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THE MINUTE NEWS



COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Joint statement calls for Labour to disown Peterborough candidate Lisa Forbes



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl, Jewish Leadership Council Chief Executive Simon Johnson and Community Security Trust Chief Executive David Delew have called on Labour to disown Peterborough by-election candidate Lisa Forbes.

They said: “The revelation that Labour’s Peterborough candidate Lisa Forbes liked a racist Facebook post accusing Theresa May of having a “Zionist Slave Masters agenda” as recently as April – and previously welcomed a post indulging the bizarre conspiracy theory that Mossad and the CIA are behind Daesh – brings into question her suitability for public office.

Ms Forbes has now apologised, saying she had not seen these words, but this stretches the limits of

last November’s resignation of two senior councillors, who said they had been pressured against when trying to complain about antisemitism.

Ms Forbes also says she will seek antisemitism training. This is somewhat ironic given her previous rejection of the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

We are fed up of hearing that Labour opposes antisemitism while repeatedly hearing excuses that its members accidentally missed the racism that was staring them in the face.

Unless Labour disowns Lisa Forbes as a candidate, it will only confirm the party’s shameful descent into the racist mess for which they are now being investigated by the EHRC.”

credulity, especially given the high profile problems in Labour and the previous antisemitism scandals in Peterborough Labour circles, such as Alan Bull and

Read the Guardian story [here](#) and the Evening Standard report [here](#).

Board of Deputies condemn Galloway over 'Israel flags' tweet

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has reacted to a tweet by George Galloway in which he wrote that Tottenham's defeat in the Champions League final meant "no Israel flags on the cup".

Marie said: "We would like to thank Tottenham Hotspur FC for calling out the 'blatant antisemitism' in George Galloway's tweet. We also applaud talkRADIO for taking this poisonous and divisive figure off air. His attempt to bring hatred into a wonderful occasion for English football has attracted the derision it deserves."

Read the BBC report [here](#) and the Daily Mail article [here](#).

Jewish community organisations send open letter to Labour calling for expulsion of Peter Willsman

Jewish community organisations have sent a jointly signed letter to Labour General Secretary Jennie Formby calling for the immediate expulsion of Labour NEC member Peter Willsman from the Party.

In the letter signed by the Board of Deputies, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust, Willsman is condemned for his "antisemitic slur" in "accusing religious leaders from across the Jewish community of not only being liars, but of acting as a fifth column for a foreign state. It plays directly to age-old accusations of Jewish conspiracy, treachery and dual loyalty. It is racist by any measure. It is also, ironically, one of the behaviours described as antisemitic in the definition of antisemitism that Labour's leadership very grudgingly adopted last year, but have still failed to include anywhere on the party's website."

The letter also notes "how efficient Labour's disciplinary processes can be when there is the will to make them so".

It concludes by saying that "Pete Willsman must be immediately dismissed from Labour's National Executive Committee and expelled from the Labour Party"

Read the letter [here](#).



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl received a standing ovation for her speech this week at the ADL National Leadership Summit in Washington DC. You can watch the speech on Britain's antisemitism problem by clicking on the image



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl (right) and Chief Executive Gillian Merron met former Prime Minister Tony Blair to discuss antisemitism

ACTIVITY REPORT

ANTISEMITISM

Vice President Amanda Bowman has welcomed the decision of YouTube to ban Holocaust denial from its platform. Amanda said: "In an era of fake news and extremism, countering the spread of false truths and conspiracy theories has never been more important. For a long time, we have advocated to YouTube and other social media companies that their policies do not go far enough, and those that are in place are implemented weakly. It is therefore a positive step in the right direction that YouTube will ban Holocaust denial from their platforms as well as any material that glorifies Nazism. We will continue to press the case to other social media companies that more needs to be done to combat hate."

Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon met the CST'S Digital Media Specialist and Design Assistant Rosanna

Rafel-Rix to discuss combatting antisemitism and extremism on social media.

EDUCATION

Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb participated in the award-winning project 'Buried Treasure', an initiative of Cumbria Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). It links sacred texts from different faith communities to the themes of love, unity, justice and honesty.

The Board of Deputies' educational resource – the essential guide for those teaching Judaism in GCSE Religious Studies – is available now. 'Judaism GCSE Religious Studies – The Definitive Resource', by renowned educationalist Clive Lawton, provides an unbiased description of the diversity within the Jewish community, and highlights the issues that are of most importance. The 140-page resource is designed to be easy to use and provides information for both students and teachers. Each topic is headed by a list of key facts, which is followed by fuller explanatory material. Vocabulary for the key facts has been carefully regulated to ensure it is easily accessible to GCSE pupils. It is available to buy as a PDF download for £9.99 or a hard copy for £17.49 (£14.99 plus £2.50 per copy postage and packing inside the UK). For details of how to get copies, click [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL

Chief Executive Gillian Merron spoke to top Israeli civil servants visiting the UK as part of their MA programme. The talk was organised by the Israeli embassy.

Chief Executive Gillian Merron spoke to the counter demonstration at the Al Quds Day rally. You can see her speech [here](#).

Vice Chair of the International Division Ido Ben-Shaul attended a Zionist Federation reception for the incoming UK Ambassador to Israel, Neil Wigan.

POLITICAL

Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg and **Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** attended the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism.

Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg and **Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met Change UK's stakeholder manager Sian Green.

COMMUNITY

Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Cardiff branch of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), where she explained the role of the Board of Deputies in supporting small communities and fighting antisemitism.

Chief Executive Gillian Merron attended the Jewish Women's Aid Inaugural Dinner. Guest speaker was Margaret Hodge MP.

INTERFAITH

Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff and Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer Jake Berger, had a discussion with Imam Qari Asim – the Head Imam at Makkah Mosque Leeds and Chair of Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board – and Alex Fenton of the Movement for Reform Judaism, to discuss ideas for raising awareness of the persecution faced by Uighur Muslims in China.

Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff met colleagues from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to discuss next steps for the Invest in Peace programme, which brings together churches and synagogues in Britain to support Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding.

from this newsletter, please [click here](#).