ofsted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51613>

TOP

House of Commons Written Answers

Trade Agreements: Israel

Anum Qaisar (SNP) [53572] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the intended contents of the UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement include provisions for transport technology.

Anum Qaisar (SNP) [53573] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the intended contents of the UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement include provisions for human surveillance technology.

James Duddridge: On 20 July, negotiations between the UK and Israel for an upgraded, innovation-focused Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were launched. As part of this, our strategic approach to the negotiations was published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). This document sets out the UK's key objectives in these negotiations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53572>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53573>

Trade Agreements: Israel

Anum Qaisar (SNP) [53577] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether there will be provisions in place within any free trade deal between the UK and Israel on strengthening the rights of Palestinians working in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

James Duddridge: The Government has high regard for worker protections and has made clear that we will not compromise on these in our trade agreements. All our negotiations seek to ensure commitment to international labour protections, including at the International Labour Organization (ILO).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53577>

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Embassies

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL2252] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to move the British Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Embassy to Israel is based in Tel Aviv. The UK's position on the status of Jerusalem is that it should be determined through a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians and that Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2252>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Welcoming support for a peaceful two-state solution by Israeli and Palestinian leaders: Statement by Ambassador Barbara Woodward at the UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East peace process

... Let me start by welcoming both Prime Minister Lapid and President Abbas' support for a two-state solution, during their speeches to the General Assembly last week. The UK firmly believes that a two-state solution, based on 1967 lines, with Jerusalem as a shared capital and a just solution for refugees is the best way to deliver long-term peace.

The challenges facing a two-state solution however remain significant. We share deep concerns about the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank. And we urge all parties to reduce tensions and avoid de-stabilising unilateral actions.

We urge Israel not to proceed with demolitions at Masafer Yatta, which would cause unnecessary suffering, and are against international law in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

We unequivocally condemn the execution of five Gazans by Hamas this month. ...

In the West Bank, in 2022 more Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the UN started recording fatalities in 2005. The UK remains fully supportive of Israel's right to self-defence, but where there are accusations of excessive use of force, we advocate swift, transparent investigations.

We are appalled too by terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens. Such attacks cannot be justified. ...

We welcome progress on economic measures, including the electronic payment of Palestinian workers in Israel ...

Peace will only be achieved only through meaningful dialogue between the parties, which tackles the drivers of instability and violence in the immediate term. We encourage further and deeper engagement towards this goal.

To read the full transcript see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/welcoming-support-for-a-peaceful-two-state-solution-by-israeli-and-palestinian-leaders>

United Nations

Israeli, Palestinian Leaders' Statements on Two-State Solution Positive Sign, But Words Must Be Turned into Action, Speakers Tell Security Council

... **Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**, said that, despite the provisions laid out in Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) that settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory cease, such activities have continued during the reporting period from 17 June to 20 September. In the West Bank, 29 Palestinians, including six children, were killed and 1,813 Palestinians, including 27 women and 194 children were injured by Israeli security forces. Israeli settlers and other civilians perpetrated 128 attacks against Palestinians, resulting in one death and 51 injuries. In Gaza, during the escalation of tensions between armed groups in August, 49 Palestinians were killed, of whom at least 26 were civilians, while one Israeli civilian and one Israeli security forces personnel were killed in addition to 50 Israelis and eight security forces personnel injured.

... he pressed Israel to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law. He also condemned the indiscriminate launching of rockets by Palestinian armed groups from Gaza into civilian population centres in Israel. ...

Calling upon Palestinian factions to redouble efforts in reuniting Gaza and the occupied West Bank, he said that it is also crucial that Palestinians hold elections to renew legitimacy of national institutions. ...

... he commended Prime Minister Yair Lapid's support of the two-State solution, while acknowledging President Mahmoud Abbas's commitment to a peaceful resolution. ...

Fergal Tomas Mythen (Ireland), expressing concern over the recent spike in violence in Jenin following incursions by the Israeli security forces, said he was appalled at the level of casualties ... "Israel has a right to defend itself, but in doing so, it must respect its obligations under international law," he emphasized. Israel's relentless expansion of new settlements is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) and international law. ... He also condemned the execution by Hamas of five prisoners on 4 September, calling for the end of the practice of executions. Captured Israelis, including

human remains, should be returned to Israel. ...

Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) said ...[the] worrying regularity of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are related to the stagnated peace process, and Israel seems to enjoy carte blanche to use force against the Palestinians. Expressing concern about potential provocations at the Aqsa Mosque compound in the coming months due to upcoming holidays and elections, he also pointed out that Israel has conducted mass arrests, infringed on the freedom of the press, limited the work of human-rights organizations and continues its settlement activities in violation of international law. ... Further, Israel's unlawful acts go beyond the West Bank and Gaza Strip, violating the sovereignty of neighbouring States — particularly Syria and Lebanon. ...

Ameirah Obaid Mohamed Obaid Alhefeiti (United Arab Emirates) welcomed the Prime Minister of Israel's support for a two-State solution, adding that her delegation looks forward to seeing intensified efforts to create a suitable political environment for the resumption of serious political negotiations between the two parties on final status issues. However, she pointed to recent reports of Israel's plan to build 560 new settlement units in the southern part of East Jerusalem, specifically on lands considered to be a "buffer zone" of a World Heritage Site ... Such settlement activity undermines the two-State solution and constitutes a flagrant violation of both international law and relevant Council resolutions. Moreover, attacks carried out by settlers against Palestinian communities must stop. ... Spotlighting the approaching olive harvest season, she said the same period last year saw an unprecedented upsurge in attacks. Also noting the return of students to school this month, she underlined the right of Palestinian children to access education without obstacles or intimidation. ...

Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom) [[click here](#) to read this speech in more detail] welcomed Prime Minister Yair Lapid's and President Mahmoud Abbas' support for a two-State solution ... However, expressing deep concern about the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank, she urged all parties to reduce tensions and avoid destabilizing, unilateral actions. ...

Linda Thomas-Greenfield (United States) ... stressed, however, that "there are no shortcuts to Statehood", opposing unilateral actions that exacerbate tensions and move the needle further from a two-State solution and, thus, further from peace. These include terrorist attacks and incitement to violence against Israelis, as well as violence inflicted by settlers and development plans that would fragment the West Bank. Instability in the West Bank serves neither Israelis nor Palestinians, and she called on both sides to work towards peace without delay. ... She also called on the Palestinian Authority to ensure respect for human rights and refrain from making payments to those who harm Israelis, stressing that a strong Palestinian Authority is in the interest of the entire region. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15042.doc.htm>

The UN resolution referred to above can be read at

<https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Increasing the use of mediation in the civil justice system (closing date 4 October 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/dispute-resolution/increasing-the-use-of-mediation/>

TOP

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