



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 very effectively to serve that purpose, as well as supporting the community in other ways.

Although funding has still not permitted us to recruit a paid CEO, the appointment of Danielle Bett as Scotland Public Affairs Manager by the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) in May 2018 has greatly improved the resources available to the Jewish community in Scotland for public affairs. Danielle very quickly established close relationships with Ephraim and myself and regularly meets both of us as well as the co-Presidents of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. Our partnership with the JLC has developed and matured over the last year and we are very grateful to the JLC both for their financial investment and for their growing understanding of how and why Scotland is different so that political issues need to be addressed differently and separately from Westminster.

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 our functions. The grant has been pegged at £50K a year until 2019–20, so the time is approaching when we shall have to enter another bidding round, with all the consequent uncertainty.

Leah Granat remains responsible for research and publications, including a daily political affairs digest and the weekly publication MEMO, as well as maintaining our website, assisting with Four Corners, and answering huge numbers of miscellaneous queries. Since early 2019, Danielle has assisted with the daily media digest, pending a new part-time appointment. All these outputs are supported by PECF.

PECF also supports other Outreach activities and has enabled us to continue our contract with to employ Fiona Frank as our Outreach and Projects Manager. Fiona works with Joanne Gabbay, our Education and Outreach Assistant, and Melissa Eisenberg as Social Media and Marketing Assistant. All these appointments are working well.

We value our partnership with BEMIS Scotland, a strategic partner in the Scottish Government's Race Equality work. 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.

Throughout the year, we have continued to have meetings with politicians and other leading figures. Highlights have included a meeting with the First Minister in June 2018 along with Marie van der Zyl, newly elected President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Board Senior Vice President, Edwin Shuker, joined us for the first ever Scottish Jewish Gathering in Edinburgh in October 2018. On the second day of the Gathering, we were addressed by Humza Yousaf, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, and the following week Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell joined us for a memorial service for the Pittsburgh massacre. We have also met Conservative Leaders Ruth Davidson and Jackson Carlow, and Labour leader Richard Leonard several times.

On the Education front, we continue to be grateful to Debby Taylor and Margalit Borowski, Diane Kay, Cheryl Goldberg, and Matat Jablon, 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. Our new cohort of “Volunteer Educational Ambassadors” who received AQA accreditation in 2018 have visited classrooms and assemblies to nearly 3000 students from Sanquhar to Shetland.

We have also been fortunate to have received very generous support from the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust to continue our programme of outreach visits and special events throughout Scotland. During 2018 we equalled the previous year’s record of 18 events from Arran to Inverness in collaboration with the Scottish Book Trust, Refugee Festival Scotland, Jewish Renaissance, the Muriel Spark 100 Festival, the Hannah Frank Art Project, and BEMIS’s Winter Festivals programme. We also held a sell-out Chanukah Party in Linlithgow, and author Lyn Julius opened 2019 with a very successful tour of five venues from Inverness to Dumfries to talk about the disappearance of 2000 years of Jewish civilisation in Arab lands, the subject of her book *Uprooted*. We are currently working with the Scottish Refugee Council to bring a unique Israeli-Syrian collaboration to Scotland to perform a contemporary dance about the Refugee Experience. See the separate report below, and full reports of these events on our website: www.scojec.org.

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 year, we continued our Dialogue between the Scottish Jewish Community and the Church of Scotland, holding three meetings in a cordial atmosphere. One very positive development is that at the 2019 General Assembly the Church of Scotland adopted the internationally accepted definition of antisemitism, joining the Scottish Government, the Labour Party, the Scottish National Party, Police Scotland and several local authorities who have formally adopted the definition. Yet again the 2019 General Assembly considered a report commenting adversely on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians but resisted attempts to drive them towards adopting a policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), and they reaffirmed their commitment to their activities in Israel.

