

LIBERTY LOSES SIGHT OF ITS CORE PURPOSE

- To support freedom of speech

Liberty is a campaigning organisation, but it refuses to get involved in the loss of freedom of speech on Israel.

Whilst Liberty passed a resolution critical of the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism at last year's AGM (see over), they have steadfastly refused to get involved in the campaign against bogus anti-Semitism. Why?



This issue now affects the freedom of speech of over 10 million UK citizens. That is because all the major unions have adopted it; all the major political parties have adopted it; the Government has told schools, colleges and universities they should abide by it; 30% of the UK's local authorities have adopted it and the police have adopted it too.



At least two people have been fired from their local Government jobs for “bogus anti-Semitism” . Many others have suffered through expulsions from unions and have been suspended by the Labour Party.

Please call upon the Liberty officers to address this matter and make freedom of speech on Israel possible again.



Liberty 2018 AGM motion on the the IHRA

This AGM reiterates

- Its abhorrence of antisemitism as a repellent undercurrent which persists across the social and political spectrum; and Liberty's support for effective measures to combat antisemitism and all other forms of racism;

notes

- the legal Opinion of Hugh Tomlinson QC which states that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance(IHRA)'Working Definition of Anti-semitism', adopted by the UK government in December 2016, is "unclear and confusing" and "has no legal status or effect"; and that the overriding legal duty of public authorities is to preserve freedom of expression;
- that the guidance that is attached to the definition conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism;
- that the definition is being interpreted as saying that to describe Israel as a state practising apartheid, or to call for Boycott or Sanctions to be applied in defence of Palestinian rights, is an inherently antisemitic act that should be prohibited;
- that the definition is being cited in attempts to deter, obstruct or prevent events that are critical of Israel, or support the legitimate rights of Palestinians;

resolves

- that by blurring the previously clear understanding of the nature of anti-semitism, the IHRA definition risks undermining the defences against it; and
- that the definition's conflation of antisemitism with criticism of Israel and legitimate defence of the rights of Palestinians is a threat to freedom of expression. It regrets that some local authorities have already adopted it, calls on those that have done so to apply it with extreme caution, and calls on other public bodies not to adopt the definition

This appeal comes to you from Liberty member Pete Gregson, expelled from his post as NHS shop steward by the GMB union and suspended from the Labour Party for declaring that "Israel was a racist Endeavour" and that "It exaggerated the importance of the Holocaust for political ends". Liberty told him earlier this year that it could not get involved in any way. Contact Pete through his website at www.kidsnotsuits.com