

EMAIL TO NEC MEMBERS OF 7th NOVEMBER 2018 (the fifth sent by the petitioner since 4/9/18)

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

Sent: 07 November 2018 08:11

To: 'w.nichols@unison.co.uk' <w.nichols@unison.co.uk>; 'press@unison.co.uk' <press@unison.co.uk>; 'enquiries@tssa.org.uk' <enquiries@tssa.org.uk>; 'leader@labour.org.uk' <leader@labour.org.uk>; 'team@tom-watson.com' <team@tom-watson.com>; 'Michael.Wheeler@usdaw.org.uk' <Michael.Wheeler@usdaw.org.uk>; 'executive.council@unitetheunion.org' <executive.council@unitetheunion.org>; 'equality@unitetheunion.org' <equality@unitetheunion.org>; 'trickettj@parliament.uk' <trickettj@parliament.uk>; 'rebecca.longbailey.mp@parliament.uk' <rebecca.longbailey.mp@parliament.uk>; 'kate.osamor.mp@parliament.uk' <kate.osamor.mp@parliament.uk>; 'Richard.Leonard.msp@parliament.scot' <Richard.Leonard.msp@parliament.scot>; 'Alun.Davies@assembly.wales' <Alun.Davies@assembly.wales>; 'richard@richardcorbett.org.uk' <richard@richardcorbett.org.uk>; 'vazk@parliament.uk' <vazk@parliament.uk>; 'k.birch@unison.co.uk' <k.birch@unison.co.uk>; 'jim.kennedy@unitetheunion.org' <jim.kennedy@unitetheunion.org>; 'pauline.mccarthy@premierfoods.co.uk' <pauline.mccarthy@premierfoods.co.uk>; 'researchenquiries@usdaw.org.uk' <researchenquiries@usdaw.org.uk>; 'Paddy.Lillis@usdaw.org.uk' <Paddy.Lillis@usdaw.org.uk>; 'press@unison.co.uk' <press@unison.co.uk>; 'abrown@cwu.org' <abrown@cwu.org>; 'sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk' <sarah.owen@gmb.org.uk>; 'cath.speight@gmb.org.uk' <cath.speight@gmb.org.uk>; 'ian.Murray@fbu.org.uk' <ian.Murray@fbu.org.uk>; 'info@aslef.org.uk' <info@aslef.org.uk>; 'joanne.cairns@usdaw.org.uk' <joanne.cairns@usdaw.org.uk>; 'james.asser@yahoo.co.uk' <james.asser@yahoo.co.uk>; 'yasmineedar.labour@gmail.com' <yasmineedar.labour@gmail.com>; 'racheljgarnham@gmail.com' <racheljgarnham@gmail.com>; 'jonlansman@me.com' <jonlansman@me.com>; 'claudia.webbe@gmail.com' <claudia.webbe@gmail.com>; 'darren.williams.nec@gmail.com' <darren.williams.nec@gmail.com>; 'willsman@talk21.com' <willsman@talk21.com>; 'nick.forbes@newcastle.gov.uk' <nick.forbes@newcastle.gov.uk>; 'alice.clarke-perry@islington.gov.uk' <alice.clarke-perry@islington.gov.uk>; 'george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk' <george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk>; 'margaret.beckett.mp@parliament.uk' <margaret.beckett.mp@parliament.uk>; 'shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk' <shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk>; 'nickbrownmp@parliament.uk' <nickbrownmp@parliament.uk>; 'john.cryer.mp@parliament.uk' <john.cryer.mp@parliament.uk>; 'hudaelmiNEC@gmail.com' <hudaelmiNEC@gmail.com>; 'ahendersonlab@gmail.com' <ahendersonlab@gmail.com>; 'navendu.labour@gmail.com' <navendu.labour@gmail.com>

Cc: 'legal_queries@labour.org.uk' <legal_queries@labour.org.uk>; complaints@Labour.org.uk

Subject: IHRA- a danger to Jews; JLM +LFol; No Natural Justice in the Party of Social Justice; the Shadow NEC

Dear NEC member,

I implore you to abandon the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Why?

