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## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### Education Secretary Damian Hinds praises 'insightful' Board of Deputies Jewish Living Experience exhibition



Education Secretary Damian Hinds this week visited the Board of Deputies Jewish Living Experience exhibition which was on display at the Department for Education.

After spending some time looking at the exhibits, Mr Hinds said: "I want to thank the Board of Deputies for a really insightful exhibition. Understanding other people's faiths and beliefs is important for a

It is aimed primarily at school groups and enables visitors to gain an insight into Judaism as a living faith. Designed by education experts, the exhibition supports the teaching of Judaism in line with all agreed religious education and citizenship curriculums.

A steady stream of Department for Education staff visited the exhibition throughout the morning,

cohesive, tolerant society, and I welcome any opportunity for the department to further develop its own understanding of and relationships with those groups that form our wonderfully diverse school system.”

The exhibition has been developed by the Board of Deputies to educate children and adults about the Jewish way of life.

including one civil servant who attempted to blow the shofar.

**Photo: Education Secretary Damian Hinds chats to Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker and Education Development Manager Sara Perlmutter**

## Jeremy Corbyn endorses 'yet another extremist position'

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has commented on a video showing Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking alongside and applauding those who consort with Holocaust deniers and extremists.

Marie said: “The list of things for which Jeremy Corbyn needs to apologise to Jews and Israelis grows and grows. Applauding a speaker calling for Israel to be dismantled is endorsing yet another extremist position. This rag-tag band of racists, extremists, antisemites and Holocaust deniers with whom Mr Corbyn has consorted has contributed not one iota to peace in the Middle East. They have served only to spread hatred against Jewish communities and the entrenchment of hardline views that have extended the conflict.”

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

## Condemnation for antisemitic Shenley daubings

The Board of Deputies has condemned a series of antisemitic scrawlings featuring the words “Jew Ghetto” which were discovered on Monday morning at various locations in the village of Shenley in Hertfordshire.

A spokesperson said: “The residents of Shenley should not be subjected to this disgusting antisemitism. We hope the perpetrator is identified and subjected to the full force of the law.”

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



A Board of Deputies team led by Senior vice President Sheila Gewolb met members of the Central Europe Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office this week to relay concerns about antisemitism and human rights in Hungary. The Board of Deputies is backing Marom UK's campaign to protect the [Auróra](#) Jewish community centre in Budapest - which supports LGBTQ people, Roma and other minorities - from the threat of closure by Hungary's government. Also representing the Board of Deputies were International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff, and Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff. They were joined by Rabbi Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism in the UK.

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## ANTISEMITISM

**Vice President Amanda Bowman** was interviewed on BBC London News this week about the use of "the Y word" by Spurs fans and its effect on antisemitism in football. You can see the interview [here](#).

## INTERNATIONAL

**President Marie van der Zyl** and **International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff** met Sharon Nazarian, Senior Vice President, International Affairs for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), to discuss antisemitism in the UK and an upcoming ADL trip to the United Kingdom.

**Marius Bischoff** met US Embassy Political Specialist Justine Lancaster and Political Analyst Naomi Chalupczak at the US Embassy to discuss Holocaust restitution.

## INTERFAITH

**Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff** attended "Democracy in Crisis?" a conference by the Council of Christians and Jews, to discuss the response of faith leaders to the emergence of far-right populism and extremism in societies across the world.

**Marie van der Zyl** will be speaking at the book launch of 'Echoes of Contempt, a History of Judeophobia and the Christian Church', by Bruce D. Thompson, at which the author will be in conversation with Rabbi Alexandra Wright. The event is at a north London venue on Thursday February 7 at 5.30pm. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, email [rosita.rykobaite@bod.org.uk](mailto:rosita.rykobaite@bod.org.uk)

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