

# COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Marie van der Zyl sets out her ambition to be a 'leader for every part of the community'

7 JUNE 2018  
24 SIVAN 5778

Shabbat times:

LONDON 8.57pm/10.29pm  
MANCHESTER 9.17pm/10.58pm  
LEEDS 9.16pm/10.59pm  
GLASGOW 9.42pm/11.41pm



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1 Torriano Mews  
London  
NW5 2RZ

+44 20 7543 5400  
info@bod.org.uk  
www.bod.org.uk

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## **Marie van der Zyl with Greater Manchester Metro-Mayor Andy Burnham following their meeting on Friday**

Marie van der Zyl has begun her term as President of the Board of Deputies with a series of engagements underlying her commitment to become a leader for the entire community.

Her itinerary included a trip to Manchester to speak with Greater Manchester Metro-Mayor Andy Burnham and community heads, a meeting of the European Jewish and World Jewish Congress executives in Prague and talks with leaders of the main religious denominations.

Marie spent last weekend in Manchester where she met Greater Manchester Metro-Mayor Andy Burnham and thanked him for his leadership against antisemitism in the Labour Party. Manchester has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Association definition of antisemitism and Mr Burnham has written an open letter to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn urging him to tackle the crisis.

Marie met representative council members from Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow on Sunday, to hear their concerns and hopes for the community. She also met leading figures from the community including Mark Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer of Manchester's Federation of Jewish Services, Nava Kestenbaum, Head of North West Services for Charedi charity Interlink and Joshua Rowe, Chairman of Governors at King David High School. As well as addressing Manchester's Representative Council on Sunday, Marie spoke to Whitefield Hebrew Congregation on Shabbat.

On Monday, Marie was in Prague to represent the UK Jewish communities at the executive meetings of international umbrella bodies the European Jewish Congress and World Jewish Congress. She left the Czech capital to visit the Terezin Concentration Camp for the unveiling of a monument in memory of those killed there.

This week she will also embark on a series of meeting with main religious leaders Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism, Rabbi Danny Rich, Senior Rabbi and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism and Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community.

Marie said: "Spending my very first days in office in Manchester with representatives of many of our regional communities and my programme of meetings with representatives of religious denominations from Orthodox to Reform and Liberal to Charedi displays my determination to be a leader for every part of our wonderful UK Jewish community. It was also deeply moving in my first week to attend the unveiling of a new monument at the site of Terezin Concentration Camp and I was honoured to represent the whole UK Jewish community at meetings with international umbrella bodies the World Jewish Congress and the European Jewish Congress. I have started the way I intend to continue."



**Board of Deputies Honorary Officers and staff said a fond farewell to outgoing President Jonathan Arkush last week on his last day in office. Also pictured: new President Marie van der Zyl (left) and Chief Executive Gillian Merron**

### **Board of Deputies calls on Jews to reach out to different faiths**

The Board of Deputies has called on Jews throughout Britain to reach out to beyond the Jewish community, at an oversubscribed conference at JW3.

Edwin Shuker, in his first speech as the new Board of Deputies Vice-President with responsibility for interfaith, opened the day by setting out his vision for the Board of Deputies to bring people of different faiths together.

He said: "It is not enough for people of different faiths to tolerate each other. We Jews must reach out to others, and identify our shared challenges and interests. I want the Board of Deputies to be at the centre of interfaith activity in Britain."

Jewish delegates from across the country were able to put their questions to a variety of speakers.

The event was organised by Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff.

For a full report on the event, click [here](#)

### **Sheila Gewolb condemns Corbyn's statement on Gaza**

Board of Deputies Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb has challenged Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn on his statement issued on Tuesday in which he called Britain's failure to call for an independent investigation into killings at the Gaza border "morally indefensible"

Sheila said: "Every country has the right to defend its own borders. Jeremy Corbyn's statement failed to show any appreciation for the threats that Israel faces, nor for the fact that terrorist organisations Hamas and Islamic Jihad have admitted that many of those on the front line were their own operatives, under orders to breach the border fence and 'tear out the hearts' of Israeli civilians living on the other side. If Mr Corbyn wants to be a credible peace broker he has got to show that he understands Israel's security needs. He also has to answer the question about what he would do if hundreds of members of a terrorist organisation like Daesh were trying to breach a UK border fence, under orders to kill British citizens."

# Board of Deputies Activity

## COMMUNITY

**President Marie van der Zyl and Chief Executive Gillian Merron** met Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner to discuss future engagement between the organisations.

**Marie van der Zyl and Gillian Merron** met Senior Rabbi and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism Rabbi Danny Rich to discuss future engagement between the organisations.

**Marie van der Zyl, Vice President Amanda Bowman, Gillian Merron and Finance and Operations Director Greg Lyons** attended the **Lead and JVN Jewish Communal Trustees Conference**

**Phil Rosenberg** met Claudia Mendoza, the Public Affairs Director at the Jewish Leadership Council, to discuss issues of policy and strategy facing the community.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Phil Rosenberg** attended an Operation Black Vote event in Parliament with the Rev Al Sharpton, Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott and other prominent speakers. The event focused on challenges facing black communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Phil Rosenberg** attended a multifaith roundtable on climate change hosted by the Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to

**Sheila Gewolb** attended the 210th anniversary gala of the Consistoire Central Israélite de France in the Hotel de Ville, Paris. The institution was set up in 1808 by Napoleon to administer Jewish worship and congregations in France. Guest speakers included the Prime Minister of France, Edouard Phillippe, the Mayor of France, Anne Hidalgo, and the President of the Consistoire, Joël Mergui.

On Sunday, The Zionist Federation is holding a counter demonstration to the Al Quds Day rally, entitled [Stand Against Hate, Stand Against Hezbollah](#). It takes place at 3pm outside the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London.

## INTERFAITH

**International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff** went to the Interfaith Iftar at St John's Wood Synagogue organised by the Naz Legacy Foundation. Among the guests were Bishop of London Cardinal Nichols, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

**Vice President Edwin Shuker** attended an iftar for the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association, which was hosted by Finchley Reform Synagogue.

## EDUCATION

**Phil Rosenberg and Education Policy Officer Dawn Waterman** met Rabbi Avrohom Pinter, Principal of Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls' School, to discuss the challenges facing the Charedi

the Holy See, at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

## EXHIBITION

**Vice President Edwin Shuker** and **Treasurer Stuart MacDonald** attended the Annual UJS Incubator Exhibition, "Exploring Identities" at JW3.

## HEALTH

**Medical Adviser Professor David Katz** and **Government Affairs Officer Daniel Elton** met Ministry of Health officials to discuss reforms to the organ donation system.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb** had a conference call with Evan Hochberg, Senior Restitution Policy Specialist and Director of International Affairs, at the World Jewish Restitution Organization. They spoke about the areas of joint co-operation with the Board of Deputies and how the relationship can be progressed.

schools' sector.

## ROYAL

**Stuart MacDonald, Greg Lyons** and **Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff** represented the Board of Deputies at the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

## CORONER SERVICES

**Professor David Katz** and **Daniel Elton** met Michael Livingston, Justice and Home Affairs Advisor in the No 10 Policy Unit, to discuss coroner accountability.

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