



c/o Finchley and Golders Green Labour Party, 38 Church Lane, London, N2 8DT

Parliamentary Labour Party

House of Commons

SW1A 0AA

26th March 2018

Dear members of the PLP,

The Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) has existed for 115 years to campaign for the Labour Party within the Jewish community, and to represent the needs and concerns of the Jewish community within the Labour Party. We approach our centenary of affiliation to the Labour Party in 2020, making JLM one of the oldest parts of the Labour movement.

In the past two years we have fought hard to rid our movement of antisemitism. We have trained over 2,000 Labour Party members in 'Confronting Antisemitism and Engaging Jewish Voters'.

We have campaigned to change the Labour Party's Rule Book to make discrimination against any protected characteristic, including antisemitism, a disciplinary offence. We have challenged those engaging in antisemitism without fear or favour.

In doing so, we have faced consistent attack from within our own Party. We have faced calls by members for our expulsion from the Party, and for us to be stripped of our 2017 Labour Party Best Practice Award. JLM members are frequently the targets of deliberate and calculated abuse.

We are told we only exist to weaponise antisemitism in order to undermine the leadership. People claim that we are agents of the Israeli State. That we are racists for believing in a two-state solution. JLM's affiliations to CLPs where we have new members are met with hostility and questioning. People have attended our training sessions specifically to harass our speakers. Rather than listening to what we say, we are instead told what we believe.

Yet time and again, in local meetings, on conference floor, or by the leadership, these forms of antisemitism have gone unnoticed or unchallenged.

Firstly, we experience the antisemitism that we have seen for centuries - the imagery and language that was demonstrated so clearly in the Tower Hamlets mural. Jewish caricatures are used to present a global conspiracy at the expense of the working class. This imagery has been used across history to legitimise the very worst racism, discrimination and violence against Jews. It can never be a part of legitimate political discourse. Freedom of expression should never be an excuse for inciting hatred.

Secondly, we have seen antisemitism creep into our Party under the cloak of anti-Zionism. Legitimate debates over how we achieve a lasting peace for Israel and Palestine are sullied by those who ignore our calls for sensitive language and discussion. Not all criticism of the actions of the Israeli Government are antisemitic. But when those criticisms are antisemitic we expect action, not tolerance.

Instead, social media pages that use the Labour Party's name are used to hold Jewish members accountable for the actions of the Israeli government. We are made responsible for a supposed imperialist conspiracy. The Holocaust and Jewish history are twisted to marginalise antisemitism.

The Jewish Labour Movement represents over 2000 Labour supporting members of the Jewish community and has been affiliated to the Labour Party since 1920.

When Jewish Labour members call for action, the response of any socialist should be to show solidarity. Some have heeded that call, others have not.

Today, in an unprecedented move, the Jewish community has written to the PLP to ask for that solidarity to be expressed in clear and no uncertain terms.

A gathering will commence in Parliament Square at 5.30pm. We ask that if you can, you join us there; join us in the fight against antisemitism in the Labour Party; and stand in solidarity with the Jewish Labour Movement.

Yours sincerely,

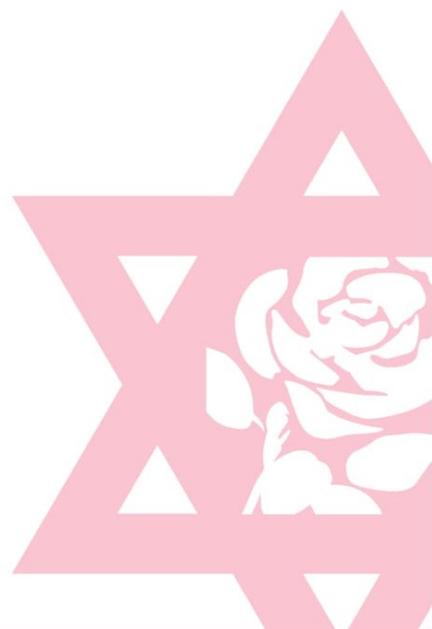


Luciana Berger MP
JLM Parliamentary Chair

On behalf of JLM's NEC



Peter Mason
JLM National Secretary



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