

FAO GMB SCOTLAND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Jim Lennox Chair, Tom Carr-Pollock, Brenda Carson, Annette Drylie, Mary Finn, Alex Logan, Fran McNeill, Mary Mulligan, Charlie Robertson, Duncan Walker, John McKenzie, June Minnery, Cathy Murphy, Phyllis Riddell, Gary Smith)

From: Peter Gregson <postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com>

Sent: 05 November 2018 06:07

To: 'scotland@gmb.org.uk' <scotland@gmb.org.uk>; 'info@gmb Scotland.org.uk' <info@gmb Scotland.org.uk>

Cc: 'info@gmb.org.uk' <info@gmb.org.uk>; 'sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk' <sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk>;

'cath.speight@gmb.org.uk' <cath.speight@gmb.org.uk>; 'Andrew McDonald'

<Andrew.McDonald@gmbactivist.org.uk>; 'sandie.rowlands@gmb.org.uk' <sandie.rowlands@gmb.org.uk>;

'annette.drylie@gmb.org.uk' <annette.drylie@gmb.org.uk>; Karen Leonard <KL.Leonard@gmb.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FAO Gary Smith : Anti-Semitism accusations against me

Dear Gary Smith,

I urge you to read this article from the 28th of August this year, just before the GMB pushed for the full IHRA at Labour's NEC meeting on the 4th Sept.

It is headed "Labour must reject biased IHRA definition that stifles advocacy for Palestinian rights" and is an appeal by Palestinian civil society to the British Labour Party and affiliated trade unions. It is signed by 24 Palestinian trade unions.

I was very saddened at the time that my union had ignored this appeal. You can read it at

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/palestinian-civil-society-groups/labour-must-reject-biased-ihra-definition-that-stifles-advocacy->

These trade unions correctly observe that the IHRA is a "politicised and fraudulent definition of antisemitism".

I fear that by ignoring this appeal the GMB have betrayed our Arab brothers and sisters.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Pete Gregson

PS If you doubt my motives, I refer you to two recent press articles about what I am doing: [National 31/10/18](#) ; [Common Space 26/10/18](#)

From: Peter Gregson <postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com>

Sent: 04 November 2018 21:18

To: 'scotland@gmb.org.uk' <scotland@gmb.org.uk>; 'info@gmb Scotland.org.uk' <info@gmb Scotland.org.uk>

Cc: 'info@gmb.org.uk' <info@gmb.org.uk>; 'sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk' <sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk>;

'cath.speight@gmb.org.uk' <cath.speight@gmb.org.uk>; 'Andrew McDonald'

<Andrew.McDonald@gmbactivist.org.uk>; 'sandie.rowlands@gmb.org.uk' <sandie.rowlands@gmb.org.uk>;

'annette.drylie@gmb.org.uk' <annette.drylie@gmb.org.uk>; Karen Leonard <KL.Leonard@gmb.org.uk>

Subject: FAO Gary Smith : Anti-Semitism accusations against me

Dear Gary Smith,

I received the attached from you today, an accusation that I am indulging in anti-Semitic activities, presumably on account of my petition at <https://www.change.org/p/to-chair-of-labour-s-nec-andy-kerr-labour-members-declaring-israel-is-a-racist-endeavour-call-on-nec-to-abandon-full-ihra> (and associated updates) which in space of two months has attracted over 700 signatures from Labour Party members, at a rate of over 10 per day. [I can only hope this rate increases- I continue to do my utmost to promote it]

That my union has seen fit to see this activity as anti-Semitic beggars belief. You indicate in your letter that the action against me will be in line with Rule 5 of the union's rule book.

After a lot of searching I finally found the rule book at <http://www.gmb.org.uk/about/how-gmb-works/gmb-rule-book>

I note under Rule 5 it says membership may be cancelled "... 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..."

It is my view that the GMB leadership itself, by its unquestioning support for the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism at Labour's NEC, who is the agency that is allowing racism to flourish— in this case the ongoing discrimination against - and persecution of - the Palestinian people.

I would request from you, at your earliest convenience, the following documents:

- A copy of the GMB policy on anti-Semitism [Has the GMB adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism? This claims that describing Israel as a racist endeavour is anti-Semitic. If so, the GMB is ignoring the Nakba, the expulsion of 750,0000 Arabs in the creation of the state of Israel, the slaughter on many children which Zionists undertook the better to make the population flee, the current situation where there are over 50 laws discriminating against non-Jews, most recently the "Nation State" law passed in July: if you have time, please view this illuminating video by Dr. Shir Hever [Know your Stuff: Israel's "Jewish Nation-State Law" Explained](#) - which explains how racism in Israel is now part of the country's Basic Law.]
- A copy of the GMB anti-Racism policy
- A copy of the Disciplinary Policy and Procedures

I have copied in the GMB reps to the NEC as I have been in touch with them regarding the GMB's shameful support for the full IHRA, an action which has been a gift to Netanyahu and Zionists everywhere. The GMB is tacitly supporting a racist regime, by effectively supporting banning criticism of it. The way it looks, is as if the GMB are therefore indirectly supporting apartheid.

I also copy in Sandie Rowlands, Education & Equalities Officer and Annette Drylie, Chair of the Scottish Equalities Forum. Their "Equality Document - Building an Inclusive Union" could perhaps be revised to take account of the interests on Muslim members and would-be members; the fate of the Palestinians is an issue that many Muslims are explicitly concerned about; that the GMB is openly pro-Zionist and initiating disciplinaries again those who call out racism in the Middle East will do nothing to help us recruit Muslims into our union; if we seek to be inclusive we must not, unwittingly, promote a Zionist doctrine of Jewish supremacy.

I have also copied in my Branch chair, who may be interested to understand more about the position the Scottish Committee are taking on this matter.

In the meantime, I shall continue my union activities at NHS Lothian – there is a big grading issue that affects thousands of NHS admin staff that I am learning about - with workers who are sick of Unison's complacency on the matter- and who would like the GMB to take up the cudgel with management. Before progressing the matter I shall seek Karen Leonard's view.

I do feel that a trade union ought to focus on matters relating to the welfare, terms and conditions and pay of its members. I urge you to remember that we are all (in theory) on the same side.

Finally, can you advise me if Unionline Scotland might be able to help me with financial legal support? I have two QCs who are itching to engage on the IHRA. Presumably the union will consider meeting my legal costs on this matter, as any expulsion I will most certainly take to a Judicial Review. I will seek costs. I believe I shall win. How will rank and file GMB members feel about seeing their subs used to pay legal costs - so that you might seek to defend the indefensible?

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gregson
GMB Member Number 222003F

Our Reference: 00053998
GS/JF
222003F

GMB

SCOTLAND

2 November 2018

Mr P Gregson
27 Riversdale Grove
EDINBURGH
Midlothian
EH12 5QS

Dear Mr Gregson

I am writing to advise you that I am investigating as to whether you have indulged in activities and/or have promoted views that are anti-Semitic. The Scottish Committee of the union will be convened to consider taking action against you in line with Rule 5 of the unions rule book.

Anti-Semitism is vile and totally at odds with the values of GMB and this issue is being taken very seriously by our union.

Yours sincerely



GARY SMITH
GMB SCOTLAND SECRETARY

GMB SCOTLAND - EXPERTS IN THE WORLD OF WORK

Scottish Secretary: Gary Smith
Fountain House, 1/3 Woodside Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow G3 7UJ
Tel: 0141 332 8641/9501 Fax: 0141 332 4491
www.gmbScotland.org

UNIONLINE
SCOTLAND

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk