

## RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY GARY SMITH, GMB SCOTLAND SECRETARY ON 6/11/18

- From Pete Gregson, GMB member 222003F; GMB Case Reference 0054023

### Note

Documentation in support of my statements are encoded as hyperlinks in the text. Please download and print these if circulating paper copies of this statement.

Allegation 1: that I posted or distributed materials on social media that are of an anti-Semitic nature.

This allegation is presumably on account of my petition to Labour's National Executive Committee where I state:

#### ***"Labour members declaring Israel a racist endeavour ask NEC to abandon full IHRA***

*We Labour Party members declare Israel to be a racist endeavour. We are not anti-Jewish.*

*We challenge our National Executive Committee to expel us from the Party, if you believe that, according to the IHRA definition you adopted on the 4th Sept, we are anti-Semitic. If you will not, we expect you to return Labour to its previous position, which allowed full freedom of speech on Israel.\**

*We also call into question the adopted point 3) "Applying double standards to Israel by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation". Israel cannot claim to be a democratic nation. Haaretz noted that the number of Arabs in Israel (including Gaza and the West Bank) will exceed that of Jews by 2020. If it were a true democracy, the country would shortly be ruled by Arabs, a prospect so terrifying to Jewish leaders that they can only maintain their control through denying the 4.4 million Arabs living in the occupied areas the right to vote in national elections.*

*We believe that of 550,000 members, the fact that only 45 alleged cases are active in the LBC leaked dossier shows there is no particular problem with anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. However, adopting the full IHRA will multiply the number of these cases many times over. Please keep the Labour Party united and abandon the added examples that stifle me from expressing my view on the racist nature of Israel and the lack of democracy there.*

*My name is below.*

*\*We are aware that Corbyn was minded to [add the rider to Labour's IHRA, which was rejected](#) - "It should not be regarded as anti-Semitic to describe Israel, its policies or the circumstances around its foundation as racist because of their discriminatory impact, or to support another settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict." We urge the party to adopt this rider in full, in order to keep us as members."*

The petition has, at 14/11/18, attracted 730 signatures. It can be found at [tinyurl.com/israelihra](http://tinyurl.com/israelihra)

The GMB Scotland Secretary states that “Posting or distributing materials that is anti-Semitic in nature would also be in breach of rule 5.4 in our Rule Book”.

I take issue with this on two counts:

- A) What is anti-Semitism?
- B) Might it not be that the GMB Scotland Secretary who is breaching rule 5.4 himself?

I shall explain.

### What is anti-Semitism?

There are, in circulation, two definitions of anti-Semitism. The OED is the commonly accepted one:

Google defines it as “hostility to or prejudice against Jews.” Also [see Wikipedia](#).

Then there is the IHRA definition, promulgated by Israel in order to prevent sanctions ever being imposed upon it. To understand how Israel drives the above actions through its IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, now adopted by most UK public bodies and Parties, please read [“International campaign is criminalizing criticism of Israel as ‘antisemitism’”](#) from “If Americans Knew” blog.

Also note that 24 Palestinian trade unions wrote to UK unions and the Labour Party just a week before Labour’s NEC voted for the full IHRA on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. Their request, headed “Labour must reject biased IHRA definition that stifles advocacy for Palestinian rights” was an appeal by Palestinian civil society to the British Labour Party and affiliated trade unions. The appeal was ignored: [read it at here](#). These trade unions correctly observed that the IHRA is a “politicised and fraudulent definition of antisemitism”.

Norman Finkelstein, whose parents suffered in the Warsaw ghetto under the Nazis, also warned Labour against the IHRA in his blogpost of 28th August 2018 [WHY THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY SHOULD NOT ADOPT THE IHRA DEFINITION OR ANY OTHER DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM](#) Another appeal that was ignored...

