

# The Labour Party

## Head Office

Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT  
Labour Central, Kings Manor,  
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6PA  
0345 092 2299 | [labour.org.uk/contact](http://labour.org.uk/contact)

Mr Peter Gregson  
27 Riversdale Grove,  
EDINBURGH,  
EH12 5QS

01 October 2018

REF: L1156630  
Case No: CN-0857

Dear Mr Gregson,

### Notice of investigation

Allegations that you may have been involved in a breach of Labour Party rules have been brought to the attention of national officers of the Party. These allegations relate to a post on social media that may meet the definition of antisemitism adopted by the Labour Party, and thus be in breach of the Labour Party's rule 2.1.8. It is important that these allegations are investigated and the NEC will be asked to authorise a full report to be drawn up with recommendations for disciplinary action if appropriate.

We are currently at the investigatory stage of the disputes process and at no time during an investigation does the Labour Party confer an assumption of guilt on any party. You are not currently administratively suspended and no restrictions have been placed on the rights associated with your membership at this time.

The General Secretary has appointed Aman Thakar, Legal Assistant, to arrange conduct of the Party's own investigation.

Attached to this letter is the evidence pertinent to this case, along with a series of questions which require your response. Upon receipt of your answers, the Party will be able to conclude this matter as quickly as possible.

**Please respond in writing to the London address at the top of this letter or by email to [aman\\_thakar@labour.org.uk](mailto:aman_thakar@labour.org.uk) quoting case number CN-0857 within 14 days of the date at the top of this letter.**

[postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com](mailto:postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com) is the email address that we will be corresponding with during the course of this investigation. If this email is incorrect please call 0345 092 2299 to update it.

It is hoped you will offer your full co-operation to the Party in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Nareser Osei,  
Acting Head of Disputes

 **Labour**  
[labour.org.uk](http://labour.org.uk)



c.c. Scottish Labour Party  
Edinburgh Central CLP

**Please respond to these questions to the email address outlined in your letter within 14 days of the date on page 1.**

1. Please see the evidence attached overleaf. The Party has reason to believe that this is your change.org account. Can you confirm this is the case?
2. The Party has reason to believe that you posted or shared the statements and petition contained in the evidence pack yourself. Can you confirm this is the case?
3. Please explain what you meant when you started this petition?
4. What did you mean by "Free speech in Labour at risk".
5. Do you think this petition could be seen as hostile towards Jews?
6. Did you write the post alongside the petition starting "Hello Fellow Labourist, some news"?
7. Please explain what you meant when you shared this post?
8. What did you mean when you said "The interview also shows the hand the Jewish Labour Movement (a Zionist body affiliated to Labour) is playing in leading the witch-hunt that is developing in the Labour Party."
9. What did you mean when you said "If our petition is ignored, I think we can then feel safe in proclaiming from every rooftop that "Israel is a racist endeavour."
10. Do you think there's anything problematic about this post?
11. Do you think anyone could take offence by your post?
12. Do you think this post could be seen as hostile towards Jews?
13. Do you think this post might meet the IHRA definition of antisemitism?
14. The international Holocaust Remembrance Alliance includes in its definition of anti-Semitism the following examples:

*Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.*

Do you think your post might meet the IHRA definition of antisemitism?

15. Rule 2.1.8 in the Party's rulebook states:

*"No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. The NEC shall take*

*account of any codes of conduct currently in force and shall regard any incident which in their view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation as conduct prejudicial to the Party: these shall include but not be limited to incidents involving racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia or otherwise racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions, sexual harassment, bullying or any form of intimidation towards another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as determined by the NEC, wherever it occurs, as conduct prejudicial to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.11.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions except in any instance inconsistent with the Party's aims and values, agreed codes of conduct, or involving prejudice towards any protected characteristic."*

What is your response to the allegation that your conduct may be or have been in breach of this rule?

16. Do you agree that these posts show sentiments that are directly contradictory to Labour Party values?
17. Looking back at the evidence supplied with this letter, do you regret posting or sharing any of this content?
18. Do you intend to post or share content of this nature again in the future?
19. Would you be willing to undergo further training if it were recommended to you by the party?

## Free speech in Labour at risk; Petition goes to Conference



Pete Gregson  
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

14 SEP 2018 —

Hello Fellow Labourist, some news:

"[Labour Against the Witch hunt \(LAW\)](#)" revealed that John McDonnell stated in a [recent interview with Jewish News](#) "**What we're saying is it's anti-Semitic to oppose a Jewish state**". This is pretty frightening, coming from the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chair of the Labour Representation Committee. As LAW says "Opposing a state that systematically, and constitutionally, marginalises and demonises Palestinians while subjecting them to discrimination is by definition a form of apartheid. It is not anti-Semitism to state this fact." The interview also shows the hand the [Jewish Labour Movement](#) (a Zionist body affiliated to Labour) is playing in leading the witch-hunt that is developing in the Labour Party. (Guess we'll be next)

In a chilling foretelling of how freedom of speech in Labour about Israel might be stamped on, [Jennie Formby](#), General Secretary of the Labour Party, has written to all Facebook admins for pages with "Labour" or "Corbyn" in their titles asking them to inform her of any posts that might be deemed "anti-Semitic". In response, LAW have invited those same admins to [sign an open letter](#) to Ms Formby informing her they will not be informers. The response [can be seen here](#) - as of 14/9/18 there have been 318 signatures.

I have managed to get another article published in Mondoweiss - on the fallout in the UK Labour Party after the vote adopting the full IHRA, considering why Labour cannot put this matter to bed: "[Why let Netanyahu write the Labour rulebook?](#)"

Please email me at [postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com](mailto:postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com) if you want flyers to take to conference; contact me or if you'd like me to post you 100 flyers promoting the petition. To download copies to print off yourself, [click here](#).

On the evening of the 23rd I shall serve the petition on all 39 members of the NEC and copy the email to all 257 Labour MPs. I shall then forward this notice onto the press. With any luck it might get noticed; but then again it might not. I can't see from [the Conference timetable](#) if the IHRA is likely to be debated. If our petition is ignored, I think we can then feel safe in proclaiming from every rooftop that "Israel is a racist endeavour"

Best wishes

Pete Gregson (in Edinburgh)