During the year SCoJeC has submitted responses to a wide range of consultations by the Scottish Government and other bodies on matters affecting the Community, listed separately below. All these responses can be accessed on our website at <http://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 Scottish synagogue rabbis for National Records of Scotland. Our website (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 does however make a magnificent contribution by funding the Scotland Public Affairs Manager post. We have recently had more positive signals from the Board of Deputies and have therefore submitted a fresh request for modest financial support.

We are immensely grateful to the communal Trusts which do support us financially, especially the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust for its very significant support, 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 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 and Melissa Eisenberg, who are making a great contribution as sessional staff.

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, and for the excellent partnership we enjoy in the public affairs role. I also pay tribute to everyone who has done a massive amount of voluntary work in t\$heir 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 2019**

	General Funds	Equalities 2017-20	Events	Education	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	2019 to date	2018
Opening Balance at 1 January 2019	21,007.04	7,282.43	-16,267.04	-3,026.60	6,815.94	3,575.00	19,386.76	19,267.00
INCOME								
Affiliations	6,000.00						6,000.00	7,560.00
Equalities Grant		25,000.00					25,000.00	50,000.00
General Donations	1,497.21						1,497.21	4,825.00
Community Trust Funding	3,521.87						3,521.87	11,377.00
CST Funding	0.00						0.00	2,000.00
Events			5,502.85				5,502.85	5,362.00
Education				1,188.00			1,188.00	3,000.00
Photography Project							0.00	0.00
Sundry Income							0.00	2,500.00
Total Income	11,019.08	25,000.00	5,502.85	1,188.00	0.00	0.00	42,709.93	86,624.00
EXPENDITURE								
Staff	5,484.05	8,938.58	1,177.50	360.00			15,960.13	56,791.00
Sessional Staff	33.00	3,322.34	6,367.31	725.90			10,448.55	
Office & Telephone	2,782.44	3,337.81	95.05	0.00			6,215.30	10,125.00
Advert, Print & Stationery	0.00	230.00	871.35	0.00			1,101.35	2,780.00
Travel	260.65	582.45	408.30	169.90			1,421.30	6,145.00
Hospitality & Events	87.45	324.73	2,380.51	34.83			2,827.52	7,218.00
Subscriptions, Affiliations & Fees	300.00	0.00					300.00	1,515.00
Professional Fees	275.00	275.00					550.00	1,885.00
Bank Charges			15.00				15.00	0.00
Sundry Expenses							0.00	45.00
Total expenditure	9,222.59	17,010.91	11,315.02	1,290.63	0.00	0.00	38,839.15	86,504.00
2018 Income Accrual	750.00						750.00	
2018 Prof. Fees Accrual	175.00	175.00					350.00	
Closing Balance at 31 May 2019	22,803.52	15,271.52	-22,079.21	-3,129.23	6,815.94	3,575.00	23,257.54	19,387.00
Surplus to 31 May 2019							3,870.78	120.00

Membership of Council

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



It gives me great pleasure to report again that the Council has once again had a very successful year achieving our objectives of *Representing, Connecting, and Supporting Jewish people in Scotland*:

- **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 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 Judaism and the Jewish Community; ensuring that the concerns of Jewish people are heard where they should be; and maintaining our extensive and 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 throughout the country; and 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 and assisting people who have been victims of 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 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.

It is difficult to give a complete picture of the range of matters that we deal with. Formal policy consultations and meetings with policy-makers are listed below, as are the schools where our volunteers have spoken to nearly 3000 pupils from the Lothians to Lerwick, and our community-building social and cultural events from Inverness to Dumfries. We continue 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>). Our website is a popular source of information and receives around two millions visits from some 75 000 visitors a year. The consistently most popular section is our Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland, which has had around 20 000 visits since we completely revised it in January. In addition, we respond to around 50 miscellaneous queries a week from public bodies, members of the Community, people planning holidays in Scotland, the media, and the Scottish public – that's around 2500 a year! Around a quarter require significant time to research and respond, although some are easier to answer (such as a media enquiry about kosher le-Pesach whisky!).