Over 30 Jewish organisations world-wide say NO to the full IHRA. See [Jewish Voice for Peace](#). Also [Jewish Voice for Peace Board of Trustees Responds to Attacks on Jeremy Corbyn and Labour Party](#)

However, the GMB has, the GMB Scotland Secretary suggests, adopted the IHRA definition. He says in his letter to me that “Support for IHRA is GMB policy under rule 43.3” - but the 2018 GMB Rulebook he sent me simply says “The shop stewards and staff reps ..will work under the authority of the regional committee. They must follow the decisions and policies set out by the governing authorities of the union.”

So why does the Rule Book not explicitly state that it is now a breach of the rulebook to say Israel is a racist state? Are they ashamed to admit they have adopted such a hideous policy?

I have taken advice from Sir Geoffrey Bindman, an eminent QC specialising in human rights law, who knows the IHRA well and he says "It is simply false to say that criticism of Israel as a "racist endeavour " is anti-Semitic according to the Labour party rulebook. .. Context is all and the IHRA document says merely that such a statement could be anti-Semitic in context, which seems to me entirely possible. Of course, the IHRA definition is poorly drafted and perhaps deliberately misleading but the test will be how the party deals with future complaints." You may have seen letters he co-signed in the Guardian complaining about the full IHRA.

Despite its self-description as a "non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism", the IHRA definition seems likely to come before the courts in one of the British jurisdictions sooner rather than later. The reasoned legal opinion of Hugh Tomlinson QC, one of the leading experts on media and freedom of expression law, is worth reading, if only to be prepared: "[IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM](#)"

Geoffrey Robertson QC's more recent, legal opinion reaches a similar conclusion to Tomlinson but with references to "Labour anti-Semitism-Gate" and some useful background to the IHRA's definition. "[ANTI-SEMITISM: THE IHRA DEFINITION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION](#)" and in this [Doughty St Chambers article](#) of 31/8/18, "IHRA definition of antisemitism is not fit for purpose", Geoffrey Robertson concludes that the IHRA adopted by the UK government was not intended to be binding and was not drafted as a comprehensible definition.

Zionist Kenneth S. Stern, thinks the IHRA declaration is being used to stifle free speech. Who he? He drafted it in its original form. See "[Why the man who drafted the IHRA definition condemns its use](#)"

Jewish Voice for Labour take a more extreme view in condemning the IHRA. Just before the 4th Sept NEC meeting, [they said](#) "no definition ever saved a Jew from experiencing antisemitism. It's time to abandon this tainted and deeply flawed text" . It notes "As [Neve Gordon writes](#): 'The Israeli government needs the "new anti-Semitism" to justify its actions and to protect it from international and domestic condemnation. Anti-Semitism is effectively weaponised, not only to stifle speech . . . but also to suppress a politics of liberation.' "

THE FOUR EXAMPLES OF WHAT MAY CONSTITUTE ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE IHRA THAT THE GMB IS USING

- 1) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel;
- 2) Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis;

3) Applying double standards to Israel by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation; and

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

So, it seems the GMB Scotland Secretary considers me guilty of point 4. It is true, I do claim that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.

I argue that:

- a) The GMB, being a union fighting for social justice, must surely see justice for Palestinians as its responsibility, rather than those who have stolen their homes and land. The Nakba is a perfect example of ethnic cleansing in action; to deny it as such is patently ridiculous. Furthermore, with over [50 laws discriminating](#) against non-Jews, along with the lack of democracy in Israel for Palestinians, the reality is that Arabs suffer legislation which denies them equal rights. Racism is vile and the GMB Scotland Secretary needs to understand that failing to call it out as such is most offensive to its victims.
- b) The GMB ought to be supporting United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 194](#) resolving that "Palestinian refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return..." . All I am doing is seeking to further that aim
- c) The GMB must surely reflect upon why those who is accusing me of anti-Semitism: I quote a comment from J.J. Ross on the [recent National article](#) about my campaign:

"The woman behind Gregson's problems is Rhea Wolfson. She is GMB's Glasgow organiser and high up in the [Jewish Labour Movement](#), which is affiliated to the Labour Party and highly effective at promoting Zionism within it. Wolfson worked with Lansman to force Labour and the GMB to adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and now they reap their rewards.

