

I am proud that the Jewish Labour Movement has been affiliated to the Labour Party for 100 years, and as Leader I want to ensure that it remains affiliated for the next hundred years and beyond. I really value the meetings I have with JLM in Manchester and through that connection and my work with the Jewish community in my own constituency, I have developed a deeper understanding of key issues like defending Jewish schools and ensuring the availability of Kosher food. I also know how hurt and angry the Jewish community is at Labour's failure to combat antisemitism. It is vital to recognise that anger and apologise for our failures. As Leader of the Labour Party I want to rid our country of the racism experienced by all of our communities. It begins by ending racism within our own ranks.

Too often the response to allegations of racism has been defensive rather than met with self-scrutiny, self-criticism and self-improvement. Under my leadership that approach will change. I supported my local council in adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism, and have committed to supporting all the Board of Deputies' recommendations, including ensuring our processes are transparent, fully independent and properly scrutinised. When elected Leader, I will work with the Jewish Labour Movement to enact these reforms. We need to ensure our processes work for, and carry the confidence of, all of those who experience racism, discrimination, harassment and bullying. It is deeply distressing that the Equality and Human Rights Commission are investigating our processes. As Labour leader I will enact any of their recommendations swiftly and in full.

Reforming the disciplinary procedures so they are properly independent is necessary but so too is an educational programme for party members. The problem of antisemitism extends beyond the small number of ideological antisemites, just as it does in the general population, to those that hold negative and stereotypical views of Jews. Too often when talking about the distribution of power people use stereotypical ideas and images. We need an education programme that challenges the conspiracy theories, explains the tropes, and why Jewish people in Britain today, for whom the Holocaust is a recent memory, see the existence of a Jewish state as a source of hope and security.

As Labour leader it will be my top priority to rid our party of racism, working with the Jewish Labour Movement, so that every single person feels welcome and safe within the labour movement. With the far-right on the rise, Labour needs to lead the way in becoming a truly anti-racist party. This couldn't be more urgent: we need to play our part in a unified anti-fascist movement, standing side by side with the Jewish community and all those under attack from resurgent racism.