Although these kinds of outward-facing activities are the most visible part of our work, in many ways it is our events that are the backbone, as our funding from the Scottish Government has recognised: 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 into the room, and we can only get them into the room by putting on social and cultural events (and providing food!) to attract them there. These events also give sometimes very isolated people an opportunity to meet others and speak their minds, which helps them feel more connected, and so more secure and better supported, and less vulnerable and more at ease with their identity as Jewish people in Scotland. The excellent attendance at Scotland's Jewish Gathering in Edinburgh, which we were proud to help organise, made that clear, and we were pleased also to hold our own Council meetings there, in St Andrews for the first time, and in Aberdeen.

Sadly, isolation, alienation, and vulnerability remain high on our agenda, compounded by the feeling that politicians, police, and the judicial system do not take complaints of antisemitism seriously enough. We continue to press these matters with Ministers, the police, and prosecutors and through our responses to the various consultations on hate crime legislation, and there does seem to have been some improvement in the past year. But we have to choose our words carefully in order not to compound the problem by either crying wolf or raising anxiety. Unfortunately the media are not always helpful: recently two papers published front-page stories that gave the impression that we had commented on a current situation when in fact their quotations were several years old – not quite fake news, but certainly not news!

Still, a year after the unprecedented "Enough is Enough" demonstration at Westminster, it is clear that the Labour Party in particular still has a problem with antisemitism. The picture is notably different in Scotland, where we have had several friendly meetings with Richard Leonard, the Scottish Labour Leader, not only about this, but also wider policy matters of communal concern. He has made clear his frustration that disciplinary matters are handled at the UK level, and both he and the recent Scottish Labour conference have requested antisemitism awareness training led by the Jewish community. We also have excellent relations with the SNP, who have sought our input into their handling of disciplinary cases. That said, it is interesting to compare the alacrity with which all Scottish political parties endorsed the proposed definition of Islamophobia with the sluggishness of their responses to the definition of antisemitism, and their failure to deal with those who think their anti-Zionism excuses their endorsement of grossly antisemitic images. That is why it is so important that we continue to point out to politicians, church people, the media, and others that the principle set out in the police 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 when those in authority fail to act or even to condemn such incidents.

It remains a matter of regret that so much of our time, energy, and resources has to be devoted to such essentially negative aspects of representing and supporting the Community, and this undoubtedly hampers our ability to engage with many other aspects of public policy that could have a severe impact on Jewish life in Scotland. I am therefore particularly grateful to Danielle Bett for assisting with so much of this aspect of our work; her appointment by the JLC has hugely increased the Community's ability to engage with public life in Scotland, and the joint branding we devised (see her report) symbolises how this has also acted as a catalyst to very smooth and successful joint working with the Glasgow Rep Council.

We are also fortunate to have excellent staff to cover the other aspects of our activities. Our Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat, has recently reduced her hours, but she continues to be responsible for most of the Scottish Government's Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund outputs: MEMO and PAD, our current affairs digests, consultation responses, our website (now well over 10 000 pages), and helping to edit Four Corners, and also responding to the roughly 50 general enquiries a week that we receive by phone and e-mail. Leah has reported in more detail on her work below, and I can say without fear of contradiction that without her diligence, attention to detail, and efficiency – and her years of commitment to SCoJeC and what it stands for – we would not be where we are today.

Our gratitude is also due to Fiona Frank and her team for their commitment to “connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland” through our outreach and community development work. Fiona has returned from sabbatical and is once again actively devising an exciting programme of varied events throughout the country. Joanne Gabbay, our Education and Outreach Worker, who held the fort while Fiona was on leave, is now again primarily concerned with managing school visits by our “Volunteer Ambassadors”. It is obviously the volunteers themselves who are at the sharp end, so our thanks too to Joe Goldblatt, Debby Taylor, Diane Kay, Cheryl Goldberg, Margalit Borowski, Matat Jablon, and Evy Yedd for the work they do representing Judaism and the Jewish religion in dozens of schools throughout the country. Melissa Eisenberg, who joined us last year as Marketing and Social Media Assistant, is currently on study leave and will return shortly.