They regularly level charges of anti-Semitism against any who criticise them and destroy reputations with impunity. The undercover documentary "[The Lobby](#) " exposes how Israel funds the JLM to wreak havoc in the Labour Party.

The GMB and Labour rulebooks have been twisted by the greatest racists on the planet to silence any who call them racist. And labour and union leaders do Netanyahu's bidding without question. Orwell's 1984 is come to life with double think as standard. And bombs rain on Palestine with a muzzled world watching."

- d) Hundreds of Labour members have called upon Labour's Complaints Chief Sophie Goodyear and the General Secretary Jennie Formby to act against the JLM and the [Labour Friends of Israel](#) who bring Labour into disrepute by forcing it to ignore racism in Israel. All [requests for action](#) have been ignored time [and again](#), as the Party focusses its energy on rooting out pro-Palestinian activists instead.
- e) Also note that 80% of Conservative MPs are members of "[Conservative Friends of Israel](#)" so it's no surprise the Government is on the side of Netanyahu on this. All the [schools and Unis were browbeaten](#) into adopting the IHRA by May's Government,

- f) For my part, to defend my action, I refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Articles 18–21, which sanctions the so-called "constitutional liberties", with spiritual, public, and political freedoms, such as freedom of [thought](#), opinion, religion and [conscience](#), word, and [peaceful association](#) of the individual. Surely the GMB cannot deny these rights?
- g) The [Human Rights Act of 1998- Article 10](#) protects our right to hold our own opinions and to express them freely without government interference. I appreciate that the GMB is not a public authority so is not bound by this legislation. But if it has adopted the full IHRA because it believes it should do so because public authorities and the Labour Party have, then why seek to excuse itself in this instance by this defence?

Those accusing me may then claim that "An authority may be allowed to restrict your freedom of expression if, for example, you express views that encourage racial or religious hatred." - but I think that would be a case that needed to be proven by this petition. Indeed, one might ask, in return, that Zionists such as Ms Wolfson, the Board of Jewish Deputies, the Jewish Chronicle, Jewish News and Jewish Telegraph ponder on whether they themselves have been complicit in encouraging the very anti-Semitism they seek to oppose.

Clearly not all Jews support the attacks on Corbyn through the IHRA. Please go to [www.tinyurl.com/29rabbis](http://www.tinyurl.com/29rabbis) to read the statement from 29 (now 34) leading rabbis of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations where they support "respected" Corbyn and distanced themselves from "irresponsible" claims in the media that the Jews of Britain are outraged towards him.

Might it not be that the General Secretary of the GMB Scotland Secretary who is breaching rule 5.4 himself?

There is the statement of page 10 of the GMB Rule book- Rule 5, point 4 that "The Central Executive Council, a regional council or a regional committee has the power to suspend a member from benefit or ban them from holding any GMB office... etc .. if the member encourages or takes part in the activities of any organisation or group whose policies or aims are racist or promote racist beliefs."

By adopting the full IHRA and incorporating it into the Code of Conduct, the entire GMB leadership are complicit in the *de facto* encouragement of racism in Israel by persecuting members who would speak out against it.

That there is a racist state in Israel is without doubt. Because many Israeli laws explicitly or implicitly discriminate on the basis or creed or race, in effect privileging Jewish citizens and disadvantaging non-Jewish, and particularly Arab, citizens of the state. These include the Law of Return, laws making military conscription mandatory for certain religions only, the Ban on Family Unification, and many laws regarding security, land and planning, citizenship, political representation in the Knesset, education and culture. [The Adalah database of 50 discriminatory laws in Israel](#) details them all. And in July the Jewish nation law defined Israel

as the national home of Jewish people and downgraded Arabic from an official language, leaving Hebrew as the sole national language. To understand how this law, now part of the Basic Law creates two classes in Israel: Jews hold “national” status which includes the right to protest; others hold “citizen” status – they have fewer rights on many counts, including no statutory right to protest; they must apply for permission to protest, an application which can be (and therefore frequently is) denied. For more information, please view [Know your Stuff: Israel’s “Jewish Nation-State Law” Explained](#) – an illuminating 23 minute video by Dr. Shir Hever.

