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COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Jewish community responds to Jeremy Corbyn's 'ill-conceived' Guardian article



Following the release of Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn's Guardian article, issued shortly before Shabbat came in last Friday, the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council issued this statement on Saturday evening.

"Post Sabbath, Jewish organisations can now respond to Jeremy Corbyn's ill-timed and ill-conceived Guardian article on Labour's antisemitism

"Above all, however, Mr Corbyn's ideological hostility to the IHRA definition of antisemitism epitomises the enduring problem. His article falsely claimed that

problem. Once again Mr Corbyn, of all people, has chosen to lecture Jews on antisemitism.

"His Guardian piece repeats much of his previous Evening Standard article, published the day we met him to explain our concerns.

"In that article and in that meeting, on 24 April, Mr Corbyn made numerous empty assurances regarding communications and being a "militant opponent of antisemitism".

"Sadly, since then, the vilification of our community and its representatives has worsened significantly, both in meetings and throughout Corbynite social media. Whether you call this antisemitic or not, the end result is the same: Jews and those who support them are being purged out of the Party. This is happening from Members of Parliament to local activists.

"Without seeking to rebut every point of Jeremy Corbyn's article, we note his misleading claims regarding consultation with Jewish groups and how his past behaviour utterly belies what he suddenly now says about Zionism not being racism. His words regarding the Holocaust beg the question as to why he has previously sought to relativise it on so many past occasions.

Labour's new Code only sought to alter one part of the definition. As can be plainly seen, the Code alters and relegates four parts that say it may be antisemitic to: 1. Accuse Jews of disloyalty, 2. Compare Israel to Nazi Germany, 3. Hold Israel to unique standards and 4. Call a Jewish State racist. It is quite obvious why Jeremy Corbyn and Seumas Milne are so anxious to diminish these parts of the IHRA definition. Furthermore, it is contemptible that Mr Corbyn cites the Home Affairs inquiry into antisemitism, whilst ignoring what it rightly said about him.

"Actions are the only thing that have ever mattered. We heard and read the same words back in April, at the launch of the compromised Chakrabarti Report and before that, when the Baroness Royall's Report was half-buried. None of the clichés and promises have been met, the hatred and vilification has intensified and the purging is now gathering pace. These are the actions that should matter, not just to Jews, but to all decent people who believe in fundamental liberal democratic principles."

Read an opinion piece in the [New Statesman](#) by Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl and Jewish Leadership Council Chair Jonathan Goldstein.



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl told Sky News viewers that the antisemitism crisis in Labour was 'spiralling out of control'. Watch her [here](#). Marie also appeared on ITV News and Talk Radio

'Positive signs' in new system of organ donation

Board of Deputies Vice President Amanda Bowman says there are some positive signs in the government's announcement of how a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation will work.

"The Jewish community is united in wishing to see increases in organ donation in order to relieve suffering and save as many lives as possible. The way to develop an organ donation system that increases donor rates, protects family rights and respects human dignity is to safeguard trust in the system. It is good that the Government have recognised this by stating that specialist nurses will always discuss organ donations with families and with the provision of a faith sensitive organ donation option. Delivering on these proposals will depend on getting the details right, and we look forward to discussing this further with the Government

and NHS Blood and Transplant.”

Candidates needed for three new roles on the staff team

We are looking for excellent people to fill three new roles – a Fundraising Manager, an Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer and a Public Affairs Assistant.

The Fundraising Manager will co-ordinate the Board of Deputies’ fundraising activities with the objective of raising awareness of the Board of Deputies within the Jewish community and increasing the amount of donations received to fund the Board of Deputies’ advocacy for the Jewish community.

The Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer will be responsible for assisting and advancing the education policy and youth engagement work of the Board of Deputies. This will include advocating for Jewish schools, pupils and teachers and engaging with issues facing Jewish students on campus.

The Public Affairs Assistant is an entry level post in public affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for events management and administrative support for the Public Affairs Team, as well as the Chief Executive and President.

For a full job description of all three posts and details of how to apply, click [here](#).

ACTIVITY REPORT

INTERNATIONAL

President Marie van der Zyl reacted to rocket attacks on Israel launched from Gaza. She said: “I am deeply concerned about the escalation of violence and the more than 150 rockets fired at Israel. I utterly condemn the ongoing rocket salvo from Hamas that has wounded more than 11 Israelis. Our strong commitment to the State of Israel’s right to defend its borders and civilians is uncompromising. My thoughts are with the families of the wounded and injured, including both the innocent Israelis and Palestinians caught up in this needless escalation by Hamas.”

The BBC has changed the headline on its story about Wednesday night’s attacks on Israel after the Board of Deputies complained about its “appalling” stance on the issue. Read the story [here](#).

The Board of Deputies hosted a roundtable meeting with special adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sara Greenberg and young Jewish leaders from around the community. She discussed the nature of her job and current political issues. See a photo [here](#).

International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff met Croatian diplomat Nina Soljan to discuss Israeli-Croatian relations

Marius Bischoff met Angela Kolongo, PR and Communications Officer at the Embassy of Ethiopia, to discuss future collaboration.

GOVERNMENT

Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg met Lee Scott, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to talk about various matters of interest and concern to the Jewish community, including antisemitism, extremism and integration.

Phil Rosenberg met Julian Mansfield, Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, to talk about the Middle East Peace Process and other regional issues.

INTERFAITH

Phil Rosenberg met Sikh community activist and Communications Director of Conservative Friends of India Jay Singh Sohal to talk about community research, public policy and possible areas for collaboration.

Phil Rosenberg attended a planning meeting of the Camden Faith Leaders Forum to talk about how to support community cohesion in the Borough.

COMMUNITY

Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb addressed members of the Welsh Women's Wizo (WWW) and spoke about the work of the Board of Deputies. The group, made up of women who now live in London, raises money for Wizo throughout the year.

Marie van der Zyl and JLGB president Lord Levy visited JLGB's Wanderlustcamp 2018 and judged a talent contest. See a photo [here](#).

ANTISEMITISM

Marie van der Zyl, Vice President Amanda Bowman and **Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met David Delew and the team at CST to discuss antisemitism, extremism and security for the Jewish community in the UK.

Joel Salmon met David Skelton, Google's Public Policy and Government Relations Manager, to discuss what more can be done to regulate and remove antisemitic and extremist content online.

CAMPUS

Joel Salmon met Stand With Us Director of Student Affairs Jonathan Farrell to discuss issues relating to Israel on campuses in the UK.

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