Those in the NEC who voted in favour need to think again; their vote has played into the hands of the Zionists, and - as my [research makes clear](#) - is unlikely to combat the rising tide of real anti-Semitism in the UK. In fact, it may even have led to more.

Did you know that 24 Palestinian trade unions issued an open letter to Labour on the 28th of August this year, just before the UK unions pushed for the full IHRA at your NEC meeting of 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 Labour and affiliated trade unions. I was very saddened at the time that unions (including my own) had ignored their appeal. [You can read it here](#). These Palestinian trade unions correctly observe 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 [WHY THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY SHOULD NOT ADOPT THE IHRA DEFINITION OR ANY OTHER DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM](#). Another appeal that was ignored.

The day after your decision, on the 5th Sept, [Labour MPs backed your decision](#), with 205 in favour *with no caveats* and 8 against. But who was for and who was against? If you can't guess, you might refer to [Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East's website](#), which lists 130 MPs (including Corbyn) who support Palestine in Parliament. The [Labour Friends of Israel's website](#) lists its 75 MPs. Confusingly, 32 Labour MPs are in both, including wannabe

leader Owen Smith, who possibly sought to garnish as many votes as possible for his leadership bid by sitting on both sides of the fence at the same time.

I also wanted to find out why the [JLM](#) and the [LFoI](#) continue to have the protection of the NEC. At least 15 folk I know have, in the past month, written to your Complaints unit, as I have, about these bodies and the harm they wreak to the Labour project. At every election they have worked in tandem with the Tories to seek division and discord, through their promotion of the fallacy that Labour under Corbyn is “institutionally anti-Semitic”. They are funded by the Israelis to bring down Labour politicians, as “[The Lobby](#)” video shows. Yet still they rise. I am more and more of the opinion that the Party really is “institutionally racist” as Chuka Umunna [claims](#) - but not in the way he means it: it is rather “institutionally pro-Zionist”. [Chuka is another who is both for Palestine and for Israel at the same time (like Owen Smith - see above)].

Were you aware of this petition to you that has run for over a year now, headed “[Disaffiliate the Jewish Labour Movement from the Labour Party](#)”, which has 743 signatures? It provides far stronger reasons than the ones I have furnished you with to date as to why the JLM should depart our Party.

LFoI showed its true colours back in May over the shooting of Gaza residents as they sought to escape their prison (there is no Israeli border here, just a fence, for Gaza is part of Israel). Their attitude [is laid bare here](#). They said “Hamas must accept responsibility for the deaths, as they had hijacked peaceful protest as cover for the attack on Israeli border communities and their action must be condemned by all who seek peace in the Middle East” - a post which LFoI later deleted.

I also need to complain to you of Labour’s treatment of its dissidents. By that, I mean any that come under Ms Formby’s eye. As you know, I am under investigation on charges of anti-Semitism for my petition at tinyurl.com/israelihra and so I recently asked my Labour Party Investigating Officer for a copy of the Party’s Disciplinary Policy and Procedures. I was told “[I am not obliged to provide you with documentation in relation to the Party’s internal disciplinary procedures. It is sufficient for you to know that a procedure is in place, and it will be adhered to in your matter.](#)”

It baffles me as to what the Party has to gain from refusing to allow members to see how it operates. Surely, natural justice demands that those deemed to have “crossed the line” are given the ability to clear their name? By keeping me and others like me in the dark, the Party knows it is free to mete out whatever form of punishment it sees fit. Our only redress is to use hugely expensive lawyers in our defence – Dame Margaret Hodge knew the Party would crumble when she employed Mishcon de Reya to get her off the hook after she very publicly called Corbyn a “fucking anti-Semite”. But not many of us are as wealthy as Dame Margaret ([see Telegraph report](#)) and so must flounder in the dark as your Legal and Governance Unit does as it wishes to us.

Needless to say, I raised a complaint with the Head of your Complaints unit, Sophie Goodyear, about Labour’s refusal to supply info on its disciplinary procedures - but she has failed to even acknowledge my complaint. I therefore appeal to you directly to take action.