If Arabs are second-class citizens, and not equal with Jews before the law, then clearly Israel is a racist state. The country was established on the land of 750,000 Palestinians forcibly expelled in 1948 and founded on discrimination towards Arab people on the basis of religion and ethnicity. If that’s not a racist endeavour, I don’t know what is. Clearly Israel now has a right to exist, but it needs to forget the two-state solution, give those in Gaza and the West Bank the right to vote in Knesset elections, make payments or accommodations with the Arabs who were driven from their homes, amend the unfair laws, give Arabic the same status as Hebrew, and stop building illegal settlements and bulldozing Arab homes. (It [engages in ethnic cleansing](#) with impunity. Haaretz notes [vigilantes attack Arabs in the street](#) and the Government, bar one man, stays quiet)

Until it does those things, it is a racist state.

If the Jewish right to self-determination means riding roughshod over the rights of others, then for the GMB to ignore this social injustice would be for it to go against one of its founding planks. The GMB states as its purpose is to:

“... improve the lives of GMB members and make sure their achievements lead the way for working people in Britain and across the world”.

It would seem that Arabs living in Israel and Palestine are excluded from this purpose – the GMB actually persecutes those members who point out the racism these people suffer.

So – where did the IHRA come from? I quote [from this article](#):

“US Department of State, which, since 2008, has defined antisemitism to include any of three categories of criticism of Israel, known as the “three Ds”: de-legitimation of Israel, demonisation of Israel and double standards for Israel.

By the US state department’s definition, de-legitimation includes “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination and denying Israel the right to exist”. Thus anti-Zionism – including the view that Israel should be a state of all its citizens, with equal rights for Jews and non-Jews – is a form of de-legitimation and therefore anti-Semitic. According to this definition, virtually all Palestinians (and a large proportion of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel, who oppose Zionism for religious reasons) are guilty of antisemitism because they want Jews and Palestinians to continue living in Palestine but not within a Jewish state.”

I believe the GMB follow this reasoning - ie that because I am anti-Zionist that I must be anti-Semitic. I state here that I am the former but not the latter.

Allegation 2: that I have, in material published inline and by way of open letters deemed Jews to be collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel

This is patently untrue. I have never said such a thing. It appears the GMB Scotland Secretary has gotten mixed up. He seeks to justify this claim by referring to my open letter to the Labour NEC of 28 September where I say:

“I appreciate that the Labour Party felt the Jews to be an oppressed minority back in the mists of time when Zionism was deemed a cause worthy of support. But the actions of a state founded on the ethnic cleansing of 700,000 Arabs out of Palestine into the makeshift bomb-riddled townships they occupy today, denied access to energy, medicine and rights to trade has well and truly taken any kind of moral cause out of the Zionist creed. “

That the GMB Scotland Secretary could take this to mean that I think all Jews are collectively responsible for Israel’s racism is utterly absurd. The above statement criticizes Zionists, not Jews. The two are different: Zionism is a political doctrine; the Jews are an ethnic grouping.

I’d like to refer the GMB Scotland Committee to read on, to see the text that I continued with in my letter to the NEC, after the paragraph cited above:

“..... It stands for the very opposite of social justice.

The JLM and LFol happily promote a country which is a racist endeavour as articulated in this Mondoweiss piece "[Israel’s new Jewish Nation State law is a reaction to Palestinian demands for equality — Ben White](#)". Over 50 laws enshrine rights of Jews over that of other citizens and both the JLM and the LFol have consistently failed to condemn such racist laws.”

