

APPEAL SENT TO OVER 100 GMB BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE UK – using email addresses published on the GMB website at www.gmb.org.uk/contact/gmb-regional-offices

From: Peter Gregson <postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com>
Sent: 06 December 2018 08:07
To: postmaster@roseburn32.plus.com
Subject: GMB and the IHRA Definition of anti-Semitism

Dear fellow GMB activist,

The GMB have adopted (without consultation) the IHRA Definition of anti-Semitism (read it at www.tinyurl.com/ihradef) and now union members campaigning for Palestine are being expelled if they lay blame at Israel's door.

I am a GMB workplace rep employed by NHS Lothian - I am the only GMB steward for 24,000 staff. I have been suspended from union activities because of a petition I have set up on Change.org that declares Israel to be a racist endeavour. The petition is at www.tinyurl.com/israelihra and is aimed at Labour's NEC; it is asking them to abandon the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Over 850 Labour Party members have signed it. As a result Labour are now investigating me as an anti-Semite, when all I have done is state the blindingly obvious about Israel.

You probably know that Israel passed the Nation State law in July which says Jews there now have rights that other citizens do not (the right to protest, etc). Many Jews in Israel are unhappy about the plight of the Palestinians, but right now they are being targeted by Netanyahu as "self-hating Jews". Israeli ruling politicians recently declared they plan new legislation- the death penalty for any Palestinian that opposes them.

GMB Scotland Gary Smith has been told by Zionist activist Rhea Wolfson that I am an anti-Semite, an accusation that is quite untrue and which is driven by spite - Wolfson is best friends with Jon Lansman of Momentum, who hates my guts (more about Rhea at tinyurl.com/rheagmb). My story has been published in the press - see tinyurl.com/gmbnat3

I am not the only one being witch-hunted. A council worker in Hammersmith & Fulham, Stan Keable, was sacked in May for arguing with a Zionist over Hitler's plan to expel Jews to Palestine. And Paul Johnson, a Council worker in Dudley, was suspended by his employer a fortnight ago for saying Israel was a racist endeavour (see <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/dudley/2018/10/30/dudley-council-officer-suspended-in-anti-semitism-row/>)

Labour Against the Witchhunt have called for charges to be dropped against me, as has Free Speech on Israel. See their statements at www.labouragainsthewitchhunt.org/suspensions-and-expulsions/law-statement-lift-suspension-of-peter-gregson-from-labour-party-and-gmb/ and <https://freespeechonisrael.org.uk/gregson/>

You can see why I do this in this article I wrote for Common Space - at <http://www.commonspace.scot/articles/13472/pete-gregson-why-641-labour-members-i-will-tell-truth-about-israel-even-if-it-means>

Recently Israeli settlers pumped their sewage into a Palestinian school in their mission to get the Arabs out of the West Bank (see tinyurl.com/settlershit) - Israeli police and soldiers fire tear gas at Arab youths who protest this vile and disgusting behaviour. Yet no UK politician says a word, for fear of being labelled anti-Semitic.

Many UK trade unionists are unhappy too with the unions' embrace of the new definition of anti-Semitism- see the "open letter on the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism" which has been signed by almost 600 activists at <https://menasolidaritynetwork.com/ihraletter/>

The fact that Israel worked with the US State Dept to concoct the new definition will come as no surprise. Israel fears sanctions and has been developing a way to silence BDS activists since 2002, after seeing how South Africa was forced to change and vowing to never let the same happen in their country. They could only do this by redefining anti-Semitism and using Zionists around the world to get the new definition adopted everywhere. In the UK, most Councils, most political parties and most trade unions have now signed up to it. They have let Netanyahu re-write all our rule-books.

In August, 24 Palestinian trade unions and the Palestinian ambassador made a plea to Labour not to adopt the IHRA definition; they declared it a "politicised and fraudulent definition of anti-Semitism". Their plea was ignored; Labour adopted it on 4th Sept, which was the day I launched my petition trying to get that terrible decision reversed.

Please consider helping prevent more witch-hunts against pro-Palestine activists such as myself, by asking your CLP/ GMB branch to adopt this model motion condemning the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism - download it at tinyurl.com/unionihra

A year ago, the GMB joined other unions on November 4th in a national rally calling for "Justice for Palestine". If the Union did that now, it would need to expel any member who marched and declared Israel the cause of Palestine's problems - for being anti-Semitic. Without our ken, we have moved full circle from supporting the Palestinians to supporting the Zionists and Netanyahu, who seeks a racially pure apartheid country. Now the GMB must follow the policy it adopted earlier this year and expel anybody who declares Israel to be a racist state – for being "anti-Semitic".

All I seek is that we go back to the OED definition of anti-Semitism, which used to serve us so well; it said simply that anti-Semitism was "hostility to or prejudice against Jews".

Please take action if you care for the Palestinians - and want to see justice for the oppressed in the Middle East.

Yours in hope.

Pete Gregson

27 Riversdale Grove

Edinburgh

(Labour Party member and activist since 1987)

Tel 0758 472 2191

GMB Member 222003F