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COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Sadiq Khan tells Labour it needs to make a 'concerted effort' to rebuild relationship with the Jewish community



The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan this week told a packed Board of Deputies of British Jews annual dinner that “the Labour leadership needs to make a concerted effort to rebuild the relationship with the Jewish community”.

Mr Khan was speaking at a central London location to an audience of 450, including Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, actor Tracy-Ann Oberman, parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, ambassadors, representatives of different faiths and the Jewish community’s senior rabbinic and lay leadership, including Orthodox, Reform, Liberal, Masorti, Sephardi and Charedi.

The Mayor of London said, “It pains me to my core when I hear that many Jewish people now feel that a party that would normally be their natural home in our democratic process have been made to feel that it doesn’t have their best interests at heart. And even

“shocking abuse”. In a message to Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn, she said: “You know exactly what you need to do. You know because we have told you time and time again: Enough of your tolerance for hatred against our community; kick out the racists from your party; disown your ‘friendships’ with terrorists and Holocaust deniers. Mr Corbyn: Enough is Enough.”

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick told the audience that she was “proud to protect the UK’s Jewish community”.

The dinner was also addressed by European Jewish

worse, Labour looks reluctant to tackle antisemitism from within the party itself. This simply is not good enough”.

He added: “I have said it before and I will say it again tonight. The Labour Party has been far too slow to act. Labour should have adopted the full international definition of antisemitism, right from the beginning, no ifs, no buts.”

In her speech, Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl paid tribute to the Labour MPs who have been subjected to what Mr Khan described as

Congress President Dr Moshe Kantor, Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev, Board of Deputies Chief Executive Gillian Merron and Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb. Among the diplomats present was the Iraqi Ambassador, Dr Salih Husain Ali, attending what is believed to be his first Jewish communal event.

Read the JC report [here](#) and the Jewish News article [here](#). You can see photos from the dinner [here](#).

Photos: John Rifkin



More than 120 local councillors attend largest ever local government seminar on Jewish issues

More than 120 councillors from almost every London borough attended a councillor seminar organised by the Board of Deputies, Jewish Leadership Council and London Jewish Forum.

This was the biggest attendance for any such event, with a significant number of council leaders and cabinet members in attendance. Many of the Labour councillors said that they had felt it particularly important to attend in solidarity with the Jewish community, in light of tensions between the party and British Jews.

The seminar covered a wide range of issues including antisemitism, Israel, education, social care, the Charedi community and social action, with sector leaders from different parts of the Jewish community talking through the areas of expertise.

Among other speakers were Lee Scott, special adviser to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and former MP for Ilford North.

Read the Jewish News article [here](#). Read a full report [here](#).



Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker welcomes teachers from around the country to a Teaching Judaism seminar held this week at the Western Marble Arch Synagogue with Partnerships for Jewish Schools. Around 50 teachers spent the day learning about Shabbat, festivals, kashrut and other aspects of Jewish life
Photo: Gary Perlmutter

ACTIVITY REPORT

EDUCATION

President Marie van der Zyl, Vice President Amanda Bowman and **Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer Jake Berger**, together with colleagues from the Union of Jewish Students, met Ed Byrne, Principal of King's College London.

Jake Berger and **Education Consultant Sandra Teacher** attended a meeting of the Religious Education Council at the Jewish Museum in Camden.

COMMUNITY

President Marie van der Zyl was on a panel discussing antisemitism, Israel, and Jewish life at Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue. You can watch a stream of the event [here](#).

Vice President Amanda Bowman attended the final module of the Dangoor Senior Leader Programme, LEAD's flagship programme for senior lay and professional leaders of the Jewish community. Amanda is one of the first cohort of 15 leaders from across the community.

INTERNATIONAL

Vice President Sheila Gewolb and **International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff** met Amnon Reshef and Stéphane Wajskop from the Le Comité de Coordination des Organisations Juives de Belgique.

Sheila Gewolb and **Marius Bischoff** met Alan Miller and Jeremy Havardi from Bnai Brith UK to discuss cooperation between the two organisations.

INTERFAITH

Sheila Gewolb attended a reception at the Buddhist Centre in London to mark the start of Interfaith Week.

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