Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL6087] To ask His Majesty's Government whether the Home Office collects data on non-crime hate incidents; and if not, why not.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office does not collect data on non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs). The data collected from the police balances policy needs and the burden on police forces.

This Government recognises concerns surrounding the recording of NCHIs. Accordingly, on 13 March, under provisions in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Home Secretary laid the statutory Non-Crime Hate Incidents Draft Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data before Parliament.

The code will be subject to the affirmative procedure and introduces new safeguards to better protect personal data and the right to freedom of expression. Once in effect, the code will ensure that police only record NCHIs when it is absolutely necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6087

The Draft Code of Practice referred to above can be read at


Funerals

Lord Birt (Crossbench) [HL6074] To ask His Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the current range of waiting times for funerals; and whether they will investigate the reasons for delays in areas of the UK with the longest wait times.

Lord Bellamy: The Government does not have operational responsibility for the
Cabinet Office

**Launch of life-saving public emergency alerts**

... Working with mobile broadcasting technology, the Emergency Alerts system will transform the UK’s warning and informing capability; providing a means to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 percent of mobile phones in a defined area; providing clear instructions about how best to respond. …

A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of Sunday 23 April which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones. The alerts will only ever come from the Government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, always include the details of the area impacted, and provide instructions about how best to respond - linking to [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts) where people can receive further information.

Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely - only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people’s lives - so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years. …

Alerts could be used to tell residents of villages being encroached by wildfires, or of severe flooding.

Announcing the launch of the new alerts system, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Oliver Dowden MP, said: … It will revolutionise our ability to warn and inform people who are in immediate danger, and help us keep people safe. …

Emergency Alerts will be used across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland …

By broadcasting from cell towers in the vicinity of an emergency, the alerts are secure, free to receive, and one-way. They do not reveal anyone’s location or collect personal data. Alerts can only be sent by authorised Governmental and Emergency Services users. …

**To read the full press release see**


**For additional information see**


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**Holocaust**

**House of Lords Written Answer**

**British Museum: Restitution**

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL6078] To ask His Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had with the trustees of the British Museum about the return of artefacts of historic, cultural or religious significance in the Museum’s collection to their countries of origin where the legality of their acquisition has…

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Objects in the collection of the British Museum are legally owned by the Trustees of the British Museum, which is operationally
independent of Government. Discussions and decisions relating to the care and management of the museum's collections are therefore a matter for the Trustees of the British Museum. Some national museums, including the British Museum, are prevented by legislation from deaccessioning objects in their collections unless, broadly, they are duplicates or unfit for retention. The two exceptions to this are when the objects are human remains less than 1,000 years old, and objects spoliated during the Nazi-era. The Government has no plans to change these laws. The British Museum has said that it recognises the significance of the tabots and has held meaningful talks with the Ethiopian Church on this sensitive issue. The Museum’s stated ambition is to seek to lend these objects to an Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the UK. The Government fully supports the Museum’s Trustees in their approach.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6078

Israel

House of Commons

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill, Second Reading

col 1156 Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat): … Last September I went to Israel and parts of the occupied Palestinian territories with Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel, and two months later I went back, focusing on Palestine, with the Council for Arab-British Understanding. …

My mother comes from an old Greek Orthodox Jerusalem family. We are proud Jerusalemites and proud Palestinians. Her grandfather was called Wassef Jawharriyeh, and he chronicled what life was like in unique diaries that now act as source material for historians. He told of a Jerusalem where Christians, Muslims and Jews lived side by side in friendship and respect. But those relationships faltered through the Nakba and we ended up, like so many, having to flee our beloved city.

My grandfather George would tell tales of how when he was a boy, after the bombing of the King David Hotel in 1948, the family sought sanctuary at the Mount of the Temptation in Jericho and lived there for six months. … Above all, my mother would describe the physical and mental suffering and what it was like to be a dispossessed refugee. Those feelings have never left her, nor her brothers nor her sisters. I take it upon myself, as the next generation, to carry Jerusalem in my heart and do whatever I can to safeguard Palestine’s future.

This Bill does what it says on the tin: it asks the British Government to recognise the state of Palestine, but to do so without any preconditions. …

We must remember that it was Britain that produced the 1917 Balfour declaration; you will recall, Mr Deputy Speaker, that while Balfour spoke of a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine, he also spoke about safeguarding the “civil and religious rights of…non-Jewish communities”.

He was, however, silent on the question of Palestinian political rights. As such, the declaration was an historic aberration, one that—whether we like it or not—altered reality in the region and played a significant part in this story, where peace has never seemed more elusive. …

col 1157 Andy Slaughter (Labour): … Given that the House has voted for recognition and the Government have said that they support recognition, although not when, there
must be recognition without preconditions ... It cannot form part of the negotiations, otherwise Israel and Palestine will be on different bases. We can define the borders of Israel only by defining the borders of Palestine, and we must recognise both countries equally.

Layla Moran: ... I simply ask: if not now, when? What are we waiting for?

The Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office (Andrew Mitchell): ... we are clear that we want to see the creation of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state that lives in peace and security, side by side with Israel. In our view, now is not the time to take that step, but recognising a Palestinian state is a powerful diplomatic tool that we will deploy when it best serves the objectives of peace.

Layla Moran: ... This Israeli Government are different from the others. The others would sit by and allow the settlements to happen—illegal settlements that should not be happening—but it is now the Israeli Government's policy to expand those settlements. I ask the Minister to look at what happened two weeks ago in Huwara, where violent settler groups ransacking the village were egged on by Cabinet Ministers in Israel. That cannot be allowed to continue. ... Palestinian people, especially young people, are increasingly despondent and desperate. Settlement proliferation acts like a woodworm that riddles the foundations of any peace process or viable Palestinian state. ...
membership needs Security Council backing of course, but let us imagine the effect that
recognition of Palestine might have, particularly on America, our closest ally. …
For years Jews around the world yearned for a state of their own, a place where they could
feel safe and secure, and they got that self-determination through the state of Israel. That
is not in question, but it is only fair, just and right that the same can happen now for the
Palestinians. We do not have a place where we feel secure. We do not have a place of
safety. We do not have our own state, and we should. …
The Bill says that this Parliament believes in a Palestinian state, that we stand by the
Palestinian people, that Britain respects its historic obligation to the region and that this
Government will do everything they can to help safeguard both states—the state of Israel
as well as the state of Palestine. …
The debate stood adjourned (Standing Order No. 11(2)).
Ordered, That the debate be resumed on Friday 24 March.

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer
West Bank: Palestinian Islamic Jihad
Nicola Richards (Conservative) [143915] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of reports
the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group now controls large parts of the West Bank.
Nicola Richards (Conservative) [143917] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his
Palestinian Authority counterpart on the security situation in the West Bank following the
strengthening of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
Reply from David Rutley: We continue to closely monitor the security situation in
Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The UK has proscribed
Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity since March 2001. PIJ and other
terrorist groups must cease all actions that are violent or provocative, or that put
civilian lives at risk. The UK continues to provide the Palestinian Authority (PA) with
professional support in helping develop its security institutions. This provision
includes training and other technical assistance to the PA Ministry of Interior and
PA security forces, to support the development of capable, responsible security
forces that respect human rights and are accountable to the Palestinian people.
The Minister for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, reinforced the
UK's support for a two-state solution in his meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister
Eli Cohen, and with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and Foreign
Minister Riad Malki, during his visit to Israel and the OPTs on 10-13 January.
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-09/143915
and
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-09/143917

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6119] To ask His Majesty's Government what
representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the proposal to stop
recognising the medical degrees granted by Palestinian universities.
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has made no such representations to the Government of Israel on this issue specifically. The UK welcomes any effort to cooperate between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, including in the healthcare sector.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-03/hl6119

Israel

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6118] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel regarding a new law allowing those (1) convicted of, or (2) charged with, acts of terrorism to be deprived of (a) citizenship, or (b) residency; and what was the outcome of any such discussions.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government strongly condemns all acts of terrorism and incitement of violence. We have not raised this issue specifically with the Government of Israel, but we regularly make clear that we expect Israel to uphold its obligations as the occupying power under the Geneva convention, including not transferring the protected population from the occupied territory. The Israeli and Palestinian leaders need to work together to find a durable solution to the conflict that prevents terrorism, ends the cycle of violence and delivers a sustainable, and just peace based on a two-state solution.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-03/hl6118

Israel: Palestinians

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL6129] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the statement by Israel's Minister of Finance, Mr Bezalel Smotrich, on 1 March, that the Palestinian village of Hawara "should be wiped out".

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As I set out in my tweet on 26 February, the scenes of abhorrent violence in Huwara were shocking. The UK also stresses the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. Rhetoric about "wiping out" places is harmful and irresponsible. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised these comments with the Government of Israel at senior levels. We condemn Finance Minister Smotrich's incitement to violence. Such rhetoric serves no purpose other than to stoke tensions further.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-03/hl6129

The tweet referred to above can be read at https://twitter.com/tariqahmadbt/status/1629968228008034305

Palestinians: Elections

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6145] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Palestinian Authority on calling an election at the earliest possible date and ensuring that any such election is free, fair and subject to international monitoring.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly remind the Palestinian leadership of the need for democratic renewal through free and fair national elections held across the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), including East Jerusalem, as set out in the Oslo Accords. The Palestinian people should be allowed to enjoy their democratic rights. I reinforced this message during my visit to Israel and the OPTs on 10-13 January. The Foreign Secretary has also raised this with Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Malki in their phone call on 7 March.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-06/hl6145
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/50373/documents/3159

Holocaust Memorial Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421

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

Second Reading, House of Commons
https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-17/debates/780A1439-3B1F-4A42-A308-E0A0D921BAF3/PalestineStatehood(Recognition)Bill

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