

## Parts of the GMB Rulebook pertaining to the case against Pete Gregson on allegations of anti-Semitism

The rulebook can be downloaded at

[www.gmb.org.uk/assets/media/RulebookfollowingCongress2018.pdf](http://www.gmb.org.uk/assets/media/RulebookfollowingCongress2018.pdf)

The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, adopted by the GMB Central Executive Council in 2018, can be downloaded at [www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism](http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism)

Witness statements might take heed of the following extracts from the rulebook:

*“Our Purpose” [p2]*

*“We will work to widen the understanding of employers whose experiences, knowledge and aims are more limited. We will aim to end exploitation, discrimination and injustice.”*

By expelling PG the GMB will be sending a clear message to employers that they suppress members who speak out against exploitation, discrimination and injustice in Israel. The GMB joined other unions on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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. By silencing criticism of Israel as a racist state, the GMB is in contravention of one of its own mission statements. Without any consultation with members, the GMB has 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”.

*“We aim to achieve the reputation as the best trade union in Europe.”*

By expelling PG, the GMB will garner the reputation as being the worst trade union in Europe, for its suppression of freedom of speech of its members - on the most apartheid country in the world.

*“Core Rules – Rule 2 – Aims” [p8]*

*“9. To promote the social, moral and intellectual interests of our members.”*

By expelling PG, the GMB will be undermining the social, moral and intellectual interests of GMB members, by making them party to a decision which is a fundamental denial of human rights. In addition it will be sending out the message that racism is acceptable, so long as it is in Israel, and so long as the victims are Palestinians and non-Jewish minorities.

By disciplining members who decry apartheid in Israel and call out racism, the union is in breach of 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.

Such conduct is not promoting the social, moral and intellectual interests of GMB members.

*“Core Rules – Rule 5 – Membership” [p9]*

*“1. GMB is an open and democratic organisation and welcomes into membership people from any industry or walk of life who are committed to upholding the aims and rules of the Union”*

By adopting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism without consultation with members, the GMB acted in a closed, undemocratic fashion in severely restricting members rights to free speech on Israel. That such a fundamental right to freedom of expression was removed in this manner goes against all principles of democracy and both natural and social justice.

*“4. 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, or ban a member from taking part in GMB business and affairs, in any case for as long as the council or committee feels necessary:*

- if they believe the member is guilty of trying to harm the union or acting against the rules;*
- if the member makes or in any way associates themselves with any defamatory or abusive comments made against any of our officials or committees;*
- if the member, alone or together with any other members or people opposes or acts against any of our policies;*
- if the member acts against the best interests of the GMB*
- 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,*
- or for any other sufficient reason.”*

If the regional committee continues to suspend PG, it will be harming the union; its reputation will be ruined if it is seen to be a *de facto* supporter of racism, by silencing those who raise awareness of it.

PG has publicly identified Rhea Wolfson, Glasgow GMB Organiser as being the source of the allegations against him. He was informed of this through a senior GMB officer. The only statement he has made of Ms Wolfson that could be construed as defamatory is that she is a raving Zionist. However, it cannot be said to be defamatory if all the evidence points to the fact that this is the case; evidence to support this claim can be garnered at [www.tinyurl.com/rheagmb](http://www.tinyurl.com/rheagmb) That the GMB continues to shelter and protect racists such as Wolfson should be a concern for all members.

PG has opposed the policy whereby the GMB has adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism for the simple reason that it condones Israeli racism. In doing so, he is acting in the spirit of the union’s espoused purpose which is “to end exploitation, discrimination and injustice.”

PG has not acted against the best interests of the GMB- rather the opposite; by seeking the support of other branches and speaking out against what the GMB Scotland Secretary is doing he is acting in the best interests of the GMB, in seeking to prevent a miscarriage of justice; if he is expelled, the decision will be in the worst interests of the GMB.

PG’s email to branches can be viewed at [www.kidsnotsuits.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GMB-APPEAL-TO-BRANCHES-6.12.18.pdf](http://www.kidsnotsuits.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GMB-APPEAL-TO-BRANCHES-6.12.18.pdf) and his interview at the STUC anti-racism march can be seen at [www.tinyurl.com/ihrastuc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ihrastuc) The model motion he promotes against the IHRA can be downloaded at [www.tinyurl.com/unionihra](http://www.tinyurl.com/unionihra)

He is not alone in condemning the IHRA definition; the model motion lists the many academics, barristers, and Jewish groups and Palestinian trade unions who argue the IHRA definition is not fit for purpose and does not prevent anti-Semitism; it rather seeks to prevent boycotts and sanctions against Israel and is designed to prevent its apartheid system from being dismantled. In effect, it could be argued that the GMM has let Netanyahu write its rulebook.

Finally, it is not PG who encourages organisations whose aims are racist, but the GMB, in its *de facto* support for Zionism and Israel; its efforts to suppress freedom of speech on Israel will be of concern worldwide for any that take the view that Israel's 50+ discriminatory laws against non-Jews and its Nation State law are evil manifestations of an innate Zionist desire to remove any Palestinians from the land Israel has stolen from them.

*"5 Regional councils or regional committees have the power to recommend that the Central Executive Council cancel, and the Central Executive Council (with or without a recommendation) has the power to cancel, the membership of any member for any of the reasons set out in clause 4 above. The Central Executive Council will make the final decision on a recommendation from a Region. A member who has their membership cancelled will not be eligible to rejoin without the permission of the Central Executive Council or the appropriate regional committee."*

If the Scotland Regional Committee recommends the cancellation of PG's membership it will be acting against the best interests of the union. No Muslim will want to hold membership of a union that *de facto* condones attacks on Muslims in Israel. Furthermore, Jewish members opposed to Zionism will be offended by the GMB's support for Zionist objectives. Indeed, any member who is concerned about racism will likely tear up their membership card.