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COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Board of Deputies President applauds Church of England for adopting antisemitism definition without caveats



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has reacted to the adoption of the internationally recognised definition of antisemitism by the Church of England.

She said: "We applaud the decision by the Church of England bishops to formally adopt the full IHRA definition of antisemitism. The adoption of the definition in its entirety – with all of its examples, and without caveats – is a wonderful example of solidarity by a fellow faith community."

Earlier, Marie had thanked the Archbishop of Canterbury for his intervention on the issue. She said: "I would like to express my thanks to the Archbishop of Canterbury for his important intervention in advance of Rosh Hashanah, saying that the Church of England should adopt the IHRA Definition of antisemitism. This moral leadership is warmly welcomed by our community and is a shining example of faith communities uniting against hate."

Read the story in the Daily Telegraph [here](#).

This sends a clear message that the Church of England will not tolerate antisemitism and we thank the bishops, and the Archbishop of Canterbury in particular, for the moral leadership they have shown.”



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan is to be the guest of honour at the Board of Deputies President's Dinner which will take place on Monday November 5. If you would like to attend or support the dinner, please email dinner2018@bod.org.uk

Commission on RE report is 'fundamentally flawed'

Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker has criticised the Commission on RE Report, Religion and Worldviews as “fundamentally flawed”.

He said: “While the commission’s focus on religious education is timely and the provision of extra teacher training is to be welcomed, the report is fundamentally undermined by the dilution of religious education through the inclusion of all world views in an already tight teaching timetable. This might be seen as an attempt by those hostile to faith to push their agenda of undermining rigour in religious education at a time when faith literacy could not be more important.”

Read the BBC report [here](#).

Board of Deputies ‘disappointment’ at Conservative MEPs’ defence of far-right Hungarian government

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl today ‘noted with disappointment’ that Conservative Party

MEPs have voted in defence of Hungary's far-right government of Viktor Orban.

She said: "As we have stated previously, we are very alarmed by the messages at the heart of Orban's election campaign, including his comments about 'Muslim invaders', calling migrants 'poison', and the vivid antisemitism in the relentless campaign against Jewish philanthropist George Soros.

"This whipping up of prejudice by the Hungarian government – alongside restrictions on press freedom and the independence of the judiciary – must be stopped before it undermines Hungary's democracy irreversibly.

"It is very concerning that the Conservative Party MEPs chose to defend Hungary's appalling track record, rather than supporting this motion to protect the rule of law."

ACTIVITY REPORT

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

President Marie van der Zyl and **Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg** attended a parliamentary reception hosted by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

POLITICAL

Phil Rosenberg and **Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met Conservative Vice Chair for Communities Helen Grant MP to discuss relations with the Jewish community.

FILM

Marie van der Zyl attended the premiere of *Ben, a Bar and a Bit of Weight* - a film which tells the story of Deputy Sir Ben Helfgott, a Holocaust survivor who became an Olympic weightlifter.

INTERNATIONAL

Government Affairs Officer Daniel Elton, **International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff** and JLC's Director of Policy and Public Affairs Claudia Mendoza met Claudia Criddle, Head of the Middle East team, Trade Policy Group, and Emily Sarah, Middle East Desk Officer, to discuss the post-Brexit relationship between the UK and Israel.

INTERFAITH

Vice President Edwin Shuker and **Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff** met Phil Champain, Director of the Faith and Belief Forum, to discuss collaborations on religious education and interfaith work.

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