



Jewish Leadership Council

Shield House  
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19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Shadow Cabinet member,

It is unprecedented for a Shadow Cabinet meeting to discuss a racism crisis within its own movement. On behalf of British Jews, we are therefore writing privately to you and to each of your Shadow Cabinet colleagues.

We appeal to you, individually and collectively, to examine your consciences and do everything in your power to stop Labour Party antisemitism.

The Labour Party currently attracts antisemites and repels Jews. This is a sickening situation for you and for us, but it is the undeniable truth. Whistle-blowers face legal action and “outriders” are set upon them. The phrase “a new, kinder gentler politics” has proven to be a hollow slogan.

In this situation, to be silent is to be complicit. To fail to lead is to allow evil to flourish.

Polls show that over 85% of British Jews consider your leader Jeremy Corbyn to be antisemitic. A third of the general public believe your party to be antisemitic, whilst 45% are unsure.

To our disgust, when we and others challenge and expose this problem, the reaction is more denial, more bullying, more falsehoods and more hatred against us, our community and those with the integrity to support us. Occasionally, the attacks come from in and around the Leader’s office, but it is also the constant function of social media activists and fake news sites that incite anger at a barely deniable arm’s length from the party leadership. It is a collective culture that attacks female Jewish Labour MPs, the Jewish Labour Movement and anybody deemed “Blairite” or “Zionist”. Now, as we have seen in such shocking terms, it is directly hurting your own party staff.

It is painful to note that the party’s claims to oppose antisemitism - with or without “other forms of racism” - are received by our community as a furious rebuke to our loyalty and integrity: rather than a serious attempt at anti-racist apology, empathy and solidarity. It is infuriating to hear Labour spokespeople claim that Labour’s antisemitism is an unfortunate statistical by-product of the party’s otherwise successful growth under its current leadership.

The Labour Party’s antisemitism problem is cultural, not mathematical. Tackling it begins with tone and action, not denial and proclamation.



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Previously, measures such as a genuinely independent disciplinary process have been suggested. This is partly overtaken by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission inquiry, but we repeat this request, whilst stressing that tweaking processes (such as the Chakrabarti Report) can just as easily act as a cover-up when culture is the problem.

As members of the Shadow Cabinet, you now face a very difficult and unavoidable decision, in which inaction will signal your support for what has happened and what will follow. Please, do not under-estimate the importance of your actions for the future well-being of British Jews, or for the wider message that you give about racism, liberal democratic values and our British society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Goldstein', is written over a horizontal blue line.

**Jonathan Goldstein**  
Chair, Jewish Leadership Council