Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Religious Hate Crime

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-20219] To ask the Scottish Government whether it can provide details of the number of religious hate crimes recorded in Scotland since 2016, broken down by police division.

Siobhian Brown: The following table details the number of hate crimes that included a religion aggravator in Scotland, by police division.

Table 1: Religious hate crimes by police division: 2016-17 to 2021-22

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<tbody>
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<td>Argyll and West Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayrshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway</td>
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<td>Edinburgh</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<tr>
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<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highland and Islands</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renfrewshire and Inverclyde</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
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<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Lothians and Scottish Borders
Scotland

Source: Police recorded hate crime - characteristics: updated study (2020-21 and 2021-22)


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**Holocaust**

**House of Lords Written Answer**

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service
Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL9614] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the draft recommendation of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Report Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, published on 4 July, which recommends reconsideration of their proposal to build a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: We take our responsibilities under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention seriously and look forward to discussing the report at the World Heritage Committee meeting in September.

My Department will continue to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and The Royal Parks to ensure that the open space and heritage of Victoria Tower Gardens are preserved for future generations, and that the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre maintains the Outstanding Universal Value of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret’s Church World Heritage Site.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-24/hl9614

The report referred to above is not currently available online but the draft recommendations are probably very similar to those on p186 of the report of the Forty Third session (July 2019) and p258 of the report of the Extended Forty-Fourth session (July 2021)


and


which are based on the ICOMOS Technical Report to the Westminster City Council Planning Inquiry, which can be read from p36 of


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**Israel**

**House of Lords Written Answer**

Occupied Territories
Lord Collins of Highbury (Labour) [HL9546] To ask His Majesty's Government what
representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding (1) the closure of the village of al-Mughayyir for three weeks, and (2) the arrest of 50 of al-Mughayyir’s residents.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not raised this case specifically with the Israeli authorities but we stress to them the damage that their restrictions on movement, access, and trade are doing to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians. We are frustrated by the reports of access restrictions to the village of al-Mughayyir and instances of settler-related violence. All Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace and security. As the occupying power, we urge Israel to fulfil its responsibilities, including ensuring the protection of the civilian population, including from acts of violence by Israeli settlers. I [Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon] made this clear most recently in a phone call with the Israeli chargé d'affaires on July 4.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-20/hl9546

Other Relevant Information

United Nations

Secretary-General Calls on Political, Community, Religious Leaders to Speak Out against Hate, Violence, in Message for International Day

… Freedom of religion and belief is an inalienable human right. Faith and belief should never attract violence. Yet, around the world, people and communities, particularly minorities, face intolerance, discrimination and threats — to their places of worship, their livelihoods and even their lives. Hatred stirred on and offline is often the cause.

On this International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, we remember all those who have suffered. And we renew our resolve to stamp out the hate speech that fuels these terrible acts of intolerance. Initiatives like my Call to Action for Human Rights and the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech provide a blueprint to do so.

I urge all Governments to prevent and address acts of violence based on religion and belief. I call on everyone, particularly political, community and religious leaders, to speak out against hate and incitement to violence. And I encourage Governments, technology companies and other stakeholders to support the United Nations work in developing a voluntary code of conduct for information integrity on digital platforms, ahead of next year’s Summit of the Future, to tackle hate speech online.

Together, let’s honour the victims of violence by striving to build a more inclusive, respectful and peaceful world — one where diversity is celebrated.


Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475
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**

**Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill** (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)

**UK international development white paper** (closing date 16 September 2023)

**A Human Rights Bill for Scotland** (closing date 5 October 2023)

**The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales** (closing date 26 October 2023)
https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/