Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answer

**HOPE not Hate**
**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL7951]** To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 16 May (HL7538 and HL7539), what action they have taken against (1) groups, or (2) individuals, of extremist concern; when they took that action; and what was the outcome.

**Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Some groups publicly demonstrate behaviours that oppose the values and principles that underpin our society. The Government is committed to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred against individuals and communities in our society. This includes using existing mechanisms to analyse, prevent and disrupt the spread of ideologies that can lead to community division.

We assess all evidence of those that radicalise others though their support for or justification of violence and will not tolerate those who spread divisive and harmful narratives. We work with local, regional and national partners, including with policing, to reduce the impact of these groups in communities and limit their influence as a potential driver for radicalisation.

We continue to work with law enforcement agencies and multi-agency partners to increase our understanding of new and emerging radicalising threats to society. Any violent threat is assessed and managed by the police and security services based on the threat that it is deemed to pose.

The Home Office avoids publicly commenting on whether or not specific groups or individuals are of extremist concern, as this could have a detrimental effect on our ability to take future action against them.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-18/hl7951

The answers referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/hl7538
and
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/hl7539
Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

UK pledges £10m to support Palestinian refugees: UNRWA Pledging Conference: Statement by UK Political Coordinator Fergus Eckersley at the UNRWA Pledging Conference

... the UK also believes UNRWA plays a critical role in preserving stability in the Middle East in its education services to around 543,000 students, access to health services to 1.9 million refugees, and protection assistance to 5.9 million refugees. It has also provided 32,000 loans to support sustainable income-generating opportunities. It helps the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees not only to survive but to thrive. UNRWA cannot do this alone, but relies on us, the international community, to show our support to and solidarity with Palestinian refugees. I am pleased to announce that the UK will pledge £10m [$12.5m USD] to support it in delivering high-quality services. ... The UK continues to believe that a negotiated, two-state solution is the only viable means of bringing the peace and stability that both Palestinians and Israelis desire. Until then, the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to UNRWA and to Palestinian refugees. To read the full transcript see https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-pledges-10m-to-support-palestinian-refugees-unrwa-pledging-conference

United Nations

With Prospect of Peace Remote, Palestine Refugee Agency ‘One of the Few Rays of Hope’, Needs Full Funding, Secretary-General Tells Pledging Conference

Following are UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ remarks ... Every year we meet — and every year we confront the same contradiction. On the one hand, we all recognize the essential role that UNRWA plays: as a safety net for the most vulnerable; pillar of regional stability; a catalyst for development; a critical conflict prevention tool; and a lifeline of hope and opportunity for millions. On the other hand, however, we allow UNRWA to remain trapped in financial limbo. Soaring needs are met by stagnating funds. In fact, some of the largest and most reliable
donors have recently signalled to UNRWA they might reduce their contributions. … The Agency is already operating, as you have heard, with a shortfall of around $75 million. Let’s be clear: UNRWA is on the verge of financial collapse. … When UNRWA’s future hangs in the balance, so do the lives of millions of Palestine refugees relying on essential services. …

UNRWA was created to support one of the first humanitarian operations of the United Nations nearly 75 years ago. And still, the prospect of peace remains remote. If anything, it is receding. The past year was the deadliest for Palestinians since the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began systematically tracking fatalities in 2005. Halfway into the new year, violence rages on without reprieve.

There is no alternative to a political solution that realizes the vision of two States — Israel and Palestine — living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States. The outlines of this solution are well known: they are laid out in United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements.

But realities on the ground — from the continuing occupation to expanding settlement construction — are working against us. In this darkening picture, UNRWA is one of the few rays of hope. …


Donors Pledge Contributions to Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees, as Agency Struggles with Maintaining Critical Services … Ahmad Abu Daqqa, UNRWA Student Parliamentarian, said he is a Palestine refugee from Gaza and a student at Khuza Preparatory Boys School in Khan Younis, one of the 700 schools run by UNRWA. He said UNRWA schools provide the only refuge in times of crisis as well as hope. “We are the ones who have dreams that reach the stars, despite the painful reality of our lives,” …

While UNRWA was initially established as a temporary apparatus, with no solution to the conflict in sight, the agency is still pleading for adequate funding. Starting 2023 with a $75 million debt, UNRWA will run out of money by September unless immediate funds are disbursed — with real-life consequences for nearly 6 million refugees …

Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General, noted that the agency has continued to provide essential services despite new escalations in the Gaza Strip, an earthquake in Syria, unprecedented violence across the West Bank, and financial meltdown in Lebanon. However, he stressed, Palestine refugees’ resilience should not blind the international community from the underlying human tragedy. …

… Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, noted this year marks 75 years since the Nakba’s onset in 1948 and the exile of millions of Palestine refugees — the longest-standing refugee crisis in the world. UNRWA still exists because of this ongoing injustice, one of the international community’s most significant humanitarian, development and human security undertakings. …


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
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-
overarching-documents

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Social Justice and Social Security Committee
https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-
in-parliament/SJSS-01-06-2023?meeting=15347&iob=130900

Bill as amended at Stage 2
https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-
administration-scotland-bill/stage-2/bill-as-amended.pdf
The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438

Consultations  ** new or updated today

** closes in 8 days
The UK’s international counter-terrorism policy (closing date 12 June 2023)
https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3120/

** closes in 11 days
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)

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)