Last year I concluded by explaining that a number of non-recurring circumstances had contributed to a significant deficit for 2017 but had put in place measures to break even in 2018, trimming back some activities, reducing Four Corners from 6 to 4 pages, and more severely prioritising what briefings and consultation responses we produce. Thanks also to the generosity of the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, and others who responded to Micheline's appeal for funds, I am delighted to report that we almost exactly broke even in 2018.

However, 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; we need a Chief Executive and properly paid staff. We need the support of the UK community, and particularly the Board of Deputies, who, if SCoJeC did not exist, would have to either engage with Scotland's very different politics themselves, or else abandon their commitment to protect the whole of the UK Jewish Community.

In conclusion, my thanks as ever to all my colleagues: to Micheline for her leadership, to our Executive and Council for their advice and support, to our staff and volunteers for their efforts and achievements; and to the growing number of people who contribute to representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland in so many ways. It is a pleasure to report on another very busy, and very successful year, and you are all part of that success. SCoJeC and all Jewish people in Scotland owe you our thanks.

Ephraim Borowski, Director
June 2019



Parliament and Government

Meetings with Ministers and opposition party leaders: engagement with the Community
Regular meetings with SG Community Safety Unit, CST, police, and Crown Office
Proposed consolidation of Hate Crime legislation
Census re Ethnicity question
Marriage and Divorce: secondary legislation
Death registration, post mortems, Medical Review, mortuary standards
Education Scotland: “Israel/Palestine resource”
Title to moveable property: restitution issues
Proposed revision of Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (“Disclosure”)
Prisoners claiming to be Jewish
Cross-Party Groups on Freedom of Religion, Bridges with Israel, Tackling Islamophobia
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
BEMIS
Interfaith Scotland

Media interest (excluding JC and JT)

recent requests for comment: Antisemitism (specific incidents, CST statistics, *Being Jewish in Scotland* findings); Nazi dog, BBC, and freedom of speech; Labour party disciplinary cases and diversity training; antisemitism on campus; kosher whisky; ethnicity in census

Projects

Equality Fund: MEMO, Outreach and Community Development
Educational materials, “JOES Boxes”, volunteer training
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: briefing

Finance and Administration

SG Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund
Communal Trusts: Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, Netherlee and Clarkston Trust
UK Community: Board of Deputies
Staffing issues
Fundraising

Regular Meetings

SCoJeC / GJRC / JLC liaison meetings
 BEMIS
 Interfaith Scotland
 Church of Scotland: Joint Dialogue Group (with Board of Deputies and Office of Chief Rabbi)
 Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees
 Police Scotland National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
 Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief
 Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Race Equality
 Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia
 Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Building Bridges with Israel
 Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Human Rights
 Scottish Alliance against Prejudice and Hate Crime (SAAPaHC)
 Scottish Churches Committee Safeguarding Group (“Disclosure”)
 Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education
 Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings; and Regional Deputies Assembly
 Defence and Group Relations Division

Occasional Meetings and Conferences

First Minister, Justice Secretary, Communities Secretary
 Opposition Party Leaders: Conservative, Labour, Lib-Dem
 Various MSPs to discuss matters of concern to the community
 Westminster SNP group
 Scottish Government Justice Dept, Police Division, Crown Office, Police re Hate Crime
 Scottish Government re Connected Communities, Family Law, Holocaust restitution
 Scottish Government and Education Scotland re “Teaching resource”
 Scottish Government: re Bracadale Review of Hate Crime Legislation
 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
 CST briefings on antisemitic incident statistics
 National Records of Scotland and Office for National Statistics (re census)
 BEMIS Winter Festivals programme (for Scottish Government)
 Edinburgh Interfaith Association
 Scottish Refugee Council
 National Holocaust Memorial Day
 Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception
 Anne Frank Trust Parliamentary reception
 Voluntary Action Fund seminars
 Scottish Institute for Policing Research conference
 NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland (re mortuaries)
 Crown Office and MCS re digital post mortems
 STUC and GMB union
 Hay of Seaton Lecture (Aberdeen University)



Political and other monitoring

- On a daily basis I monitor the activities of a large number of organisations including the Scottish, UK, and Welsh, Parliaments and Governments, the Northern Ireland Executive, the European Parliament, the 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.

