



SCoJeC was established in 1999 to represent the Jewish Communities of Scotland to the newly devolved Scottish Government and other Scotland-wide public bodies, and it continues to serve that purpose very effectively, as well as providing other services to support the community.

Our Director, Ephraim Borowski, and I as Chair divided the representational role between us over the reporting year. Funding has still not permitted us to recruit a paid CEO and Ephraim has had to work exceedingly hard to cover the public affairs remit. Some relief is in sight, however, with the recent appointment of Danielle Bett as Scotland Public Affairs Manager by the Jewish Leadership Council. Danielle is working closely with Ephraim and myself (as well as with the co-Presidents of the Glasgow Rep Council).

We are very grateful to the funders who support our paid staff and overheads. The main grant-giver is the Scottish Government, which through its Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF) supports a number of functions. After a temporary increase in 2016-17, the grant has been pegged at £50K a year until 2019-20.

Leah Granat remains responsible for research and publications, producing a daily media digest and political affairs digest. The weekly publication MEMO, supported by PECF, is also a partnership with BEMIS Scotland, a strategic partner in the Scottish Government's Race Equality Framework. Our partnership with BEMIS Scotland involves both a funding contribution to MEMO and to our outreach activities (see below) and is of key importance to SCoJeC. PECF also supports other Outreach activities and has enabled us to continue our contract with Fiona Frank as our Outreach and Projects Manager. Joanne Gabbay joined the team as Education and Outreach Assistant, while, sadly, we lost Shayna Conn. More recently (after the end of the reporting year) we recruited Melissa Eisenberg as Social Media and Marketing Assistant. Both these appointments are working well.

Throughout the year, we have continued to have meetings with politicians and other leading figures. Highlights have included a meeting with the First Minister on 9 August 2017, (jointly with the GJRC co-President) when we expressed our concerns about her rejection of a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador and her indirect reprimand to the Ambassador, on the occasion of his Yom HaAtzmaut visit to the Scottish Parliament. We again met the First Minister in December when the Chief Rabbi attended the Scottish Parliament to light the 'Rifkind menorah'. We were also pleased to facilitate the First Minister's visit to the Community to give the toast to the Immortal Memory at the Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue Burns Supper in January 2017. In January 2018, that role was taken by Ruth Davidson MSP. Another important visit was the Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson's visit to Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue in November. Full details of all our meetings and visitors can be found on the website.

On the Education front we are very grateful to the Pears Foundation for funding a project to train volunteers to deliver high quality, consistent education about Jews and Judaism in Scottish schools, supported by "JOES Boxes", genuine Jewish artefacts and learning materials, which are now available through local Education Authorities. The Volunteering course eventually ran in 2017. It was designed to help volunteers who represent Judaism in the local community or who

would like to do so, by leading synagogue visits, going into schools, or working with youth, adult or interfaith groups, and 3 volunteers 'graduated' from the course.

We continue to be grateful to Debby Taylor and Margalit Borowski, who have been delivering sessions in schools in different parts of Scotland, and to Professor Joe Goldblatt, who has not only led educational sessions in schools but personally delivered "JOES Boxes" to different locations. We also now have a new cohort of "Volunteer Educational Ambassadors" who have now received AQA accreditation and are beginning to assist with this work.

We have also been fortunate to be allocated very generous support by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Foundation to continue our programme of outreach visits and special events throughout Scotland. This has been our most ambitious year ever for our events programme – we held an unprecedented 18 events in all parts of Scotland from Dumfries to the Highlands. To mark the bicentenary of the Jewish Community of Scotland, we arranged seven talks about local history in the seven towns that once were home to small Jewish communities, as well as four Klezmer concerts, an innovative interfaith papercutting event organised jointly with a Muslim community organisation, and Purim and Chanukah parties. We also marked the centenary of the Balfour Declaration with a visit to Lord Balfour's family home in East Lothian and other events, and we held an enormously successful Lag B'Omer barbecue in Falkirk's Callendar Park, in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. Full reports of these events can be found on our website.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Scottish Jewish Community (1817 being the year in which an organised Jewish Community first started up in Edinburgh, though there were individual Jewish residents in Scotland from an earlier date) SCoJeC facilitated the distribution of a new publication *The Jewish Experience in Scotland* to every public library in Scotland. We also attended a highly successful reception by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh on 1 March 2017 to mark the Bicentenary and we designed a logo for the Bicentenary programme, which is now in use in publicity materials.

It is also our role to try to protect Jewish people in Scotland from all forms of antisemitism, including the adverse effects of extreme hostility to the Jewish state as evidenced by our 'Being Jewish in Scotland' reports. This does not mean that SCoJeC defends the policies of any particular Israeli Government. Rather it is our duty to remind Scottish public officials and bodies of the key importance of the State of Israel to Jewish people in Scotland; and to alert them to the risks of antisemitism when the politics of the Middle East conflict are imported into our Scottish national life.