[see evidence of racist laws, cited above.. The letter goes on:]

“If the Jewish right to self-determination means riding roughshod over the rights of others, then for the Labour Party to ignore this social injustice, would be for it to go against one of its founding planks. That the Party has now enshrined tolerance of such views, whereby one ethnic group has rights over other groups occupying the same country (as espoused by the examples added on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept), shows just how far the Party has been manipulated, in weakening its stand on equality for all.

There is nothing published by JLM or LFol condemning these racist Israeli laws. For it is, indeed, racism: as Wikipedia makes clear “ **Racism** is the belief in the [superiority](#) of one race over another, which often results in [discrimination](#) and [prejudice](#) towards people based on their [race](#) or [ethnicity](#).



Whilst both Jews and Arabs are Semitic peoples, the discrimination against Arabs is based purely on ethnic criteria. In Israel, to worship under Mohammed is to be a second-class citizen with far fewer rights. The courts constantly and routinely discriminate in favour of Jewish Israelis, as we all know.

The BDS understand Israel is apartheid as defined in international conventions and the founding statute of the international criminal court: “an institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime”. The recent **Nation State law** passed by the Knesset confirms this to be the case.

That the JLM and LFOI are allowed to parade their beliefs under the Labour Party’s banner does nothing good for our reputation. Labour gives harbour to such extremist Zionist bodies at its peril.

We pay far too much credence to these groups representing a vocal Jewish minority in the UK, at the cost of hearing the views of the reasonable, respectful mass, as recent statements and letters from these weaker and less well-funded groups show.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The *Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations* is an umbrella organisation representing over a hundred congregations and educational establishments in Greater London. In a statement recently issued by twenty-nine leading rabbis from the group, they supported “respected” Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and distanced themselves from “irresponsible claims 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... [and] rumours that the Jewish population are considering leaving the country for fear he becomes Prime Minister.”

Shraga Stern is a prominent Charedi (Orthodox) Jewish activist in London, and was one of the organisers of this letter. Je wrote to the Jewish Chronical [in a letter](#) they refused to publish that :

“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.



I argue that the JLM and the LFOI, by their continued meddling in the working of our Party and their complete lack of empathy to the plight of the British working class, are bodies we could do well without. By their actions they bring the Labour Party into disrepute.

I would go further, by saying they stoke the flames of anti-Semitism in the UK, by their flagrant smears on any who would differ from their stated view, by their gleeful denunciation of any who they perceive as challenging their claim to speak on behalf of UK Jewry. Their deep involvement with the Board of Deputies, an agency increasingly seen to be extremist and marginal to many UK Jews, speaks volumes of those who fear a conspiracy.

Etc...

Yours sincerely,

Pete Gregson”

### Allegation 3: The GMB Scotland Secretary also cites my email to the GMB of 30<sup>th</sup> October ..

- where I say: “How does this square with the GMB's de facto support for silencing those who see racist oppression perpetrated against 4.4 million Arabs living in Israel (I include the occupied territories) on a daily basis.”

You are reading my defence from the charge of anti-Semitism that he has himself framed. He seeks to silence me for highlighting racist oppression. I think this much is self-evident.

The GMB Scotland Secretary goes onto say that “under the IHRA definitions of anti-Semitism examples include: Holding Jews collectively responsible for the State of Israel.”

I have never held Jews collectively responsible for the State of Israel. I challenge the GMB Scotland Secretary to present evidence that I have done so.

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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 than 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.

To do so would be patently ludicrous. I am fully aware of the many Jews who are actively opposed to what is happening in Israel. The footnote cited above suggests 50% of the UK Jews are unhappy with the racist state.

