



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Bill of Rights: European Convention on Human Rights**

**Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative)** [20240] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the proposed Bill of Rights will take precedence over the European Convention on Human Rights.

**James Cartlidge:** The Government introduced the Bill of Rights on 22 June. The Bill of Rights repeals and replaces the Human Rights Act 1998, which incorporated into UK law the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights. Under the Bill of Rights, UK citizens will continue to be able to have their Convention rights upheld in UK courts.

However, the Bill of Rights empowers UK courts to apply human rights in a UK context, affirming the primacy of the Supreme Court in the interpretation of rights. It reinforces the primacy of UK case law, clarifying there is no requirement to follow case law from the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). It makes clear that the UK Supreme Court, not the ECtHR, is the ultimate judicial arbiter in deciding the proper interpretation of rights in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-17/20240>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Armed Forces: Ministers of Religion and Pastoral Care**

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP)** [21224] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many personnel are employed in (a) the armed forces and (b) his Department to provide belief specific pastoral support and chaplaincy care to members of (i) non-religious, (ii) Baha'i, (iii) Buddhism, (iv) Hinduism, (v) Islam, (vi) Jainism, (vii) Judaism, (viii) Rastafarianism, (ix) Sikhism, (x) Zoroastrianism, (xi) Anglicanism, (xii) Roman Catholicism, (xiii) Methodism and (xiv) other Christian religion and belief groups.

#### **Armed Forces: Pastoral Care**

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP)** [21223] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of Humanists UK's submission to the call for evidence on the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and

Foreign Policy, dated September 2020, on the provision of non-religious pastoral support to armed forces personnel.

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP)** [21225] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has plans to recruit non-religious chaplains to provide belief-based support for regular and reserve personnel who identify as having no religion.

**Leo Docherty:** The Ministry of Defence has a diverse population, including personnel with a range of beliefs and faith, and those who have no religion. All military Chaplains have long provided pastoral care to those of all faiths and none. In addition, all Service personnel can access pastoral care from a variety of sources, including from within their Chain of Command, through the Services' professional social workers, medical staff, welfare staff and via the various staff networks, including the Humanist and Non Religious in Defence (HAND) Network. The Department is working to create and sustain an environment where everyone feels respected and able to achieve their full potential. We have carefully considered the position expressed by Humanists UK on the provision of non-religious pastoral support for our Armed Forces and have recently concluded a review of this matter. We are currently considering the recommendations of that review and how best we can support all our people.

It will take time to collate a detailed breakdown of personnel employed to provide belief-specific pastoral support and chaplaincy care, and I will write in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21224>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21223>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21225>

*The submission referred to above can be read at*

<https://humanists.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020-09-01-RTR-Cabinet-Office-Integrated-Review-1.pdf>

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## Holocaust

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL807] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 8 June (HL337) regarding the cost of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, where the information concerning the costs was published in September 2021.

**Lord Greenhalgh:** Information concerning costs was given in response to written questions in the House of Commons and published on 13 September 2021 as UIN 41607

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41607>

and UIN 41608

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41608>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/hl807>

*The answer referred to above is not HL337 as stated (which concerns visa applications) but HL411, which can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl411>

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## House of Commons Written Answers

### Israel: Saudi Arabia

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [18765] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her Saudi counterparts on normalisation of diplomatic relations with Israel.

**Amanda Milling:** The UK is committed to working with Arab and Israeli partners to help deliver shared prosperity and regional security. The Foreign Secretary made clear her commitment to the Abraham Accords at both the UK-Israel Strategic Dialogue on 29 November, and subsequently at the Gulf Cooperation Council-United Kingdom Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 20 December 2021. The UK is working with regional partners to ensure the Abraham Accords are an enduring success, and continue to encourage other countries who have not yet normalised relations to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18765>

### Hamas: Terrorism and Violence

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [18766] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department is taking steps to encourage regional partners to demand Hamas renounce the use of violence and terrorism.

**Amanda Milling:** Our position on Hamas is clear: we condemn Hamas' continued attacks against civilians which are unacceptable and unjustifiable. We continue to call upon Hamas and other terrorist groups to permanently end their incitement and indiscriminate rocket fire against Israel. Hamas must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18766>

### Palestinian Authority: Human Rights

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [18767] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the human rights situation in territory governed by the Palestinian Authority.

**Amanda Milling:** We continue to urge the Palestinian Authority to respect human rights, to ensure complaints of mistreatment or arbitrary detention are properly investigated and to continue to improve the performance of the security sector. I am using the opportunity of my current visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to discuss issues such as this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18767>

### Salah Hamouri

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [21080] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her Israeli counterpart on that country's decision to revoke the permanent residency in Jerusalem of lawyer and human rights defender Salah Hammouri for breach of allegiance to the State of Israel.

**Amanda Milling:** We are aware of this case. Our British Embassy Tel Aviv have a regular dialogue with the Israeli Authorities on these issues. Israel's long-standing commitment to democratic values is one of its great strengths as a fellow democracy, and we continue to make clear that a strong, vibrant civil society is in Israel's own interest. As a friend of Israel, we would be concerned by any developments that may undermine this commitment.