During the reporting year, we have tried to strengthen links with other faith groups. In 2017, the General Assembly passed a detailed Deliverance pertaining to their Balfour Project report, 'Embracing Peace and Working for Justice' which raised a number of issues of concern about the Church's attitude to the Holy Land and its inhabitants. Following a visit by the then President of the Board of Deputies and myself, when we met the newly appointed Principal Clerk, we were able to start in earnest the much-stalled Dialogue between the Scottish Jewish Community and the Church of Scotland. We have had 4 meetings to date and have found the atmosphere much more cordial than we might have feared.

During the year SCoJeC has submitted responses to a range of consultations by the Scottish Government and others on matters affecting the Community, listed separately below. All these responses are on our website at <https://www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html>.

Within the community, SCoJeC also acts as umbrella for a number of legal purposes, such as the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme (“Disclosure”), sponsoring visa applications on behalf of Jewish communal organisations, and confirming the authenticity of proposed marriage officiants who are not synagogue rabbis for National Records of Scotland. Our website ([www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)) is increasingly popular as the source of information on the Jewish community for government and other officials, visitors, ex-pats, and others.

Sadly on the financial front the situation is far less positive. National representative bodies (the Jewish Leadership Council and the Board of Deputies) do not provide any grant aid to SCoJeC. The JLC is unlikely to want to provide funding over and above the costs of the Scotland Public Affairs Manager post. However, we hope that the election of Marie van der Zyl as the new President of the Board of Deputies may open the way to more flexibility.

We are immensely grateful to the communal Trusts which do support us financially, especially the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust which increased its funding significantly this year, Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, which has very generously supported our outreach events, and the Queen's Park Charitable Trust. Our thanks also go to the West of Scotland Kashrut Commission, the Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society, and the congregations that support us financially, demonstrating that they understand the need to engage with politicians and others in order to maintain religious freedoms.

Looking to the future, our first priority must surely be to secure sufficient funding to enable us to employ the staff we need to enable us to continue our essential work. We have been extremely fortunate that from the outset our Director has undertaken his work in a voluntary capacity. However, continuing to presume on both his time and his good will is neither fair nor sustainable, and we need to plan on employing an appropriately salaried Chief Executive in our strategy for the future.

In conclusion I wish to thank our Director Ephraim Borowski, Leah Granat, our full-time Research and Publications Officer, and Fiona Frank, who has developed the education and outreach role to a new level this year, for their outstanding service, not just to SCoJeC but to the Jewish Community of Scotland. I add thanks to Joanne Gabbay, Shayna Conn, Margalit Borowski, Leah Balint, and now Melissa Eisenberg, who are making a great contribution as sessional staff.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council for the terrific partnership we enjoy in the public affairs role; and to the work of Ruth Kennedy, Sammy Stein and others in partnership with SCoJeC on combatting the antisemitism that arises from extreme antizionism. I do consider there is scope to develop our partnership with the Board of Deputies, which I have set out to refresh and rebuild in my first year in office. While Scotland is devolved and is different, we are still in one UK and partnerships with major representative bodies such as the BoD are of considerable importance and benefit to the Jewish Community as a whole.

Last but not least I must thank the Council and the Executive for all your support during the year and I must especially mention the co-Presidents of GJRC, Nicola Livingston and Evy Yedd for their unstinting support to me personally. I also pay tribute to everyone who has done a massive amount of voluntary work in their communities including places where it is difficult and involves great sacrifice to maintain a Jewish life. SCoJeC’s unique role is to reach out to Jewish people in far flung places and to support their leaders but their leaders also support us, for which we are immensely grateful.

**Micheline Brannan, Chair**

**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities  
Financial Summary for 2018**

YEAR TO 31 MAY 2018	General Funds	Equalities 2017-20	Events	Education	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	2018 YEAR TO DATE	2017 TOTAL
<b>Opening Balance at 1 January 2018</b>	<b>12,141.96</b>	<b>1,907.00</b>	<b>-10,151.50</b>	<b>-195.62</b>	<b>11,990.17</b>	<b>3,575.00</b>	<b>19,267.00</b>	<b>31,100.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>								
Affiliations	1,310.00						1,310.00	8,127.50
Equalities Grant		25,000.00					25,000.00	52,600.00
General Donations	2,282.41						2,282.41	4,314.63
Community Trust Funding	3,500.00						3,500.00	10,000.00
CST Funding	0.00						0.00	2,000.00
Events			2,000.00				2,000.00	14,568.19
Pears							0.00	0.00
Photography Project							0.00	0.00
Sundry Income							0.00	0.00
	<b>7,092.41</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34,092.41</b>	<b>91,610.32</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>								
Staff	5,720.00	11,032.50	60.00	60.00			16,872.50	40,475.00
Sessional Staff	91.88	3,294.56	1,226.65	1,246.52			5,859.61	26,345.35
Office & Telephone	955.79	744.06	0.00	35.45	0.00		1,735.29	10,180.11
Advert, Print & Stationery	0.00	264.00	66.99	24.00			354.99	7,814.38
Travel	186.33	598.22	341.20	252.35	1,350.40		2,728.49	7,962.85
Hospitality & Events	74.09	247.02	0.00	421.10	2,423.83		3,166.04	6,893.61
Subscriptions, Affiliations, Licence Fees	325.00						325.00	1,915.00
Professional Fees	423.60	341.00					764.60	1,435.00
Bank Charges					45.00		45.00	0.00
Sundry Expenses	0.00						0.00	38.91
	<b>7,776.68</b>	<b>16,521.35</b>	<b>1,694.84</b>	<b>2,039.42</b>	<b>3,819.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>31,851.52</b>	<b>103,060.21</b>
Previous year Accrual	750.00						750.00	-350.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>11,457.69</b>	<b>10,385.65</b>	<b>-9,846.34</b>	<b>-2,235.04</b>	<b>8,170.94</b>	<b>3,575.00</b>	<b>21,507.89</b>	<b>19,650.11</b>
<b>Surplus to 31 May 2018</b>							<b>2,240.89</b>	<b>-11,449.89</b>

