Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Marriage: Location

Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative) [186028] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 7 September 2022 to Question 45488 on Marriage: Location, whether he plans to implement the Law Commission's recommendations on removing restrictions on venues where civil and religious marriages can take place; and if he will make a statement.

Mike Freer: In July 2019, the Government invited the Law Commission to undertake a wholesale review on weddings law in England and Wales. The Law Commission report was published on 19 July 2022 and contains 57 recommendations for extensive legislative reform. We must now take the time to consider the report recommendations fully. As has been set out in Parliament, marriage will always be one of our most important institutions, and we have a duty to consider the implications of any changes to the law in this area very carefully. We will publish a response to the report in due course.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186028

The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45488

The Law Commission report referred to above can be read at

Department for Education

University Freedom of Speech Bill becomes law

A huge step forward was taken for protecting free speech in our universities as Professor Arif Ahmed has been appointed as the new Director overseeing free speech at the Office
for Students.
While there are already statutory duties on universities to protect free speech - our newly passed Freedom of Speech Act will ensure that universities promote this fundamental value. …
The historic legislation will establish a new free speech complaints system, while also strengthening the legal duties on higher education providers in England to protect and promote freedom of speech on campuses up and down the country, for students, staff and visiting speakers. …
Registered higher education providers in England will have extended legal duties not only to take steps to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom, but also to promote these important values. Students' unions will also be held to the same legal responsibilities as universities and their colleges to take reasonably practicable steps to ensure lawful freedom of speech. …
To read the full press release see

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Palestinian Islamic Jihad
Robert Courts (Conservative) [186220] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will take steps to condemn Iran for its alleged support for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's recent attacks on Israel.

David Rutley: The UK Government regularly assesses the impact of Iran's destabilising activity throughout the region, including its political, financial and military support to several militant and proscribed groups, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Such activity compromises the region's security, its ability to prosper and escalates already high tensions, with consequences for the international community. It is for this reason that we currently have over 350 sanctions in place against the Iranian regime. PIJ and other terrorist groups must cease their campaign of violence, for which there is no justification. As the Foreign Secretary said in his 14 May statement, we welcome the current Egyptian-brokered ceasefire and urge all sides to de-escalate tensions.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186220
The statement referred to above can be read at

Gaza: Israel
Robert Courts (Conservative) [186221] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking with his international partners to help support Israel to tackle terrorist threats from the Gaza Strip.

David Rutley: The Foreign Secretary wrote to his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen on 10 May to express the UK's enduring support for Israel's right for self-defence. In his 14 May statement, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and militant factions in Gaza, brokered by Egypt. The ceasefire must now be honoured to prevent the loss of further civilian life. The UK will support all efforts to promote dialogue and create a pathway towards sustainable peace.
United Nations

Adopting 3 texts, General Assembly Appropriates Extra Funding of $14.59 Million to Maintain Peacekeeping Missions in Abyei, Golan, South Sudan

... The three consensus resolutions, approved by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) at its 24 May meeting, will help keep two peacekeeping missions in Africa and one in the Middle East running smoothly until the end of June. Together, the texts provide $14.59 million in additional funding for the missions’ 2022/23 fiscal year. ...

By the text “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force” (document A/77/891), it decided to appropriate an extra $1.03 million for that Force’s maintenance through June, on top of the $64.54 million it previously allocated for 2022/23 by its resolution 76/289. ...


 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

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

Nakba Commemoration Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188
Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438

Schools Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

Consultations ** new or updated today

The UK’s international counter-terrorism policy (closing date 12 June 2023)
https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3120/

Supporting earlier resolution of private family law arrangements (closing date 15 June 2023)

Review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 (closing date 18 June 2023)

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill (closing date 23 June 2023)
https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3146/

Charities tax compliance (closing date 20 July 2023)
The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438

JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey (closing date not stated)
https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023 (UK except Scotland)
and
https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH (Scotland)