



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Scottish Parliament Motion

John Mason (SNP) [S6M-06010] Scottish Interfaith Week – That the Parliament welcomes Scottish Interfaith Week, taking place from 13 to 20 November 2022, organised by Interfaith Scotland; understands that this year’s theme is storytelling; considers that this is Scotland’s foremost interfaith festival, and as such has the unique opportunity to explore how faith and belief impact communities and offer resilience, connection and joy; further considers that storytelling enables barriers to be broken down, stereotypes to be challenged and important conversations to be started, and notes the hope that members of faith and belief communities all over Scotland can participate in this year’s Scottish Interfaith Week and that everyone, including residents of Glasgow Shettleston, considers attending their nearest event.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06010>

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Holocaust

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Creative ways to strengthen Holocaust education and commemoration among youth discussed at ODIHR event

Creative approaches that harness the power of technology and the arts can strengthen youth engagement in Holocaust education and commemoration activities, agreed participants in an event organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) ...

“During the Holocaust, music was a way for people to express their humanity in inhuman conditions,” said Blandine Smilansky, Head of Communications and Partnerships at the House of European History, an initiative of the European Parliament. “Today, music and

other forms of creative expression can act as a compelling reminder and reflection of their suffering and yearning for freedom.”

During the event, ODIHR launched the seventh edition of its [Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region](#). The publication provides information on when, where and how OSCE participating States promote the commemoration and study of the Holocaust, including the genocide of Roma and Sinti, in line with their commitments. ...

Participants concluded that innovative approaches – such as virtual museum visits, recorded survivor testimonies and performing music connected to the Holocaust – can effectively enhance youth engagement in Holocaust education and commemoration.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/527055>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Conflict Resolution

Jim Shannon (DUP) [48345] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to help mitigate conflict in Israel.

Gillian Keegan: The UK remains committed to making progress towards a two-state solution, resulting in a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian State; based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states. The former Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East [Amanda Milling] reiterated this in a meeting on 22 June with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll, and on 23 June with the Palestinian leadership, including President Shtayyeh and Foreign Minister Malki. The UK believes that negotiations will only succeed when they are conducted between Israelis and Palestinians, supported by the international community.

We firmly believe a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue. We will continue to press Israel and the Palestinians strongly on the need to refrain from taking actions which make peace more difficult.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48345>

Israel: West Bank

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [51982] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of whether any arms exported from the UK under arms export licences have been used in reported attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank in August 2022.

Gillian Keegan: The UK Government takes its defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates some of the most robust export controls in the world. All applications for export licences are assessed on a case-by-case basis against strict criteria. We will not issue a licence if there is a clear risk that the equipment might be used for internal repression. The UK Government continues to monitor closely the situation in Israel and the OPTs and if extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the criteria, those licences will be revoked.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51982>

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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>

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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/>

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