**Membership of Council**

Glasgow:	Nicola Livingston, Evy Yedd, Philip Mendelsohn, Fiona Brodie
Edinburgh:	Raymond Taylor, Gillian Raab, Hilary Rifkind
Aberdeen:	Mark Taylor
Tayside & Fife:	Paul Spicker
Highlands:	Linda Martin
Student Chaplaincy:	Simon Dover
Israelis in Scotland:	Danielle Bett
Coopted:	Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh), Frank House (Highlands), Joe Goldblatt (Edinburgh), Henry Lovat (Glasgow), Debby Taylor (Aberdeen)



I am delighted to report on another very successful year for the Council in achieving the three objectives that we have now adopted as our strap-line: *Representing, Connecting, and Supporting Jewish people in Scotland*. This concise phrase emerged after much debate last year at a very productive staff development session led by Fiona Frank and Shayna Conn, and there is no doubt that it very succinctly captures our ambitions for the Community:

- **Representing the Community** – by meeting politicians, civil servants, and others to brief them on issues of concern to Jewish people in Scotland; responding to consultations and other enquiries by the Scottish Government, Parliament, and others on matters that could affect the community; advancing public understanding through good quality formal and informal education about Jews and Judaism; ensuring that the concerns of Jewish people are heard where they should be; and maintaining our much commended website as a key source of information about Jewish people in Scotland.
- **Connecting the Community** – by providing a support network for the smaller Jewish communities and for potentially vulnerable Jewish people outwith the formal community; publishing *Four Corners* and arranging events to foster a sense of community amongst people of Jewish background; working with Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland to support Jewish students in Scottish universities and colleges.
- **Supporting the Community** – by responding to general enquiries about communal facilities and services; advising people who have been victims and assisting them to report hate crimes, and liaising with the police and prosecutors about these incidents; alerting relevant organisations in the national and local Jewish Community about matters that might affect them; keeping communities informed about relevant political and civic developments by publishing digests of relevant information for Jewish communal organisations and minority ethnic communities; and assisting Scottish communal organisations to comply with Immigration and Protecting Vulnerable Groups regulations.

These reports provide only a snapshot of the vast range of work we have done – responding to consultations by the Scottish Government, Parliament, and others, putting on more events in more parts of the country than ever before, reaching thousands of pupils in schools from Shetland to Sanquhar, answering around 2500 miscellaneous queries from public bodies, visitors to Scotland, members of the Community and the public on topics as diverse as some are bizarre (“Where is the communal Seder tonight in Thurso?!”) – and all this while continuing to publish a daily *Political Affairs Digest* (PAD) for Jewish communal organisations (<http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>), and a weekly digest of current information for minority ethnic communities (<http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>).

Unfortunately we have had to make all these bricks with less straw than in previous years, because of a reduction in our funding from the Scottish Government as well as the continuing lack of support from the Board of Deputies. Although the Jewish Leadership Council also

discontinued its financial support for PAD last year, their funding of a Scottish Public Affairs Manager (“SPAM”) to support both SCoJeC and the Glasgow Jewish Rep Council is already greatly assisting with our external representative work, and we are delighted to include a report from Danielle Bett, the new SPAM, below. We are also extremely grateful to the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust who have significantly increased their support this year, to the Pears Foundation for supporting our project last year to promote accurate, positive, and engaging teaching about Judaism and the Jewish Community in Scottish schools, and to the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust who have very generously supported our many activities to connect with – and connect – Jewish people throughout the country, many of whom have had no prior connection with the community.

Our events are in many ways the lynchpin of our work: we can only represent Jewish people in Scotland if we listen to what they have to say, and we can only hear what they have to say if we can get them in the same room, and we can only get them into the room by providing something to attract them there. So, as the Scottish Government recognised when it supported our two *Being Jewish in Scotland* inquiries, social and cultural activities are not an added luxury, but the hub that connects our inward- and outward-facing activities, since these events also help people feel more connected, and so more secure and better supported, and so less vulnerable and more at ease with their identity as Jewish Scots.

