



PARLIAMENTARY  
**LABOUR PARTY**

PLP Briefing

**Labour leadership meeting with the Board of  
Deputies, Jewish Leadership Council and  
Community Security Trust**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

From the Office of Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party. For further information  
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## **Board of Deputies, Jewish Leadership Council and Community Security Trust meeting**

Following the meeting between the Board of Deputies, the JLC, Community Security Trust and the Labour leadership, please find below a summary of our responses to the requests set out in the meeting.

### **A fixed timetable to deal with antisemitism cases**

The General Secretary outlined her proposals to streamline the disputes panel process. She gave a guarantee to expedite the high-profile cases. As with all legal proceedings, a cast iron guarantee cannot be given on a date of conclusion due to the possibility of litigation by any party, but the expectation is that existing cases would be heard by the July NEC Disputes Committee meeting.

### **Expedite the longstanding cases involving Ken Livingstone and Jackie Walker**

It was agreed to expedite these cases as a priority. Steps have already been taken to begin this process. Barristers have been put in place to facilitate this process, and an advert has gone out for a General Counsel to ensure cases can be processed more effectively.

### **No MP should share a platform with someone expelled or suspended for antisemitism**

It is an expectation that MPs do not share platforms with those suspended or expelled from the party after being found guilty of antisemitism.

### **Adopt in full the IHRA definition of antisemitism**

We agree with the IHRA 'working definition' of anti-Semitism as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as a hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." The Labour Party adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in 2016.

If there were to be further changes to what we have adopted, they would have to be agreed by the NEC.

### **Transparent oversight of the disciplinary process**

There are currently 90 outstanding cases of complaints of antisemitism. So far, 18 of these have been referred to the National Constitutional Committee, the body that has the power to expel members.

The General Counsel that will shortly be appointed would have responsibility for ensuring that all cases of complaints of antisemitism will be dealt with swiftly, fairly and transparently. The suggestion of an Ombudsman, independent of the Party, raised issues around data protection and confidentiality under the new regulations.

Due process must be allowed to be followed without prejudice regarding all complaints.

### **Jeremy Corbyn should lead on the issue and speak out against those that express allegations of antisemitism as smears the leadership.**

Jeremy Corbyn was clear in the meeting that antisemitism will not be tolerated in the Labour Party, and that he does not support the view that allegations of antisemitism are smears against the leadership. People who hold anti-Semitic views have no place in the Labour Party. He made it very clear that attacks on MPs are unacceptable and not done in his name.

**Further follow ups were agreed in the meeting:**

For the same meeting to reconvene following the July NEC.

That the Board of Deputies, JLC and CST would be engaged with by the Labour Party and their views sought on the education materials we will be producing for the membership.

That there would be regular dialogue between the Party, through the General Secretary, Leader's Office and Andrew Gwynne and the Board of Deputies, JLC and CST, on any issues that may come up between meetings.

We recognise that the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council are the main bodies of Jewish representation, which is why we organised this meeting as a priority, and will continue to meet with them.