



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Football: Antisemitism

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [90756] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions she has had with the Premier League on reports of antisemitic chanting and acts at football matches.

Stuart Andrew: The Government has always been clear that racism, including any form of anti semitism, has no place in football, sport, or society at large. This is why the government and its arm's length bodies, Sport England and UK Sport, have worked closely with football authorities and the sector to ensure there is continued action to tackle all forms of racism at football matches.

This includes actions targeted at and around football grounds, such as improving reporting systems, providing better training and support for referees and stewards, and improving the quality of CCTV around stadia.

I will continue to meet with the Premier League and other football authorities to ensure that tackling all forms of racism remains a priority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-18/90756>

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>

Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

National identity, England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/nationalidentityenglandandwales/census2021>

Language, England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/language/bulletins/languageenglandandwales/census2021>

Data tables and methodology: Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion: Census 2021 in England and Wales

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ethnicgroupnationalidentitylanguageandreligioncensus2021inenglandandwales>

Welsh Government

Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion in Wales (Census 2021)

<https://gov.wales/ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-wales-census-2021-html>

Institute for Jewish Policy Research

Jews in Britain in 2021: First results from the Census of England and Wales

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Jews%20in%20Britain%20in%202021.First%20results%20from%20the%20census.November%202022%20%281%29.pdf>

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Update to 30th September 2022

https://www.psni.police.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/hate%20motivations%20bulletin%20sep%2022_0.pdf

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Palestinians: Development Aid

Steve McCabe (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2022 to Question 63915 on Palestinians: Development Aid, what assessment his Department's December 2021 review of the Partnership Principles made of the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the principle of non-violence.

Andrew Mitchell: I refer the honourable Member to the answer given on 25 October 2022 to Question 63915, the answer can be found on the Q&A web pages on

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/63915>

Following a review in December 2021, FCDO's assessment is that the Palestinian

Authority (PA) demonstrates a partially credible commitment to the Partnership Principles. There is relatively strong progress on improving public financial management and a continued commitment to delivering effective services and reducing poverty, despite the challenges of the occupation. However, cases of abuses of human rights and restrictions on freedom of expression continue and there is a need for greater action to strengthen human rights protection and increase domestic accountability in areas within the PA's control. The UK continues to monitor these issues closely, and raise them at the highest levels of the PA.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-16/88802>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Grave concern for the increasing instability in the West Bank and Jerusalem: UK statement at UN

... The UK is gravely concerned by increasing instability in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Since 14 November, four Israelis have lost their lives in terror attacks in the city of Ariel and in Jerusalem, including a 16 year old. There is no justification for this violence. During this time, two Palestinian minors have also been killed in the West Bank, including a 15 year-old. 141 Palestinians have now been killed by Israeli Security Forces since 1 January – the most in a single year since UN records began in 2005. In the same period, 31 Israelis have also lost their lives. Each life lost is a tragedy for all communities, particularly the families affected. So this ongoing conflict needs to be resolved for the sake of all Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The UK stands ready to support the new Israeli administration and the Palestinian Authority to deescalate and address the root drivers of conflict. The UK remains fully supportive of Israel's right to self-defence. But Israeli Security Forces should show maximum restraint in the use of force, and investigate all Palestinian deaths.

We urge both parties to engage in meaningful dialogue, refrain from escalatory actions, and work to restore trust and a pathway towards peace and a resolution of this conflict. The UK shares the concern of others at scenes of settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians in Hebron in recent days. Settler violence must end, and we call upon Israel to hold those responsible to account.

We condemn the demolition by Israel of a primary school in Masafer Yatta. Mr. President, all children have a basic right to access education safely, and we call on the Government of Israel to uphold these rights.

Finally, I urge Israel and the Palestinian Authority to accelerate efforts to improve the economic and humanitarian conditions in the West Bank and Gaza. I welcome ongoing dialogue to address PA Clearance Revenues and call for the parties to honour their recent AHLC commitments.

The UK remains a firm supporter of a two state solution, based on 1967 lines, with Jerusalem as a shared capital, as the only way to ensure a lasting peace between the parties. ...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/grave-concern-for-the-increasing-instability-in-the-west-bank-and-jerusalem-uk-statement-at-un>

Updated travel advice: Israel

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

Updated travel advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

Special Coordinator, Briefing Security Council, Appeals for Urgent Action as Israel-Palestinian Conflict Nears Boiling Point Once Again

... **Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**, said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is again reaching a boiling point. Recent months have seen high levels of violence in the occupied West Bank and in Israel, he said, including violent attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in Hebron and, in the past week, bombings in Jerusalem which killed two Israelis and injured more than a dozen other civilians. In Gaza, meanwhile, the launching of four rockets towards Israel by Palestinian militants, and subsequent air strikes by Israel Defense Forces against what it said were Hamas targets, interrupted a fragile calm.

He said that in this context, he remains focused on both immediate threats to stability and to longer-term objectives. ... In Gaza, the United Nations has worked closely alongside regional and international partners to mediate and support ceasefires in May 2021 and in August earlier this year. The Organization is also leading the humanitarian response, providing fuel to Gaza's power plant as well as cash assistance to more than 100,000 families.