Consultation Responses

- I prepare consultation responses on matters of relevance to the Jewish community in Scotland. The most important aspect of this work is consultation with all relevant communal organisations to ensure that responses represent the views of all branches of the community, so that their voices are heard at policy level in the Scottish Parliament and Government, and other relevant bodies.

Publications

- I design and regularly update SCoJeC's website which received well over 2,000,000 hits during 2018. I also manage and regularly update SCoJeC's facebook and twitter accounts.
- I produce 4-5 issues of *Political Affairs Digest* each week, a weekly issue of *MEMO*, and occasional issues of *MEMO+*. These are very popular – there are more than 15,000 hits on the *Digest*, and more than 9,000 hits on *MEMO* on our website each month. *MEMO* is also circulated by Bemis to their extensive mailing list.
- I contribute to the production of SCoJeC's quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*.
- I produced a new issue of the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland*. Since first publication in 2007, this has consistently been the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website, and is currently downloaded around 3,000 times each month.
- I assist with producing briefings and other materials on a range of subjects relevant to the community.

Services to the Community

- I 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 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 provide information and assistance to 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. The number of requests for information about immigration issues continues to increase, mostly from Israelis, or their Scottish partners, interested in moving to Scotland.
- I provide information, support, 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.

Consultation Responses 2018–19

- July 2018: Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information (Scottish Government)
- September 2018: Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill (Scottish Parliament)
- September 2018: A Culture Strategy for Scotland (Scottish Government)
- February 2019: One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (Scottish Government)
- February 2019: Racial Harassment in Higher Education (Equality and Human Rights Commission)

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

SCoJeC Statements 2017–18

- May 2018: Welcoming Glasgow Labour Statement on Antisemitism
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18v_labour_antisemitism/glasgow.html
- June 2018: Supporting "The Great Get Together"
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18vi_great-get-together/get-together.html
- October 2018: Response to the antisemitic attack against the "Tree of Life" Synagogue in Pittsburgh
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18x_pittsburgh/memorial.html
- November 2018: Joint declaration with the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia, and the Muslim Council of Scotland: Working together to tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Scotland
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xi_cpg/cpg.html
- January 2019: Joint statement with the GMB Union: Holocaust Memorial Day
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19i_hmd/hmd.html
- March 2019: Solidarity with the Muslim Community following the attacks on two mosques in New Zealand
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_solidarity/solidarity.html
- March 2019: Stand Up To Racism to mark the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_stand_up_to_racism.html

Four Corners

March 2018: https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18iii_4c57.pdf

June 2018: https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18vi_4c58.pdf

September 2018: https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18ix_4c59.pdf

December 2018: https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/18xii_4c60.pdf

April 2018: https://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19iv_4c61.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

2018: https://www.scojec.org/pad/pad_2018.html

2019: <http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>

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

2018: https://www.scojec.org/memo/memo_2018.html

2019: <http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>

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

May 2019: Voting in the European Parliament Election
https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2019/19v_voting_in_the_eu_parliament_elections.pdf

Website: www.scojec.org

During 2018, a total of 2 066 818 hits registered on our website, but we know this to be a considerable undercount as the software took time to catch up after we moved the entire site to a new secure server. There were also 202 512 “impressions” on Facebook and Twitter.

