

RICHARD BURGON STATEMENT FOR THE JEWISH LABOUR MOVEMENT

The election defeat was devastating for everyone who needs a Labour government. The fightback against the Tories must start now.

Winning the next general election means regaining the trust of all the voters we've lost.

We have important battles to fight in parliament against the excesses of Boris Johnson seeking to use the cover of Brexit to push Thatcherism 2.0

But as Deputy Leader, my focus will be on building a Labour Party rooted in every community. I will create powerful local campaigns and community based organising that show whose side we're on.

I fully back our previous two manifestos which offer real solutions to the problems our communities face. These policies are not why we lost and we must not throw the baby out with the bathwater. In fact, those policies can be part of how we rebuild. I'll push for a new Clause IV to hardwire our support for public ownership into our constitution.

But great policies aren't enough. I'll be Organiser and Campaigner In Chief. I'll overhaul our messaging to focus on 10 key policies that are easily explainable on the doorstep and that can be an organising focus for our committed members who will play a vital role in turning around the election defeat.

Our members and trade unions ensure we're rooted in the realities of our communities. I'll ensure that we are a members-led party and I back Open Selection so they can choose their candidate at every election.

I am deeply concerned by our country, under a right-wing Tory Party, entering an alliance with Donald Trump in the United States and other forces such as Viktor Orbán in Hungary.

As a movement, we must unite against racist scapegoating, which is the hallmark of such right-wing populist governments. The recent attacks on unaccompanied child migrants' rights were disgraceful and I fear a worrying sign of what is to come here.

Our Party must be an example in tackling racism. Over the next period, we must run strong Labour Party-led anti-racism campaigns that celebrate diversity and challenge the myth that migrants, black and Jewish communities and other minorities are the cause of the problems in our society.

As Deputy Leader I would ensure we robustly fight anti-Semitism wherever it is found - including in our Party. The shocking statistic that one in twenty adults don't believe the Holocaust happened - and widespread ignorance about the scale of the genocide - underlines why we must fight anti-Semitic stereotypes day-in, day out.

As Deputy Leader I will work with the whole Jewish community to ensure that not only is the great contribution of the Jewish community, past and present, to our country and our movement is celebrated but that anti-semitic stereotypes are tackled head-on.

We must also ensure that there are more resources allocated so that complaints can be dealt with more swiftly. Those found guilty of anti-Semitism should face tough action.

Before being an MP, I was a trade union lawyer for a decade fighting for the rights of workers including those facing discrimination over their race, religion, gender and sexuality.

As an MP, I have been proud to serve as Shadow Justice Secretary under Jeremy Corbyn, working to eradicate discrimination in our justice system, for example, challenging the refusal of the London Coroner to provide a service that respected Jewish burial practices.

I am the Secretary of the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs, founded by Tony Benn, and believe our values of peace and justice, anti-racism and equality,

and socialism are more necessary than ever. I'll push for a Labour Peace Pledge so we never again repeat the mistakes of Iraq. As a party, and co-operating with European Socialist Parties and other members of the Socialist International, we must work to advocate conflict resolution and peace including across the Middle East and for a two-state outcome for Israel and Palestine.

Our communities, in all their diversity, need a Labour government. Whoever is Leader, I'll be a team player laser-focused on winning back power.