While Israel has approved the highest number of work permits for Palestinians from Gaza since 2007, restrictions and delays continue to impact humanitarian and development efforts, he said. Preventive and de-escalation measures, as well as diplomatic engagement, have helped maintain calm and create some space for progress, but without tangible movement on the political track, the benefits are likely to be short-lived. ...

While violence mounts, settlement expansion and restrictions continue, he said, adding that in a few years, exponential population growth in the West Bank and Gaza will make it hard to manage the economic, political and security situation. The Palestinian Authority already faces significant institutional and financial challenges, while Palestinians have not voted in general elections since 2006, meaning that more than half — those aged 18 to 35 — have never cast a ballot. ...

"Political leadership is required to reset a trajectory towards a two-State solution," he said, warning that a failure to address both current trends and the underlying causes of the conflict will only worsen the situation and destabilize the region. ...

Violence and incitement must be reined in and perpetrators held to account. That also means stopping unilateral steps that undermine peace, including settlement expansion and demolitions, and upholding the status quo at the holy sites, in accordance with the special and historic role of Jordan, he added.

In addition, the international community must continue to improve access, movement and trade to create room for the Palestinian economy to grow, he continued. Steps should be taken to increase access for Palestinians to land and resources in Area C of the West Bank, while in Gaza, a more comprehensive approach to easing restrictions on the movement of people and goods is needed. Moreover, all parties and the international community must strengthen Palestinian institutions, improve governance and shore up the fiscal health of the Palestinian Authority, whose political legitimacy and accountability must be strengthened through democratic reforms and elections across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, he said. ...

"Ultimately, only Palestinians and Israelis can together determine their future. But the United Nations and the international community — including through regional and international frameworks — must support the parties in moving towards a political horizon aligned with the core principles outlined above," ...

Linda Thomas-Greenfield (United States), condemning the 23 November terrorist attack in Jerusalem and deploring violence committed by settlers on 19 November, said that anyone, Israeli or Palestinian, who commits a violent act must face justice. She noted that 2022 is the deadliest year in the West Bank since 2004, with 150 Palestinians and 28

Israelis killed so far. Both sides must refrain from unilateral actions and work in good faith towards the goal of a two-State solution. The international community cannot impose peace, but it can contribute towards conditions for meaningful negotiation. Unfortunately, most United Nations actions are not designed to advance the two-State solution, but rather they are intended to denigrate Israel, she said. ...

Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom) noted that 142 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces since 1 January, the most in a single year since United Nations records began in 2005. In the same period, 30 Israelis have also lost their lives ... While the United Kingdom supports Israel's right to self-defence, the Israeli security forces should show maximum restraint in the use of force and investigate all Palestinian deaths. ... Expressing concern over recent settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians in Hebron, she stressed that such violence must end and called on Israel to hold those responsible to account. She also condemned Israel's demolition of a primary school in Masafer Yatta ... [[click here](#) to read this speech in full]

Nicolas De Rivière (France) condemned the two attacks in Jerusalem on 23 November and called on all parties to exercise restraint, noting that "the risk of escalation is real". He also condemned the deaths of a number of Palestinian civilians this year, including the journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh and a number of children, reiterating that the protection of children during military operations is an obligation under international humanitarian law. As well, France condemns settlement policies by Israel, including demolitions and evictions of Palestinian families ... he condemned the demolition last week of a school in Masafer Yatta, stressing that Palestinian children have the right to access education. ...

Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) stated that, against the backdrop of Israel's disproportionate use of force in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, actions continue creating irreversible facts on the ground, including the building of settlements, demolition of homes, arbitrary arrests and violations of the status quo of Jerusalem's holy sites. Further, Israel's arbitrary actions have spilled beyond the borders of Gaza and the West Bank, including strikes conducted in Syria and Lebanon. ... He went on to point out that the Palestinian issue has become a "bargaining chip" in a long series of election campaigns in Israel, while the United States has pushed this issue to the back burner of the international agenda. ... he spotlighted the paralyzing shortfall of funding faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Due to unilateral anti-Russian sanctions, Moscow is unable to make financial contributions thereto, he added, noting that his country will nevertheless continue to support the Agency and calling on the international community to do likewise. ...

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15120.doc.htm>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Lords Written Answer

Christianity: Oppression

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [90790] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to help support persecuted Christians across the world.

Andrew Mitchell: On 23 November the FCDO marked Red Wednesday by lighting up our UK buildings in solidarity with Christians around the world who are persecuted for their beliefs. The Government is committed to promoting and defending the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for everyone, everywhere. This includes ensuring that progress made in implementing the Bishop of Truro's

recommendations for an enhanced response to the plight of persecuted Christians, and people persecuted for holding other religions, beliefs, or no religious belief, is embedded and that FoRB is central to our wider human rights work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-18/90790>

The recommendations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bishop-of-truro-independent-review-of-fcdo-support-for-persecuted-christians-assessment-of-recommendations-implementation/assessment-of-the-implementation-of-recommendations-of-bishop-of-truro-independent-review-of-fcdo-support-for-persecuted-christians#annex-table-of-recommendations>

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Other Relevant Information

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Equal Rights Trust

Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/2022-11-28/OHCHR_ERT_Protecting_Minority%20Rights_Practical_Guide_web.pdf

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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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/48625/documents/2564>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

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

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_1129.pdf

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

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

**** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-22-11-2022?meeting=14006&iob=126890>

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