Sadly, one of the continuing themes is that Jewish people, whatever their level of involvement in the organised community, feel alienated and vulnerable – one young woman told us that she would not tick “Jewish” in the census “because that’s they would know how to find me”; and several people have said that failure to deal effectively with intimidation has undermined their confidence in the police and the judicial system. The safety of our community has to be our top priority, so we continue to press these matters with Ministers, the police, and prosecutors, and there does seem to have been an improvement in the understanding of hate crime in general and the handling of antisemitic incidents in particular, although there remains a way to go.

Unfortunately antisemitism of one kind or another is too common a theme throughout our activities. Even before manifestations of antisemitism in the Labour Party became front page news and the Board of Deputies and JLC organised their unprecedented “Enough is Enough” demonstration at Westminster, much of our interaction with politicians related to this. It has to be said that the atmosphere in Scotland has been significantly different, and we have to acknowledge the swift and outspoken messages of support and calls for action from senior figures in Scottish Labour and local Party groups. Regrettably, however, that is not true in all political parties – what are we to make of politicians who bar the Chair of SCoJeC from a group where she was called an “ideological terrorist” before she had said a word? We see the same irrational belief that “The enemy of my enemy is my friend” when those who oppose a “two state solution” share platforms with Holocaust deniers; but it’s when they deny antisemitism and try to prevent Jewish groups joining a protest against racism, that that morphs into “The friend of my enemy is my enemy” and is truly dangerous.

We continue to be concerned not only by examples of antisemitic conduct, speech, and attitudes, but – as in the case of some politicians – the failure to recognise it and deal with it. The statement in the ACPOS Hate Crime Manual that “fear of hate crime escalates

dramatically in those who share with an immediate victim, the same group identity that has made a victim a target” applies equally to failure to condemn such incidents, whether by politicians, church people, the media, and others. While the more harmonious relationship that we are developing with the Church of Scotland is to be welcomed, there are still pockets of what can only be called prejudice, both theological and political, that need to be brought into the open and addressed. As I have pointed out, they like to talk about “speaking truth to power”, but in Scotland they are the power, and they need to listen to the truth!

Another example of antisemitism and trivialisation of the Holocaust also briefly dominated headlines both in Scotland and internationally when a Lanarkshire man was convicted of publishing a grossly offensive video of himself training his dog to give a nazi salute in response to repeated prompts of “Gas the Jews” and “Sieg Heil”. The video has been viewed more than 4 million times on YouTube, and attracted a torrent of comments praising or denying the holocaust, calling for antisemitic genocide, and other antisemitic themes. Although we had been unaware of it until after it was reported to the police, I was called to give evidence about the effect of such ‘jokes’ on a community many of whom are Holocaust survivors or their descendants. More worryingly, each time the case appeared in court, we received a large number of abusive and antisemitic messages, including death threats, especially by social media, which we have reported to the police. Meanwhile, since the culprit announced his intention to appeal, he has raised £192 000 to fund it.

It continues to be a matter of regret that we have to devote so much of our limited resources to such defensive activities, and there can be no doubt that this has had an impact on our ability to engage with many of the other aspects of public policy that have the capacity to affect Jewish life in Scotland. However, I have been grateful that Micheline has been able to assist by attending many of the meetings to which we are invited, and, with the appointment of Danielle Bett by the JLC to assist with public affairs work, I do hope that we will be better placed in the future. Danielle has now been in post for three months; the arrangement has been working well, and we are very grateful to her, and to her managers at the JLC, for their support.

Fortunately, while representation and external relations dominate my own concerns, we are fortunate to have other excellent staff to cover the other aspects of our activities. As Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat continues to be the mainstay of much of the work funded by the Scottish Government from its Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund, not only producing our various digests of current affairs (MEMO and PAD), drafting consultation responses, and helping to edit *Four Corners*. In addition it is Leah who fields the roughly 50 general enquiries a week that we receive by phone and e-mail, and who maintains our website, which continues to grow – there are well over 10 000 pages, which last year had almost 4.5 million hits. We are all deeply indebted to Leah for her commitment, diligence, efficiency, and attention to detail.

We are also very grateful to Fiona Frank and her team for their commitment to “connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland” though our outreach and community development work. Fiona is currently taking a sabbatical, and we are grateful to Joanne Gabbay, our Education and Outreach Worker for taking on this additional commitment, as well as continuing the recruitment, training, and management of our growing band of “Volunteer

Ambassadors” During the year Shayna Conn stepped down as our Marketing and Social Media Assistant, and we are pleased to have recruited Melissa Eisenberg to take her place. There is a separate report from Joanne below.

I cannot conclude without commenting on the significant deficit we have reported for 2017. This was planned insofar as we took the view that we ought to mark a number of important anniversaries that of course will not recur, in particular the bicentenary of the Scottish Community itself. However it also has to be acknowledged that in consequence we have had to cut back on some of our other activities, reducing the frequency of events, the coverage of some of our briefings, and the number of pages of *Four Corners*; and we have not been able to respond to some recent consultations. As a result, we have already recouped some of the deficit, thanks also to Micheline undertaking some fundraising, and indeed in the year to June we have broken even.