Highlights were:

• MEMO and MEMO+	106 554	(80 582 hits in 2017)
• PAD	187 322	(94 489)
• Four Corners	37 115	(24 239)
• Guidebook	28 566	(13 689)
• Jewish Way of Life resource	19 475	(13 468)
• Other Resources	26 915	(14 684)
• <i>Being Jewish in Scotland</i> reports (2012 and 2015)	26 039	(27 003)

- June 2018: Charlie's Promise:SCoJeC's Refugee Festival event in Stirling
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18vi_stirling/charlie.html
- July 2018: SCoJeC on Arran: The *Dybbuk* and other Ghost Stories
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18vii_arran/dybbuk.html
- September 2018: That reminds me of a story ...
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18ix_inverness/j-stories.html
- October 2018: Entertaining Tales in Dumfries, *keynaynhora*
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18x_dumfries/j-stories.html
- October 2018: Scotland's unique Jewish Gathering
 Jointly with EHC and other communal organisations:
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18x_gathering/gathering.html
- November 2018: Marking Muriel Spark's Centenary
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xi_aberdeen/aberdeen.html
- November 2018: Hannah Frank 110th birthday exhibition
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xi_hf/hf.html
- December 2018: Lighting in the Rain!
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xii_linlithgow/chanukah.html
- February 2019: Five Generations of a Scottish Jewish Family
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ii_generations/generations.html
- March 2019: Uprooted – Highlighting the forgotten refugees
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_uprooted/uprooted.html
- May 2019: Oral history: tracing five generations of a Scottish Jewish family
https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19v_glasgow/glasgow.html

Forthcoming events:

For details and booking, see https://www.scojec.org/whats-on/scojec/scojec_events.html

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 23 June, Inverness | Telling Your Family Story |
| 27 June, Edinburgh | <i>Come as you are</i> : contemporary dance performance and Klezmer Ceilidh |
| 30 June, Glasgow | Open Dance Workshop: Klezmer, Syrian, Contemporary & Israeli |
| 30 June, Glasgow | <i>Come as you are</i> : contemporary dance performance and Klezmer Ceilidh |
| August (date tbc), Shetland | Talk with Ethel Hofman |
| 1 Sept, Whittingehame | Whittingehame Estate Walk |

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



Outreach and community development

In 2018/19 we held or supported 18 events in locations from Arran and Skye to Aberdeen and Inverness, focussing on books and authors. This year our outreach programme was again generously funded by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust and we also had funding for specific activities from the Scottish Book Trust, Jewish Renaissance, and Interfaith Scotland. We played our part in the national cultural heritage programme; we linked with Refugee Festival Scotland for talks by Annmarie Allen, about her book, *Charlie's Promise*, about a boy who had escaped to Scotland from Nazi Germany; we joined with the Muriel Spark 100 Festival for readings by author Tracey S Rosenberg; we took Lynn Holden to Arran to discuss *Dybbuks*; and Ellen Galford went to Dumfries and Inverness to talk about stories from her family's past – part of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage. We supported the launch of the Hannah Frank 110th birthday art exhibition at Glasgow University Chapel (part of Scottish Interfaith Week), and held a sell-out Chanukah Party in Linlithgow (part of BEMIS's Winter Festivals programme). We supported the launch of Fiona Frank's book "Candles, Conversions and Class: five generations of a Scottish Jewish Family", which was published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre; and we have held the first in a series of library talks around this book where participants get to talk about their own family stories.

In March we organised a very successful tour of five venues from Inverness to Dumfries by author Lyn Julius, talking about how 2000 years of Jewish civilisation in Arab lands vanished without trace, the subject of her book *Uprooted*.

We are now planning an ambitious programme for the rest of the summer, with financial support from the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust. We have been forging a new partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council to bring a group of Syrian contemporary dancers to Scotland. They are part of the Berlin based group TOTAL BRUTAL, an unprecedented Israeli-Syrian artistic collaboration. As well as performing in Glasgow and Edinburgh and teaching at a public dance workshop, the group is also delivering a dance workshop in a Glasgow primary school and for a group of refugee families, with funding from Scottish Refugee Council. We are actively seeking sponsorship to help cover overheads so that these can be fundraising activities jointly for ourselves and the Scottish Refugee Council.

