

Orthodox rabbis' statement in support of Jeremy Corbyn.



An open letter from Leading Orthodox Jewish community leaders in the UK

We were shocked to learn about those that are claiming in the media that the Jews of Britain are outraged towards the Labour party's respected leader Jeremy Corbyn. They have spread rumours that the Jewish population are considering leaving the country for fear he becomes Prime Minister.

We therefore feel necessary to clarify that we have no connection whatsoever with these irresponsible remarks.

Jews are faithful to Go-d and his Torah and seek the peace of the country they reside in and respect their leaders and heaven forbid will not attack their political leaders. As we have been instructed by our sages ob"m, and as is quoted in the book of Jeremiah (29, 7) "seek the peace of the town I have exiled you there, and pray for her sake to go-d for with her peace you will have peace".

In the merit we will endure the burden of exile and continue the ways of modesty here like the thousands of years of our exile in all generations, we shall be accredited to be saved from all calamities and be blessed with a *kesivohve chasimoh tovuh*.

London, 4 September 2018.

Ephrayim Padwa
Principal Rabbinical Authority
UOHC

Rabbi Zev Feldman
Rabbi Cong" Tora Eitz Chayim
Dayan UOHC

Benzion Blum
Rabbi Bobov Congregation
Mot"z UOHC

Yosef Yehuda Weiss
Mot"z UOHC
R"Y Machzikei Lomdei Tora

Moshe Pollak
Mot"z UOHC Dayan Satmar

Leibis hhager
Rosh Kolel wizshnitz

Eliezer Schlesinger
Rosh Kollel Haromo

Avrom Yosef Rubinfeld
Rabbi Charedim Community

Yakov B M Marmorstein
Rabbi Ohel Moshe Synagogue

Elyokim Schlesinger
Rosh Yeshiva Haromo

B N Halberstam
Chief Rabbi
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Shmaya Lev
Mot"z UoHC
Rosh Kollel & Dayan Satmar Community

Eliezer M Stoltzberg
Mot"z UOHC, Dayan Satmar

Boruch C Grunfeld
Rabbi Bobov-45 community

Boruch Leib Rabinovitz
Rabbi Bialleh Congregation

Zvi Nechemia Schneek
Mot"z UDHC Dayan Satmar

Gershon Spitzer
Mot"z UDHC Dayan Wiznitz Community

Yechaskel inzlicht
Rabbi Satmar Birach Moshe

Meir Markovitz
Mot"z Satmar

Dayan S Friedman
Senior Dayan UOHC

Rabbi A Schechter
Senior Rabbi & Mot"z London

Uri Ashkanazi
Rabbi Stanislaw Congregation

Naftuli Elimilech Leiser
Rabbi
Pshevorsk community

Yecheskel shrage fiesel
Dayan Skver community

Yakov David Domb
Rabbi Satmar Tehilas Yoel

Lipa Braun
Mot"z UOHC
Dayan Netra Community

Moshe Yitzchok Lunczer
Rosh Yeshiva Mesivta

Sinai Deutch
Rabbi Shotz Community

Naftuli Pinchas Englander
Mot"z UOHC

The *Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations* is an umbrella organisation representing over a hundred congregations and educational establishments in Greater London. Many *Haredi* Orthodox communities are largely anti-zionist in outlook, as are many non-Orthodox and secular Jewish citizens, and are angered by attempts to conflate anti-zionism and antisemitism.

Immediately following the publication of this letter, The Jewish Chronicle and other outlets claimed the letter [was a fake](#).

The letter was authentic.

One of the organisers of the statement was activist Shraga Stern, a prominent Charedi (Orthodox) Stamford Hill Jew. On 17th Sept, Skwawkbox [published his letter](#) to Jewish Chronicle, in which he attacks the 'zionist agenda' behind the 'smear and witch-hunt' against Jeremy Corbyn. Read on...



Mr Stern has issued a strongly-worded statement, addressed to the Jewish Chronicle, in which he attacks the 'zionist agenda' behind the 'smear and witch-hunt' against Jeremy Corbyn – an idea outlandish to many secular Britons but put on the official record last week in the US when former Trump campaign head Paul Manafort admitted to the FBI that he had '[concocted](#)' a similar smear with an Israeli official against a Ukrainian politician for political purposes.

Stern's letter also contests claims by the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) and Board of Deputies (BoD) to represent the mainstream of Jewish opinion in the UK and the claims that antisemitism in the Labour Party is widespread.

The Jewish Chronicle does not appear to have published the letter. Here it is:

"We believe that the anti-Semitism smear and witch hunt against Jeremy Corbyn is a Zionist agenda and has all the footprints leading to that direction. It is being promoted by the Board of Deputies and by the self-made unelected JLC, who are a well-known pro-Israel bodies- and it's completely cruel and unjustified.

The Board of Deputies and JLC do not represent Charedi Jews, who do not have voting rights at BoD elections and number today over fifty thousand in the UK, of which 30,000 live in Stamford Hill. According to a 2007 study by Dr Markov Wise at the University of Manchester, almost three out of every four Jewish births in the UK – home to the largest strictly Orthodox community in Europe – are in the Charedi community.

The strange thing here is that they are 263,000 Jews living in UK according to the 2011 census. Half of them do not belong to a synagogue according to BoD population statistics, so this half would not have voting rights in the BoD elections.

Add this up with 50,000 Charedi Jews it equals 181,000 out of 263,000 who will not fall under the BoD and the BoD do not represent them. So how on earth can the BoD have the chutzpah to say they represent the Jews in UK? BoD is a pro-Israel body and only represent a very particular part of Jews who are pro-Israel.

Chareidi Jews and most mainstream Jews in the UK are only interested in Anglo Jewry matters and do not get involved in Israel politics. However saying this we do recognise that real anti-Semitism is an issue all over the country and in all political parties. We are convinced that Jeremy Corbyn is doing his best to tackle real anti-Semitism in his party while still giving his people of his party freedom of speech to criticize Israel.

However, we are nowhere near to fleeing this country because of this. As a Charedi Jew I can say that Charedi Jews are the most vulnerable to anti-Semitic attacks as they dress differently and one can see that they are Jewish, therefore this support [letter](#) from leading Charedi rabbis from Stamford Hill including Chief Rabbi Padwa from the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (UOHC) says it all.

Jeremy is a long friend and neighbour of the Charedi community here and everyone who knows him personally says that he loves Jews and is against real anti-Semitism, and this is what he has done all his life.

Times have changed and we will not stop here. We will not be hijacked by the BoD and JLC. We will go further then this to make it clear to all the government bodies and to the press, not to fall into the trap of the BoD and JLC who are extremist Zionist bodies and do not represent mainstream Jews.

Discussions are now taking place that I'm personally aware of and talks are in place on considering setting up a new body of Board of Deputies of mainstream British Jews that will focus only on anglo-jewish matters and will represent the entire Jewish population no matter if they are associated to a BoD synagogue or not and act for the many Jews not the few."

A 2015 Guardian [article](#) quotes studies for the Institute of Jewish Policy Research showing that a majority of UK Jews will be from the Charedi community by the 2030s.