



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

Richard Burgon MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

16 April 2019

Dear Mr Burgon

I am writing in response to the publication of a video by investigative journalist Iggy Ostanin on social media today in which you told a meeting that “The enemy of the Palestinian people are Zionists and Zionism is the enemy of peace and the enemy of the Palestinian people.”

This was despite claims on the Daily Politics last year to Andrew Neil that you had not spoken these words; indeed, that this was not your view and that you had not spoken these comments.

These comments are a direct attack on the Jewish people’s right of self-determination, and it is worrying how you slip easily from discussing Jews to Zionist in terms that describe us as an enemy.

Research has shown that the vast majority of British Jews identify as Zionists – irrespective of their views on Israel’s current government and policies. Insulting a core part of their identity, and then dissembling about it, is shameful behaviour from a senior frontbencher for our Party, let alone someone who aspires to administer our justice system.

On behalf of the Jewish Labour Movement, the Party’s sole Jewish affiliate, I am asking for clarity: do you believe Zionism is the enemy of peace or not?

I sincerely hope that you will clarify your position and issue a full apology for these abhorrent comments.

At our recent AGM, JLM members discussed the crisis of antisemitism in the Labour Party and overwhelmingly voted to insist on active solidarity from Labour MPs. Therefore, I would ask that you confirm JLM’s position as representing the majority Jewish opinion in the Party, disassociate yourself from other, non-representative groups and that you become an affiliate member of our Movement.

Yours sincerely

Mike Katz  
National Chair, Jewish Labour Movement

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