For Labour is unique amongst every organisation I’ve ever dealt with, in that it refuses to release its Disciplinary Policy and Procedures to those it investigates. I have never seen any other body, let alone one with 550,000 members in a Party founded on social justice, conduct its affairs in such a manner.

It is normal – and surely something that those trade unionists on the NEC would expect to see in any organisation that deals with people - for Disciplinary Policies and Procedures to be highly visible, the better to protect workers who might otherwise make a mistake that could lead to their dismissal.

Natural justice demands that those under investigation are given the means to understand what is happening to them and the opportunities they will have to present their defence. So why does Labour shy from such open-ness?

Were you aware of “the Shadow NEC?” Read the observations of Barrister-at-Law and Labour member Duncan Shipley’s “[General Assessment of the Disciplinary Rules of the Labour Party](#)” there. It would appear that if proceedings do not comply with natural justice, they are void and an expelled member continues to be a member of the association.

Also, see this petition for "[NATURAL JUSTICE for Labour Party Complaints Procedure](#)" which has 725 signatures. It observes that Labour ignores due process and natural justice - and had been brought into disrepute by the misuse of trust given it by members - in order to suspend or expel FOUR THOUSAND of us in 2016.

Finally, if Jennie Formby is really serious about enacting the IHRA in Labour, she ought to be expelling the seriously Orthodox Jews from the Party. According to the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, groups such as the [Neturie Karta](#) would be deemed to have brought the Party into disrepute. Here is their "[Jews for Jeremy](#)" flyer. They believe, as I do, that Israel is a racist endeavour.

I leave you with the observation that my NEC gives tacit ongoing encouragement to Zionists, including the racist JLM whose government voted in July by their [Nation State law](#), to declare Jews to be the one true race of Israel. A few days ago, I read that Jewish settlers had dumped sewage on a Palestinian school in Qalqiliya ([See here](#)). I beg you to cease facilitating such actions. You do so by persecuting any who point to the racist element of such an act. You have commanded that your 550,000 labour party members remain silent on such atrocities. And to those who love the IHRA: why not own up to your Zionist leanings - and perhaps even call upon Ms Formby to work the effluent pump herself?

Did you read in [your News Wire a](#) few days ago that American citizens are set to be fined up to \$1 million or imprisoned for up to 20 years for criticizing Israel or supporting the BDS boycott, thanks to new legislation sponsored by Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer? Legislation that the JLM and the LFOL would fully support.

You who sit on the Disputes Panel, meet to discuss my case on the 20th Nov. I hear you are unlikely to expel me just yet. But please note, a warning to me will do nothing. I will not dispose of the petition until I know that Corbyn is free to impose sanctions on Israel, just as soon as he is elected as the UK's Labour prime minister. He can only justify so doing by pointing up the racist nature of that state, which the IHRA forbids. For he would then be deemed by the NEC as an anti-Semite himself - and Jennie Formby would need to expel our prime minister from the party he leads.

Yours faithfully

Pete Gregson
Edinburgh

PS I'd love to know if any of you are reading these emails. [I come to London for the antiracist demo of 17th Nov – if you want to meet up, please email me.] The only folk I've heard back from are Jon Lansman and George Howarth MP. George wrote me on 9/10/18 as follows:

"Dictated by the Rt Hon George Howarth MP and sent on his behalf" and copied to Jennie Formby – which said:

"Dear Mr Gregson, Thank you for your e-mail of 8 October 2018.

I am sure your own case will be impartially investigated and, in due course, considered by the disputes panel in accordance with the party's procedures.

Your remarks about the Labour Party General Secretary and other staff members are gratuitously offensive and, frankly, do not serve your case well.

Yours sincerely, Rt Hon George Howarth MP, Knowsley"

I understand George Howarth, who specialises in sitting on military and intelligence committees in Parliament, had been foisted on the locals by Tony Blair, so I pay little heed to his words. If only he, Ms Formby and the NEC were guided by Jewish Voice for Labour's "[Antisemitic misconduct: what it is – and what it is not](#)" rather than the IHRA, I wouldn't be writing this now.