



FOLLOW US FOR UP TO  
THE MINUTE NEWS



## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### Marie van der Zyl joins rally in Manchester to 'Say No to Antisemitism'



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl addressed Sunday's Say No to Antisemitism rally in Manchester, which was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Marie said: "Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn calls himself 'a militant opponent of antisemitism', yet we have seen no end to this crisis, which is of Labour's own making.

"While Labour should be concentrating on the great issues facing our country, they chose to spend the summer picking a fight with the Jews."

"People used to criticise Jeremy Corbyn for his apathy. But now who can deny his own complicity."

he's opposed to all forms of racism - how's that for irony?"

Those speaking at the rally also included the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and MPs Dame Margaret Hodge and Dame Louise Ellman. Home Secretary Sajid Javid sent a message of support.

The rally was organised by North West Friends of Israel and supported by 32 organisations including the Board of Deputies. Also attending were Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb, Vice President Amanda Bowman, Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon, International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff and Grassroots Consultant on Israel Steven Jaffe.

Marie added: "Jeremy Corbyn said that we British Jews don't understand British irony, and yet he says You can watch Marie van der Zyl's speech [here](#).

## Marie van der Zyl: 'PCS Union leader Mark Serwotka has demeaned his office'

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has reacted to a speech by Public and Commercial Services Union General Secretary Mark Serwotka in which he suggested that Israel had created the Labour Party's antisemitism crisis.

Marie said: "By trading in conspiracy theories and stock antisemitic tropes, Mark Serwotka has demeaned his office. The only reason Labour's antisemitism crisis remains in the media is Labour's failure to deal with it. Mr Serwotka should apologise or face disciplinary action from the TUC and Public and Commercial Services Union. PCS members should consider whether they want to be represented by such a man and Government should consider whether he is an appropriate partner with whom to discuss employer relations."

## Board of Deputies launches Judaism Accreditation scheme to support Jewish education

The Board of Deputies this month launches a scheme to support Judaism education around the country.

Judaism ambassadors will offer educational presentations about Judaism as a living faith to schools, as well as in other educational settings in the non-Jewish world.

In the pilot scheme, mentors will be made available to support and accredit ambassadors who are delivering education to both children and adults in the regions. They will impart presentation skills, effective use of artefacts and knowledge of Judaism. They will also help with how to deal with difficult questions and preparation for school visits.

The scheme will be rolled out around the country over the next 12 months. Over this period the Board of Deputies aims to have trained 40 fully accredited Judaism ambassadors.

Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker said: "I am delighted to announce the formal launch of this outstanding initiative to support Judaism presenters across the United Kingdom. The scheme offering mentoring support and The Board of Deputies accreditation kite mark, will be a boon for presenters, schools and educationalists across the country."

If you would like to be involved in the pilot, please email [jewishliving@bod.org.uk](mailto:jewishliving@bod.org.uk)



Prime Minister Theresa May chats to Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl at this week's United Jewish Israel Appeal dinner at which the Prime Minister was guest of honour. Photo: Blake Ezra

## ACTIVITY REPORT

### INTERNATIONAL

**Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb** and **International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff** met Polish Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki to discuss Polish-Jewish relations, Holocaust education and the current situation of restitution in Poland.

### POLITICAL

**Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg** attended the Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel fringe event at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference.

### POLITICAL

**Joel Salmon** attended a Henry Jackson Society event on the rise of jihad in the West.

### INTERFAITH

**Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg** and **Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff** met new interfaith advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury the Revd Dr Richard Sudworth and Church of England interfaith lead Kat Brealey to talk about opportunities in Christian-Jewish relations.

**Phil Rosenberg** published a blog on his recent visit to Indonesia in [Al-Arabiya](#).