The statement the GMB Scotland Secretary cites “Denying Jewish people about their right to self-determination, eg by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavour” is itself problematic. One might support the idea of Jews having a country they might escape to in order to avoid persecution (as I have always done) without having to swallow the whole racist system that they have created there. I refer the Scotland Committee to my recent article in Common Space “[Pete Gregson: Why 641 Labour members & I will tell the truth about Israel even if it means party expulsion](#)” where I say:

*The statistics on Zionist power in the UK are stark. 80 per cent of Tory MPs are ‘Conservative Friends of Israel’. The explains the UK Government’s enthusiasm for the IHRA and its directives that publicly-funded bodies follow suit. Israel’s Government now controls how so many countries must view their racist endeavour. Europe and the USA have fallen into line - and everywhere we look we see those who oppose Israel’s apartheid being branded as anti-Semites.*

*So much depends on language. Just seeking to compare the Oxford English Definition of anti-Semitism with the IHRA’s should lead anyone willing to open their eyes to see that the latter only serves the interests of Israel in supporting its persecution of non-Jews. We are in a war of words. The Palestinians suffer the real war of bullets, bombs, forced evictions, humiliating discrimination, starvation and misery, with our media, state and church becoming complicit in their persecution. The world wrings its hands and looks away, just as Netanyahu and so many of the Knesset wish.*

### **One or Two States?**

*The deeper I get into this affair, the more I realise that Labour’s conviction that only a “two-state solution” will work is another bad policy. To me, this approach smacks of South Africa’s Bantustans – where blacks in South Africa were offered the chance to rule their own affairs, leaving the rich whites to control the best of the rest.*

*If, on the other hand, we had a “single state solution”, we might see Israel become the kind of democratic nation that deserves to be called a democracy. That is, one where it’s 50+ racist laws are abolished and all Arabs in Israel (including Gaza and the West Bank) get to vote in Knesset elections.*

*Palestinians I have spoken with support this solution. We should then see that country with an Arab prime minister. This prospect is so terrifying to Zionist leaders that they will do anything and everything to prevent it. And they are clever, as their success with the IHRA attests. The racist Nation State Law is another work of insidious genius. This apartheid will be so much harder to defeat than South Africa’s.*

### **Internal Struggles - Anyone Can Join In**

*Every action matters. The UK Labour Party has, for too long, been beholden to Zionists. This summer we saw its power. Yes, I'm talking about the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) and the Labour Friends of Israel (LFI), bodies committed to promoting Zionism in Labour.*

*I felt that they, along with the IHRA, represented an existential threat to the Labour Party, so I registered a complaint against them, that they had brought the Party into disrepute. 'Of course they were innocent', the Head of Complaints, Sophie Goodyear, declared, as she tossed my complaint aside at the same time as her colleague, General Secretary Jennie Formby, decided that I must stand trial on charges of anti-Semitism and – yes- bringing the Labour Party into disrepute.*

*I urge readers to pick up the cudgel and make a complaint - you don't even have to be in Labour to do so. The more we send in, the more power we have. For a model to build on, go to [tinyurl.com/labourcomplain](http://tinyurl.com/labourcomplain).*

I refer the Committee to recent support from pressure group "Labour against the Witch-hunt" who came out in support of the campaign on 13/11/18 with "[LAW Statement: Lift suspension of Peter Gregson from GMB, stop investigation](#)"

At the end of his letter the GMB Scotland Secretary says that "Shop Stewards must follow the decisions and policies set out by the governing authorities of the union and it seems that you have failed to abide by rule 43.4."

This is a fair point – as a Shop Steward I agree I should do that. But in this instance I am caught between two poles. To ignore the acts of Israel could be seen as condoning racism (a breach of the GMB Rule Book under rule 5.4 ), but now the union bosses tell me that I am in breach for so doing.

The GMB Scotland Secretary complains that I mentioned Rhea Wolfson in online comments. But I can see nothing in the rulebook that says I cannot name my nemesis.

If the GMB Scotland feels about racism as strongly as I do, I urge you to flip sides and take up the cudgel against this pernicious IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Together we must kick this concept out of our Union and cease ongoing witch-hunts against activists such as myself.

Pete Gregson

15<sup>th</sup> November 2018