

On 12th December, the Labour Party lost the General Election. It was however, long before then, that we lost trust with our communities.

Voters lost trust with the party for a variety of reasons, however the issue that has kept coming up, both at local elections and the recent General Election, was antisemitism. How could an open, progressive, anti-racist party such as ours have such an entrenched problem with antisemitism? There is a problem with antisemitism in the Labour Party - and not tackling it head on, has allowed it to continue rearing its ugly head. This must stop now.

As a party, we had a responsibility to tackle antisemitism and expunge it from the party. We had an opportunity to show leadership by apologising to the Jewish community, who we have hugely let down, and by showing we were serious about wiping out antisemitism from the Party. We failed to do this and it contributed hugely to us losing the election. If we could not get our own house in order, why would Labour have ever been trusted to run the country?

It is vital that we restore trust in the Labour Party across the country. It is clear that people did not trust us - we need to accept this, evaluate it, and learn from it, in order to move forward. To begin rebuilding trust, we must start with the Jewish community.

Antisemitism has been a stain on the soul of the Labour Party and if I am elected Deputy Leader, I am committed to eradicating it. That is why my first formal meeting as Deputy Leader will be with the Jewish Labour Movement, as our official affiliate. I believe this is essential in rebuilding the relationship between the Labour Party and JLM and it is the only way we can start to rebuild trust, both within the Party, and externally.

I would then immediately ensure that the Labour Party's complaints process is separate from head office, ensuring it is completely independent. As soon as the complaints process has been separated, I would ensure that all legacy cases are immediately reviewed.

The new team investigating complaints would have the power to act swiftly and expel any antisemites from the Labour Party. Right now, complaints are investigated for far too long and too many cases remain outstanding for long periods of time. During this time, culprits often remain in the party, spreading hate and causing division. I would put a time limit on cases to ensure they are investigated speedily, and culprits are dealt with as a matter of urgency.

We must have no hesitation expelling antisemites from our party. They go against everything the Labour Party is supposed to stand for. Our party was formed to help tackle racism and inequality, not provide a platform for those who advocate it.

Expelling all existing antisemites is a necessary step, but it still does not tackle the root of the issue. That is why I am committed to implementing an educational program, with the help of JLM, within the Labour Party. Some members using antisemitic tropes do not realise what they are doing - we must, therefore, implement educational meetings across every CLP, to ensure this is tackled at a grassroots level.

I am also fully committed to adopting every recommendation made by the EHRC when their report is published - not because it is legally binding, but because it is the right thing to do. We cannot hesitate or argue - it must be implemented straight away.

My drive to fight antisemitism is, in part, inspired by my heritage.

My mum is Polish and I lost lots of family during the war. They were not Jewish, but they fought alongside Jewish friends and my great uncle was killed during that time. My grandma was pregnant in the Warsaw ghetto with my uncle. There is a shared history that I understand and that deeply saddens me. To think that there is a move within today's society to turn a blind eye to antisemitism is terrifying. Never again can we allow this hate and discrimination to manifest.

I am not a career politician. In fact, I had no plans to enter politics. I was an A&E doctor in my local hospital, where I still work shifts, and a humanitarian doctor, treating victims in disaster zones across the world. An opportunity became available to represent my community, the one that gave me so many opportunities, and I realised that it was a platform to highlight the struggles people face across the world.

Since becoming an MP, I have worked with Syrian refugees in the Za'atari camp, treated Rohingya refugees on the border of Myanmar, and have worked with Palestinian patients in the West Bank. For my work last year with Palestinian children undergoing medical treatment without their parents, I met with the Deputy Ambassador to Israel, Sharon Bar-li, upon my return. It was then that I personally experienced vitriolic comments from antisemites within the Labour Party. Some people who purport to support the Palestinian cause unleashed disgusting antisemitic abuse. These views do nothing to support the most vulnerable Palestinians – they are racist, misguided, ill-informed and unhelpful. I chose to put the spotlight on this, as I believed such behaviour needed to be called out - I still do. In so doing, I prompted a further backlash, this time from people unable to even recognise antisemitism in the abuse that had been aimed at me. It is startling that there are those who cannot recognise the most basic antisemitic tropes – as a society, we must tackle this.

Growing up on the breadline, as a mixed race child, with a single mum, under Margaret Thatcher's Government of the 1980s, meant that the odds were stacked against my brother and I. Told regularly that 'girls like me' would achieve nothing, I have shown how a Labour Government can change the lives of 'girls like me'.

A Labour Government transformed my life and enabled me to go to medical school and become an A&E doctor, where I still do front-line shifts. I am determined that no person should have a limit placed on them by this Conservative Government. As an MP, I've taken my passion for Labour values across the world in humanitarian crises, working with the most vulnerable. Only when we give a voice to the voiceless, can we create a more equal society.

We face a huge challenge ahead and we need to prove to the country that we can deliver on our promises. As your Deputy Leader, I would put in place the proposals that I have outlined above, and campaign for a Labour Government that enshrines equality, internationalism and hope. My aim is clear: to take Labour forward together and win the next General Election - I would be honoured to have your support.