SCoJeC has also been managing a £7000 grant from Creative Scotland for the Hannah Frank Art Project, which commemorates a celebrated Glasgow Jewish artist. Four Glasgow University interns have been working on this project. One, Geanina Beres, is doing some additional work with SCoJeC this summer, initially on the Syrian dance project and potentially on other areas of work.

We are supporting a new group that is being set up on Arran as well as the existing groups in Inverness and Dumfries, and their first event will be a house concert by Lev Atlas in July. We are also planning to host a talk on Shetland by Ethel Hofman, author of *Mackerel at Midnight: growing up Jewish on a remote Scottish Island*, and working with the Limmud Scotland committee to support the attendance of people from outwith the central belt at November's Limmud Scotland.

We have set up a new booking system on Trybooking.co.uk to manage our events, where people can also buy tickets where appropriate and make donations.

We would welcome ideas for how to celebrate SCoJeC's 20th birthday on 8th September.

Education programme and schools visits

School Visits

Thanks to our Volunteer Ambassadors Joe, Cheryl, Margalit, Debby and Evy who have between them delivered schools visits to over 3000 school students at schools from Sanquar to Shetland and are all keen to continue this programme.

Schools visited included: Anderson High School, Lerwick; Auchterellon School Aberdeenshire; Dalry Primary; Dingwall Primary School; Drummond High School; Dyce Academy; Falkirk High School; International School Aberdeen; Kingswells Primary; Kingussie High; Kirkwall Academy, Orkney; Law Primary; Pilrig Park School; Portlethen Academy; Preston St Primary; Robert Gordon's College and Junior School; Sound Primary, Lerwick; St Joseph's RC Primary School, Edinburgh; St Margaret's School for Girls; Stromness Academy Orkney; and Victoria Primary School.

We have also spoken at Hamilton Townswomens' Guild, Scout groups, and Interfaith Scotland.

In the early part of the year we launched a new on-line tool for schools to evaluate our VAs' visits. This is working very well and it is very easy to collect data to aid report writing.

Comments from the schools included:

- Well organised and relevant.
- Pupil feedback was very positive, describing the session as "Fun" :-)
- VA led a most interesting session at the Jewish Synagogue in Dee Street Aberdeen. She maintained the interest and attention of the P3 pupils very well and managed the 3 classes (55 pupils) well. The children benefitted from the trip and notably increased their knowledge and understanding of Judaism from the visit and talk.
- VA was excellent! Very interactive session.
- Covered all that was asked and more.

In addition, the VAs often get personal correspondence from the schools thanking them for their contribution. One, to Joe, from Preston Street School in Edinburgh, is worth quoting:

"I wanted to say a big thank you for what is the most enthusiastic, engaging, and interactive workshop I've seen in a school. Our children came away buzzing after your presentation".

Volunteer Ambassador support

We are developing a new policy and process document for our Volunteer Ambassadors to work to, and are having a cards printed with our contact information for distribution at our visits, to ensure that any school student needing further information about Judaism can easily get in touch with us.

We have held two Volunteer Ambassador meetings to celebrate the work of the volunteers and give them our thanks. During that meeting we compared feedback from recent school and other group visits, talked about any difficult questions and group management issues which have arisen, logistical issues, resources and information to be provided before and after visits.

We are provisionally planning to deliver the volunteer training programme again starting in September, and we have met with Fiona Brodie to discuss collaboration with the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre on our volunteer training programme.

Team news

Melissa Eissenberg, who joined us last year as Social Media and Marketing Assistant, is on study leave until July.

Joanne Gabbay and Fiona Frank
June 2019



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing and Supporting Jewish People in Scotland



Glasgow Jewish
Representative Council

Danielle Bett

PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER
SCOTLAND

222 Fenwick Rd,
Glasgow, G46 6UE
0746 886 0427
danielle@thejlc.org

SCoJeC & GJRC are Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, SC029438 & SC047108

Report from JLC Scotland Regional Manager

June 2019



I have now been working for and with the JLC, SCoJeC and the GJRC for 15 months. We are making positive progress on a number of fronts and I believe our working relationship is positive, collaborative and constructive. I'd like to note my thanks to all three organisations for their continued support and leadership.