Nonetheless, as we say every year, this is not sustainable. The Scottish Community – and indeed the UK Community – needs SCoJeC, but it has to be paid for. That we deliver our objectives, and do so cost-effectively, is not in question, as has been demonstrated by the continuing support of the Scottish Government. But we need to be able to take a break from fire-fighting to be able to plan strategically; that needs better structures and more and properly rewarded staff; and that needs adequate funding. The JLC’s employment of a SPAM has been hugely helpful, but we still need a properly paid Chief Executive, at a cost, even part-time, of at least £25 000. We need the support of the UK community, and particularly the Board of Deputies, who, if we did not exist, would have to do this themselves, and simply could not achieve what we do from afar.

Finally I wish to thank all my colleagues for their continuing support: our Executive, Council, staff, and volunteers. In particular I am grateful to Micheline for her leadership and forbearance as well as for shouldering part of the public affairs portfolio, to Leah for the huge range of her work and for her efficiency and dedication, to Fiona, Joanne, Shayna, and Melissa for all their work on events and education, to Hilary for administering PVG for the entire Community, to Danielle, the new JLC “SPAM”, and to Nicola and Evy from the Glasgow Rep Council for their excellent collaboration and support, to Debby and Linda for all their work in the north of the country and to all our Volunteer Education Ambassadors, to Alan Kay for representing us in Interfaith Scotland, to Daniel Clapham for his assistance with finance, to Jacqueline Friedman for her excellent design work on *Four Corners*, and to all the others who assist in one way or another by representing us at meetings, performing and helping at events, speaking in schools, writing articles and reports, and a myriad other ways. This has been a very busy, and a very successful year, and you are all part of those successes. Not only SCoJeC but all Jewish people in Scotland owe you our thanks.

**Ephraim Borowski, Director**  
**June 2018**



**Parliament and Government**

Meetings with Ministers and opposition – engagement with the Community  
Regular meetings with SG Community Safety Unit, CST, police, and Crown Office  
Bracadale review of Hate Crime legislation  
Census  
Marriage and Divorce: secondary legislation  
Death registration issues  
Education Scotland: “Israel/Palestine resource”  
Title to moveable property: restitution issues  
Replacement for Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (“Disclosure”)  
Cross-Party Group on Palestine – antisemitic incidents  
Prisoners claiming to be Jewish  
Cross-Party Groups on Race Equality and Religious Freedom  
Keeping “What’s changed about Being Jewish in Scotland” up to date

**Interfaith and Community Relations**

Church of Scotland: Dialogue group  
Contacts with other churches  
Muslim Council of Scotland; Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society  
Interfaith Scotland

**Media interest** (excluding JC and JT)

recent requests for comment: various antisemitic incidents, Nazi dog, Labour party.

**Projects**

Equality Fund: MEMO, Outreach and Community Development  
Educational materials, “JOES Boxes”, volunteer training  
Photography project  
Pilgrimage II

**Communal Matters**

Antisemitic incidents and prosecutions – loss of confidence in the police and judicial system  
Antisemitism in schools  
“Scotland’s Jewish Gathering”, October 2018  
Regulatory activities: PVG, immigration, marriage registration  
GDPR

**Finance and Administration**

SG Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund  
Communal Trust Funding  
Netherlee and Clarkston Trust  
Staffing  
Fundraising



**Regular Meetings**

SCoJeC / GJRC / JLC liaison meetings

BEMIS

Interfaith Scotland

Police Scotland National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Church of Scotland: Moderator, Principal Clerk, and Church and Society Council

Joint Dialogue Group (with Board of Deputies and Office of Chief Rabbi)

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Human Rights

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Race Equality

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Joint Faiths Advisory Board on Criminal Justice

Scottish Churches Committee Safeguarding Group (“Disclosure”)

Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education

Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings; and Regional Deputies Assembly

Executive Committee; Defence and Group Relations Division

**Occasional Meetings and Conferences**

First Minister: [https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17viii\\_fm/fm.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17viii_fm/fm.html)

Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson: [https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xi\\_matheson/matheson.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xi_matheson/matheson.html)

Scottish Party Leaders (with Chief Rabbi): [https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii\\_cr/cr.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii_cr/cr.html)

Westminster SNP leadership: [https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17vii\\_ib/ib.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17vii_ib/ib.html)

Scottish Labour Leader: [https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iv\\_rl/rl.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iv_rl/rl.html)

First Minister’s St Andrews Day reception

Scottish Government Justice Dept, Police Divn, Crown Office, Police (re Hate Crime)

Scottish Government Connected Communities Division (various meetings)

Scottish Government Family Law Department

Scottish Government: Bracadale Review of Hate Crime Legislation

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Launch of Winter Festivals programme (BEMIS for Scottish Government)

Various MSPs to discuss matters of concern to the community

National Holocaust Memorial Day

CST telephone briefings on antisemitic incident statistics

Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception

Education Scotland

Voluntary Action Fund seminars

Scottish Institute for Policing Research conference

NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland (re Death Registration)

National Records of Scotland and Office for National Statistics (re census)



#### **Political and other monitoring**

- On a daily basis I monitor the activities of bodies including the Scottish, UK, Welsh, Northern Irish, Parliaments and Governments, the European Parliament, United Nations, and a very large number of statutory and non-statutory organisations. Relevant information is then circulated to an extensive mailing list by means of Political Affairs Digest, MEMO, and daily briefing e-mails.
- I also circulate daily information about relevant items published in the Scottish media, and weekly monitoring of the UK media.