**Odeh Mohammad Odeh Sadaqa**

**David Jones (Conservative)** [21125] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations she has made to her Israeli counterpart on the killing of Odeh Mohammad Odeh Sadaqa in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 2 June 2022.

**Amanda Milling:** The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our concerns about the manner in which the Israeli Defence Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas. I recently travelled to Israel where I discussed this with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21125>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Amanda Milling:** A real pleasure to meet PM Shtayyeh @DrShtayyeh in Ramallah this evening. We discussed: UK commitment to two state solution and support for Palestinian leadership, Importance of bilateral dialogue to resume peace talks , Settlements, evictions & demolitions in OPTs

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540028259592802313>

**Amanda Milling:** Inspiring to meet top Palestinian business leaders in Ramallah. Discussed the challenges and opportunities of economic development in OPTs. focuses on supporting economic development through increasing trade and improving infrastructure in OPTs.

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1540014033729949696>

## United Nations

### **Calling on Donors to Put Palestine Refugee Agency on ‘Durable Financial Footing’, Secretary-General Says Continued Support Crucial amid Multiple Global Crises**

... let’s imagine for a moment that we are a young man or woman Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon, or in Syria, or in Jordan or in Gaza. The perspective of a political solution for your country is more far away than ever. ...

Several countries, even in the region, seem to accept the status quo, and we see settlements moving on — evictions taking place ... no hope for a political solution.

At the same time, with the war in Ukraine, with other important events in the world, the Palestinian question is far from the headlines ...

And now, one thing that has been working effectively — promoting education, health care and a number of other vital forms of support to the Palestinian refugee population — is threatened to have a financial collapse.

Imagine yourselves in this situation, imagine what you would feel, and imagine what it would be for someone from ISIS to come to you and to say, “what are you doing, persisting in having hope, why don’t you just join us and try to do whatever”, you know, the things that are more and more happening with terrorist organizations around the world. ...

Millions of Palestine refugees are counting on us to relieve their suffering and to help them build a better future. We cannot let them down. ...

I reiterate the importance of pursuing peace efforts to realize the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

But until then, UNRWA remains vital in supporting those in need. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21347.doc.htm>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Killing of journalist in the occupied Palestinian territory**

More than six weeks after the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and injury of her colleague Ali Sammoudi in Jenin on 11 May 2022, it is deeply disturbing that Israeli authorities have not conducted a criminal investigation.

We at the UN Human Rights Office have concluded our independent monitoring into the incident. All information we have gathered – including official information from the Israeli military and the Palestinian Attorney-General – is consistent with the finding that the shots that killed Abu Akleh and injured her colleague Ali Sammoudi came from Israeli Security Forces and not from indiscriminate firing by armed Palestinians, as initially claimed by Israeli authorities. We have found no information suggesting that there was activity by armed Palestinians in the immediate vicinity of the journalists.

In accordance with our global human rights monitoring methodology, our Office inspected photo, video and audio material, visited the scene, consulted experts, reviewed official communications and interviewed witnesses.

According to our findings, on 11 May 2022, soon after 06h00, seven journalists, including Shireen Abu Akleh, arrived at the western entrance of the Jenin refugee camp in the northern occupied West Bank to cover an ongoing arrest operation by Israeli Security Forces and the ensuing clashes. The journalists said they chose a side street for their approach to avoid the location of armed Palestinians inside the camp and that they proceeded slowly in order to make their presence visible to the Israeli forces deployed down the street. Our findings indicate that no warnings were issued and no shooting was taking place at that time and at that location.

At around 06h30, as four of the journalists turned into the street leading to the camp, wearing bulletproof helmets and flak jackets with “PRESS” markings, several single, seemingly well-aimed bullets were fired towards them from the direction of the Israeli Security Forces. One single bullet injured Ali Sammoudi in the shoulder, another single bullet hit Abu Akleh in the head and killed her instantly. Several further single bullets were fired as an unarmed man attempted to approach Abu Akleh’s body and another uninjured journalist sheltering behind a tree. Shots continued to be fired as this individual eventually managed to carry away Abu Akleh’s body.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet continues to urge Israeli authorities to open a criminal investigation into Abu Akleh’s killing and into all other killings and serious injuries by Israeli forces in the West Bank and in the context of law enforcement operations in Gaza. Since just the beginning of the year, our Office has verified that Israeli Security Forces have killed 58 Palestinians in the West Bank, including 13 children.

International human rights law requires prompt, thorough, transparent, independent and impartial investigation into all use of force resulting in death or serious injury. Perpetrators must be held to account.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/06/killing-journalist-occupied-palestinian-territory>

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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>

#### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-23/debates/9fe7e4ca-5b18-4880-b380-66a0fa4fe8f5/OnlineSafetyBill\(FifteenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-23/debates/9fe7e4ca-5b18-4880-b380-66a0fa4fe8f5/OnlineSafetyBill(FifteenthSitting))

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online\\_rm\\_pbc\\_0624.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online_rm_pbc_0624.pdf)

#### **Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

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

#### **Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Schools Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47010/documents/2026>

### 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

**\*\* closes in 6 days**

**Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament** (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

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