

I know that the work needed to rebuild trust with the Jewish community cannot be underestimated. The Labour Party has let you down. The first step I will undertake as Deputy Leader to rebuild trust, is to start listening.

For too long, we have been on the defensive and replied to your concerns with statistics, which don't always show the full picture. Firstly, they rely on everyone reporting incidents. We know that the victims of bigotry don't always feel able or comfortable doing this.

Secondly, when looking at a culture that has become unwelcoming and uncomfortable for a group, whether it's based on race, religion, disability, sexuality or gender, not everything is quantifiable. Reciting numbers has been of little comfort to the many Jewish members who have told me that the Labour Party does not feel like a safe space for them anymore.

I have already signed up to the Board of Deputies ten pledges. Simply put, there is no room in the Labour Party for antisemitism. If you express antisemitic views you should be expelled. As I said at my campaign launch "the first line in the sand is antisemitism. Cross that line and you're out. Apologies are worthless without action."

Too often the campaign for Palestinian rights, and opposition to the awful, authoritarian and right-wing Netanyahu government have been hijacked by people who have done nothing to help the people of Palestine, to promote age old antisemitic conspiracy theories about lobbies, money and media control.

Using 'Israel' or 'Zionist' as a proxy for Jew has become too prevalent in our debates. This must end. Zionism is a political movement and is open to debate and criticism but that is quite different to using Zionist as a simple term of abuse. I understand why, given the millennia of persecution of Jews in Europe, the majority are Zionists, supporting the existence of a Jewish state. This sounds so obvious, yet at times it has been lost.

Even a single incident of denying the Holocaust or citing blood libel conspiracies is one too many but there is also a wider challenge in tackling dog-whistle and coded antisemitism.

This needs leadership. It is not enough to introduce more robust, quicker and independent disciplinary procedures, essential though that is. As deputy leader I will do everything I can to make sure that it is racists who feel unwelcome in our party, not Jews. We cannot hide behind process or procedure as a reason not to call out hatred. We have to make clear the kinds of behaviour that we will and will not accept.

The alternative is to risk not just sending the wrong message to Jewish people, but perhaps worse, sending the wrong message to racists, that they have a home in our movement. We must always be clear that there is no place for them here. As I once led the successful effort to expel BNP activists from my old trade union, we must do the same, both through disciplinary action and political leadership.

There is also a role for education, where there is genuine ignorance. The Jewish community in this country makes up just 0.5% of the UK population and tends to be concentrated in certain places. Some people will have had limited interactions with Jewish people and may not have a wider understanding about antisemitism, what it looks like and how it manifests itself. This means they are less able to recognise and call it out when it occurs.

We've begun the process of educating members but we must do far more and that should be led by the Jewish community itself. As our only Jewish affiliate, the Jewish Labour Movement should play a leading role.

As deputy leader, I would make sure the support and resources were provided to help you educate our membership so we can all fight this scourge together.

We must never forget a fundamental truth: nobody understands the scourge of misogyny like women. Nobody understands homophobia like LGBT+ people. Nobody understands racism like ethnic minorities. Nobody understands ableism as disabled people do. And nobody understands antisemitism like Jewish people. I won't try to tackle antisemitism by telling you how to face it. Leadership is as much about listening as it is telling.

That is what my campaign is about. Listening to our grassroots and our voters. Empowering our activists to deliver change in every community. I want National Organising Academies that train our people not just to do voter ID, but to win real change.

I want Labour to be a movement again, not about meetings and minutes but about changing people's lives. If we combine that with socialist policies that are truly rooted in people's everyday lives, I know we can win again. Rebuilding trust, reconnecting with our voters, making real change happen.

I want to end by saying that I realise that Jewish people do not want to only be defined by their oppression. One of the many sad realities over the last few years has not only been that Labour, the party of equality and anti-racism, has failed to act as quickly and decisively as we should have, but that it's stopped us talking about the wonderful contribution that British Jews have made to our movement.

This week marks the centenary of the Jewish Labour Movement's affiliation to the Labour Party. One of our oldest affiliates. Many of our trade unions today were born from Jewish unions. Jewish values of solidarity, community and fighting for the oppressed against the oppressor are the labour movement's values too.

I will work with you every step of the way to fight antisemitism in our movement wherever it is found. I want to make sure that if you invite me to write to JLM members or speak at your events in the future, it is not addressing how our movement does not feel like a home anymore for so many, but how we can celebrate a healthy, thriving Jewish left, as a fundamental part of our movement.

Whether you nominate me or not and whether I am elected deputy leader or not, I promise that in me, you will have an ally in this fight.