#### **Consultation Responses**

- I regularly consult with relevant communal organisations to ensure that consultation responses represent the views of all branches of the Scottish Jewish community.

#### **Publications**

- I design SCoJeC's very popular website, and update that and our facebook and twitter feeds at least weekly.
- I contribute to the production of SCoJeC's quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*;
- I ensure that the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland* – which, since first publication in 2007, has consistently been the most popular item on the SCoJeC website – remains accurate and up-to-date.
- I assist with producing briefing and other materials on a range of subjects relevant to the community.

#### **Services to the Community**

- I continue to liaise with the Procurator Fiscal Service, Registrars, and Pathologists to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused either by post-mortem examinations, or by the new system of reviews to death certification procedures.
- I administer SCoJeC's registration with UK Visas and Immigration as a sponsor to enable communal organisations to comply with the Points-Based Immigration System that regulates the employment (including voluntary work) of people from countries outwith the European Union, and advise and assist communal organisations as required.
- I liaise with National Records of Scotland to facilitate compliance with the relevant regulations when a couple wishes to be married by a Rabbi from outwith Scotland.

#### **Other Activities**

- I respond to an average of 50 e-mail and telephone enquiries each week. These come from public bodies, the media, NGOs, the general public, and others, and concern a wide range of issues relating to the Scottish Jewish community. There has been a significant increase in requests for information about immigration issues, mostly from Israelis, or Scottish partners of Israelis, who want to move to Scotland.
- Sadly, SCoJeC is still having to provide significant support, advice, and reassurance to members of the community who have been, or who fear becoming, the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- I contribute to a wide variety of SCoJeC documents including letters to Scottish Government Ministers, public statements, publicity materials, and responses to relevant publications from other organisations.
- I assist with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- I provide IT advice and administrative support to SCoJeC staff as required.

**Leah Granat**  
**June 2018**



- January 2017: Unelected church appointees on Local Authority Education Committees (Scottish Parliament)
- January 2017: Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review (Scottish Government)
- February 2017: Guidance on Religious Observance in Schools (Scottish Government)
- March 2017: Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (Scottish Government)
- May 2017: Commission on Parliamentary Reform (Scottish Parliament)
- May 2017: Bullying and harassment of children and young people in schools
- August 2017: Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill
- November 2017: Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland

*Copies of all of these responses, and of responses submitted in previous years, are available on SCoJeC's website at [www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html](http://www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html)*

### **SCoJeC Statements 2017–18**

- March 2017: London Terror Attack  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii\\_london\\_terror\\_attack.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii_london_terror_attack.html)
- April 2017: *Embracing Peace and Working for Justice?* (Church of Scotland report)  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iv\\_cos/cos.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iv_cos/cos.html)
- April 2017: Attempt to exclude SCoJeC Chair from Meeting in Parliament  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iv\\_cpg/cpg.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iv_cpg/cpg.html)
- June 2017: Manchester and London Terror Attacks  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17vi\\_manchester\\_london\\_terror\\_attacks.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17vi_manchester_london_terror_attacks.html)
- October 2017: Success of Appeal to restore Aberdeen Synagogue  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17x\\_aberdeen/aberdeen.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17x_aberdeen/aberdeen.html)
- January 2018: JLC Protest against Amnesty ban on free speech  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18i\\_amnesty/amnesty.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18i_amnesty/amnesty.html)
- January 2018: Formation of new Scottish Israeli Cultural Association  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18i\\_sica/sica.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18i_sica/sica.html)
- February 2018: Improving Relations with the Church of Scotland  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18ii\\_cos/cos.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18ii_cos/cos.html)
- March 2018: Support for "Stand Up to Racism" march  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iii\\_stand\\_up\\_to\\_racism.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iii_stand_up_to_racism.html)
- March 2018: Conviction for "Nazi dog" video maker  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iii\\_airdrie\\_verdict.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iii_airdrie_verdict.html)
- April 2018: Welcoming Scottish Labour statements on Antisemitism  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iv\\_labour\\_antisemitism/antisemitism.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18iv_labour_antisemitism/antisemitism.html)  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18v\\_labour\\_antisemitism/glasgow.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18v_labour_antisemitism/glasgow.html)



**Four Corners**

- April 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17iv\\_4c53.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17iv_4c53.pdf)  
 July 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17vii\\_4c54.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17vii_4c54.pdf)  
 September 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17ix\\_4c55.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17ix_4c55.pdf)  
 December 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17xii\\_4c56.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17xii_4c56.pdf)  
 March 2018: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18iii\\_4c57.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18iii_4c57.pdf)  
 June 2018: [https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18vi\\_4c58.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18vi_4c58.pdf)

