

# The Labour Party

**Jeremy Corbyn MP**  
**Leader of the Labour Party**

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Ivor Caplin  
Chair, Jewish Labour Movement

5 March 2019

Dear Friends,

I am writing in advance of the extraordinary meeting of the Jewish Labour Movement that will debate the issue of your affiliation to the Labour Party. I want to express my sincere hope that the JLM will decide to continue a relationship that has been fundamental to the history of our party and our movement. This morning our shadow cabinet discussed this and affirmed our support for JLM's affiliation and our very strong desire for you to remain a part of our movement.

With almost a hundred years of affiliation, the JLM is integral to the Labour family. I am proud of our movement's long and rich history of Jewish Labour activism. MPs involved with JLM or Poale Zion, such as Ian Mikardo, Sidney Silverman, and Leo Abse, have been central to our party and, as a result, have changed the course of British history for the better. I want our movement to continue to be a place where Jewish activists of this wonderful tradition will always thrive.

Antisemitism is a scourge that, to my great regret, does exist within our party. I recognise the enormous distress caused to the Jewish community and, of course, to Jewish Labour members, when antisemitic sentiments and tropes are repeated by members of our party. These concerns must not be denied or dismissed. It is not acceptable for an atmosphere of hostility or bigotry to arise in any corner of our movement.

I also understand why the JLM and individual Jewish members have expressed frustration with processes for dealing with cases of antisemitism. These processes have certainly moved too slowly. Since Jennie Formby became our General Secretary, the party has made significant progress on improving them but there is clearly still more to do.

I want to emphasise the need to work more closely with you, as the party's only Jewish affiliate, and the General Secretary to ensure that, together, we are doing all we can to combat the evil of antisemitism wherever it arises. As such, I would like to repeat my invitation to meet with you to discuss how we can guarantee that Jewish members and supporters feel valued and represented.

This would allow for an open discussion and for me to offer reassurance about some of the misleading stories currently being reported about our complaints system. I want to assure you that this is a priority.

The Labour movement is the greatest force for progressive change that this country has ever known. We are a party that seeks to represent those of all faiths and none. Our historic goal is to build an inclusive, fair, and equal society that is free from discrimination and works for all.

This is especially important at a time when antisemitism is on the rise across Europe and in Britain. Our movement's duty is to oppose prejudice and unite people around our common social objectives. This is what led each and every one of us to join the Labour Party.

I dearly hope that the JLM will continue your affiliation.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeremy Corbyn', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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