Some highlights were:

Labour antisemitism

Unfortunately, this continues to be an ongoing issue that the Jewish community has needed to deal with. The most recent update on the matter has been this week's confirmation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission that a formal investigation has been launched into the Labour Party. This includes Scottish Labour.

There have been a few cases of antisemitism in Scottish Labour and we continue to work closely with the party leadership, MSPs and council leaders around how best to improve community relations and to tackle antisemitism. Some progress has been made:

1. A motion was passed at the Scottish Labour conference highlighting the need to tackle antisemitism and the need for comprehensive training led by the Jewish community.
2. Richard Leonard has committed to ensure all of his MSPs undergo antisemitism awareness training sessions which, crucially, will be delivered by the Jewish community.
3. Richard has also asked to meet with the Jewish community's representatives – to hear more about Jewish life and Scotland, as well as to hear and discuss concerns around antisemitism in politics and society.

General political engagement

We have held meetings with MPs and MSPs, including, but not limited to: Lisa Cameron MP, Christine Jardine MP, Ian Murray MP, Stewart McDonald MP, Joanna Cherry MP, Paul Masterson MP, Anas Sarwar MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Bill Bowman MSP, Ross Greer MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, and Angela Constance MSP. This allows us to engage cross parties on issues concerning the Jewish community locally and nationally.

Several Scottish councils have adopted the international definition of antisemitism this year thanks to JLC, SCoJeC and Rep Council engagement: Glasgow City Council, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Moray, Dumfries and Galloway.

Interfaith

A main element of work I have been involved in is setting up Nisa Nashim Glasgow. This is a Muslim Jewish Women's Network, and NN Glasgow will be the first Scottish Group. After working closely with representatives of the Muslim community to build positive relations, I'm thrilled to say our official launch will be on June 27th of this year.

I have also been engaged with the Jo Cox Foundation and the Great Get Together for a second year in a row – celebrating the things we have in common across communities.

Jewish Representation

I continue to work to ensure the Jewish community is appropriately represented at government and policy level. This includes ensuring engagement with a number of Cross Party Groups at the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Alliance against Prejudice and Hate Crime, Hate Crime Consultations and Scottish Faith Action for Refugees. This ensures that Jewish voices are heard, but also that we continue to work with other organisations and communities, provide support wherever possible, and work together on joint issues.

Furthermore, working with the Jewish Leadership Council has allowed for Scottish community engagement with London based organisations and initiatives. For example, attending the Sara Conference (led by the APPG on antisemitism) but also meeting with the various JLC member organisations and highlighting the work of the community in Scotland.

Israelis in Scotland

I continue to engage with the Israeli community in Scotland and to be involved in organising Israeli community events, as well as Israeli cultural events aimed at encouraging participation from Israelis and non Israelis in culture. A particular highlight has been the return of the Seret Film Festival to Scotland, which was sponsored by the JLC. This is a wonderful event which took place in Glasgow and Edinburgh this year.

I work closely with Police Scotland to ensure all of these events are well managed and the safety of attendees is key. I believe that this goal has been achieved this year at all of our events and I have expressed gratitude to Police Scotland for their excellent service to the community.

Other

I do my best to support the community on events and initiatives as much as possible. I am only one person, and I am not able to support or attend every meetings or event. Some things I wanted to highlight are:

- I am working with GMB Scotland to deliver an antisemitism awareness training day in collaboration with training on other forms of hate. This is in collaboration with Show Racism the Red Card.
- Brittany (UJIA Youthworker) and I have been working with BBC The Social, an online platform that reaches young audiences in Scotland. We have thus far created two online videos about being Jewish. The first reached over 30,000 viewers, and the second over 100,000. We are working on more content. This is a great way to reach young, non-Jewish people across Scotland and talk about religion and culture in an informal and light hearted way.

As I've always said, please do reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas. I'm always happy to meet and discuss any elements of my work with members of the community.

Danielle Bett
June 2019