

I'm seeking nomination to be the Labour Party's candidate in Northfield at the next general election, and would be honoured to be considered by the Jewish Labour Movement for support.

I came to Birmingham as a student in 2005 to study physics at the University of Birmingham, fell in love with it and never left. In my time at University I was an active member leading our Labour Students society and the Guild of Students, working alongside friends in JSoc, the UoB Jewish Society, and UJS as an NUS delegate. As a student I attended and supported events like open Friday night dinners and Holocaust Memorial Day, and as a Guild officer supported motions to keep hate speakers from campus. As a Labour Students Society, we would regularly join Hope Not Hate campaign days in and around Birmingham where the BNP were active.

I was first elected as a Birmingham City Councillor in 2011, taking on the Children's Services and Education Cabinet portfolio in 2012 and becoming Deputy Leader in 2017. Furthering equalities has been a core issue for me – I led the drive to introduce maternity policies for councillors nationally and protected, on more than one occasion, LGBT+ positive teaching in Birmingham schools. In the Education portfolio I worked to support St David's Primary School, Birmingham's only state Jewish school. Before the pandemic we would proudly host Hannukah celebrations in the Council House and Holocaust Memorial events.

The last seven years have been unprecedentedly difficult in our party and there have been moments where I have felt profound shame as Jewish MPs and members felt they had no choice but to leave. The EHRC ruling was a rock bottom moment for our movement, but a necessary one for us to move forward. Our party must never again be in this position. On Birmingham City Council I have ensured our group has hosted anti-Semitism awareness training for our Councillors and I was proud to support the adoption of the IHRC definition of anti-Semitism in both the Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority, where at the time I held the Inclusive Communities portfolio and personally sponsored its passage through the Board, despite local opposition. I have supported for many years Steve McCabe MP, the constituency MP for the wards I represent and live in, who chairs Labour Friends of Israel and has been steadfast in calling out and fighting against anti-Semitism in our party.

I'm a proven campaigner, having overturned a massive majority to win my council seat, and I want to build a team to do the same to take Northfield back from the Conservatives and take the issues I have been fighting at Birmingham City Council to Parliament. It would be an honour to do so with the support of JLM.