**Political Affairs Digest: A summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community**

*4-5 issues per week during the parliamentary session; as required during recess, dissolution, etc*

- 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/pad/pad\\_2017.html](https://www.scojec.org/pad/pad_2017.html)  
 2018: <http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>

**MEMO: A weekly overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland**

- 2017: [https://www.scojec.org/memo/memo\\_2017.html](https://www.scojec.org/memo/memo_2017.html)  
 2018: <http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>

**MEMO+: Occasional briefing papers of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland**

- May 2017: Voting in the UK General Election 2017  
[http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17v\\_voting\\_in\\_the\\_general\\_election.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17v_voting_in_the_general_election.pdf)  
 June 2017: The UK Government’s Legislative Programme  
[https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17vi\\_uk\\_legislative\\_programme.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17vi_uk_legislative_programme.pdf)  
 July 2017: The UK Parliament and Government – General Election results  
[https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17vii\\_uk\\_parliament\\_and\\_government.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17vii_uk_parliament_and_government.pdf)

**Website: [www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)**

There were a total of 4 574 567 hits on the website (plus 243 738 “impressions” on Facebook and Twitter), from an average of 6864 unique visitors per month.

Highlights were:

- MEMO and MEMO+ 80 582 hits
- PAD 94 489
- *Four Corners* 24 239
- Guidebook 13 689
- *Jewish Way of Life* resource 13 468
- Other Resources 14 684
- *Being Jewish in Scotland* reports (2012 and 2015) 27 003



- March 2017: Purim events in Ayr, Dumfries, Inverness, and Dundee  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii\\_purim/purim.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii_purim/purim.html)
- May 2017: Fire and Light in the Forest: LaG b'Omer event in Falkirk  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17v\\_lag\\_b\\_omer/lag\\_b\\_omer.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17v_lag_b_omer/lag_b_omer.html)
- June 2017: Bicentenary history talks by Michael Tobias: Falkirk, Ayr, Dunfermline  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17v\\_lag\\_b\\_omer/lag\\_b\\_omer.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17v_lag_b_omer/lag_b_omer.html)
- August 2017: Whittinghame Walk – home of Lord Arthur James Balfour  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17viii\\_whittinghame/whittinghame.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17viii_whittinghame/whittinghame.html)
- September 2017: Klezmer tour : Glasgow, Arran, Edinburgh  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix\\_klezmer/klezmer.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix_klezmer/klezmer.html)
- September 2017: Bicentenary talks by Nathan Abrams: Inverness, Dundee, Aberdeen  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix\\_history/history.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix_history/history.html)
- September 2017: Youth papercutting event – Glasgow  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix\\_glasgow/papercutting.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix_glasgow/papercutting.html)
- October 2017: Klezmerduo: The Music of Life and Hope  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17x\\_klezmerduo/klezmerduo.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17x_klezmerduo/klezmerduo.html)
- November 2017: Interfaith papercutting – Falkirk  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xi\\_falkirk/falkirk.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xi_falkirk/falkirk.html)
- December 2017: Chanukah party – Dumfries  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii\\_chanukah/dumfries.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii_chanukah/dumfries.html)
- December 2017: Chanukah party – Stirling  
[https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii\\_chanukah/stirling.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17xii_chanukah/stirling.html)

**Forthcoming:**

Sunday 17 June, Stirling, 2pm : *Charlie's Promise* with author Annemarie Allan  
Information and booking at [www.scojec.org/charlie.html](http://www.scojec.org/charlie.html)

Monday 2 July, Arran, 6.30pm: *The Dybbuk' and other Ghost Stories* with author Lynn Holden  
Booking essential at [www.scojec.org/ghost.html](http://www.scojec.org/ghost.html)

Thursday 5 July, Dumfries, 6pm: *Remembering Baghdad*, a film featuring Edwin Shuker, now Vice-President of the Board of Deputies. Book at <http://www.rbcft.co.uk>

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 October, Edinburgh: *Scotland's Jewish Gathering 2018*  
To register interest, please contact [gathering@scojec.org](mailto:gathering@scojec.org)

*We are grateful to the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust for their generous support for these events.*



## **Outreach and Community Development**

Our events programme consisted of:

- Four Klezmer concerts
  - Three Klezmer concerts (Glasgow, Arran and Edinburgh) played to packed houses
  - Our fourth Klezmer concert featuring Klezmerduo, was part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival jointly hosted by the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and SCoJeC, had a reasonable attendance of predominantly local Jews.
- Seven History talks

In total there were seven history talks this year in the seven towns where Jewish communities had come and gone in the last 100 years. All seven talks have gone down very well and attracted good audiences of Jewish and non-Jewish people:

  - The first three talks were delivered by Michael Tobias in Ayr, Falkirk and Dunfermline.
  - Three delivered by Nathan Abrams in Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage events
  - The final talk, by Fiona and Howard Brodie, in Greenock as part of Scottish Interfaith Week.
- an interfaith paper cutting event as part of this year's Scottish Interfaith Week, organised jointly with the Al-Masaar Muslim community organisation. We received additional funding for this from the Inter Faith Youth Trust. This allowed us to put on two extra paper cutting events in Glasgow for members of the UJIA youth group and the Jewish Guide pack.
  - two Chanukah parties funded by BEMIS as part of their Winter Festivals programme, which is funded by the Scottish Government to facilitate diverse, multicultural celebrations.
    - Dumfries (in partnership with the fledgling Dumfries Jewish group)
    - Stirling (with Central Scotland Regional Equalities Council and Transition Stirling).

We are very grateful for financial support for these events from all the organisations names, and especially the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust and BEMIS.

We have supported the EHC's 'Evening of Opera Classics' by helping with placing press adverts, and providing marketing advice and support.

Our programme until the end of November 2018 includes author tours and a film tour.

## **Schools visits and education programme**

During the year Debby, Joe, and Margalit, continued to respond to requests from schools for visits all over the country and now we are able to spread the load with our new volunteers.

Our team delivered presentations and activities about Judaism in around 30 schools from Sanquhar to Shetland, via Dumfries, Grampian, Stirling, Glasgow, Fort William, and Orkney, and have thus brought interesting and authentic information about Judaism and the Jewish Community to almost 3000 students, most of whom would otherwise have no direct contact with Jewish people whatsoever.

Four volunteers – Cheryl Goldberg, Diane Kaye, Matat Jablon, and Joanne – have completed the training course and are now qualified as AQA registered presenters, and all the volunteers now have their own “JOES Box”. Joanne will deliver the training programme next year and is planning to streamline the sessions and deliver the course over three instead of four days.

To facilitate access, we have set up forms on our website for schools to request visits and provide feedback, and Joanne is now streamlining and updating these to ensure they refer consistently to our Volunteer Ambassadors. Once complete, thanks to Leah, we will update all the pages then put in place a downloadable version of the evaluation form to enable Joanne to assess our work more efficiently. We also hope to commission additional short videos to add to the resources on our website.

We have had two quarterly Volunteer Ambassador meetings in which we compared feedback from recent school and other group visits, talked about difficult questions and group management issues which had arisen, logistical issues, resources and information to be provided before and after visits. These will continue over the next two quarters of 2018.

### **Team news**

Melissa Eissenberg from Edinburgh has joined the team as our new Social Media and Marketing Assistant.

Fiona is on sabbatical until November, during which time Margalit will be supporting Joanne and Micheline will be supporting Melissa.

**Joanne Gabbay**  
**June 2018**



A brief summary on my activities over the past few months, and areas of focus. It's been (and still is) a huge learning curve and I'm grateful to be working with such a supportive and helpful community that is so active in Scottish politics and society. These are the main areas I've been working on and will continue to work on over the year.

## Politics

With the Jeremy Corbyn/Labour antisemitism scandal making headlines back in March (and continuing to be an issue), I have worked with Scottish Community leaders to meet and work with the Scottish Labour party on the issue. I think it's fair to say that the scene is different in Scotland, but nonetheless it is crucial that we work with Scottish Labour to tackle antisemitism in politics and society. We have made positive progress by meeting key people including Richard Leonard, Kezia Dugdale and Anas Sarwar. This has resulted in a series of positive conversations and commitments from the party in Scotland.

Other than Labour, a core part of my role is to meet with MPs and MSPs and ensure the Jewish community is represented and their concerns are heard. This will continue to be a focus over the coming year and I will be meeting MPs and MSPs from all parties, across Scotland. This means that they have a point of contact in the Jewish community should any communal or local issues arise, but also that we are able to raise concerns if and when required.

## Community

As with the above this is still a work in progress as I've not met all the various community representatives yet. I have, however, met and/or spoken to Jewish community representatives and members across Scotland, and will continue to do so. I think it's key that the political elements of my role tie closely to the communal elements, so that we all work together on issues and initiatives.

I've been involved in a few communal events and initiatives and currently working on the 2018 Jewish Gathering (details to follow), the Jo Cox Memorial weekend, and the Israeli athlete visit in the summer.

## Policy and issues

It's been impressive to learn how actively involved we are as a community in forums and discussions across Scotland, and I've been really pleased to be involved in a number of these including: the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the 2021 Census, Scottish Alliance against Hate Crime, meetings with Police Scotland.

SCOJeC and the GJRC are asked to attend on a huge number of consultations and meetings, and I have been going along to many of these and getting to know more about key issues, stakeholders, policy and process.

## Interfaith

As a community we are invited to a large number of interfaith events and some that I've attended have included: an International Symposium on Multicultural Societies, Scottish Parliament event on the Prevention of Genocide, CPG on Freedom of Religion and Belief and others. I'm currently working on setting up a Muslim-Jewish Women's Network, in a similar vein to Nisa Nashim UK.

**Danielle Bett**  
**June 2018**