



## **Jewish Labour Movement AGM 2022**

### **Motions Booklet**

#### **Policy motions:**

1. Israel and Palestine
2. Antisemitism in the Labour Party
3. Campaigning for a Labour government
4. Fighting for refugees
5. Opposing the far-right and authoritarianism around the world
6. Ukraine and Russia

## **Motion 1: Israel and Palestine**

### **JLM Notes:**

- Our Movement was founded on the principles of Socialist and Labour Zionism.
- That we have a longstanding affiliation to the Zionist Federation, World Labor Zionist Movement and through this affiliation we seek to influence the policies and practices of the World Zionist Organisation.
- That Ha'Avodah and Meretz are members of the Socialist International and the Progressive Alliance alongside the Labour Party.

### **JLM Believes:**

- In self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians and a two-state solution to resolve the ongoing conflict, with a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable Palestine.
- That the Labour Party should remain committed to a policy of supporting a two-state solution.
- That Israel's future is only viable and sustainable as both a Jewish and democratic state.
- That the occupation of the West Bank harms the prospect of a two-state solution and has a detrimental impact on Palestinian rights.
- That moving the British embassy to West Jerusalem can only be part of a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.
- That the far-right platforms pursued by extremists such as Bezael Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir are a betrayal of Zionist values and that neither should have a role in Israeli public life, much less its government.
- That Israel should remain a pluralistic country with a commitment to religious tolerance and that pressure to marginalise progressive Jews in the way they practice their religion should be rejected.

### **JLM Resolves:**

- to support calls for: a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable Palestine; an end to the occupation of the West Bank and withdrawal from it through negotiated agreement; opposition to the Nation State Law; settlement construction freezes.
- to oppose the British Government moving its embassy to West Jerusalem without it being part of a wider negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.
- to pursue these objectives through the World Zionist Congress
- to continue to work within the Ha'Avodah, Meretz, Arzenu coalition, and with others who support these objectives
- to use its status as a member of the Zionist Federation to support the admission of Yachad to the Federation and
- to use its status as a representative of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to support these objectives.
- to work closely with Yachad and Labour Friends of Israel to achieve these aims.

## **Motion 2: Antisemitism in the Labour Party**

### **JLM Notes:**

- That JLM chose to remain affiliated to the Labour Party in 2019
- That our referral of the Labour Party to the Equality and Human Rights Commission led to it being found to have unlawfully discriminated against its Jewish members
- That since the election of Keir Starmer as Leader of the Labour Party, huge strides have been made by the Party to combat antisemitism
- That at Labour Party Conference 2021 a series of rule changes came into effect to create a new, independent disciplinary process, although 33% of CLP delegates voted against this legal necessity
- Of the 1,026 cases determined by NEC Panels between May 2020 and June 2022: 65.89% have involved allegations of antisemitism
- That we have maintained our level of membership, which grew considerably over the period of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, by working with Starmer and the Party to fix the damage caused by his predecessor

### **JLM Believes:**

- That the support and solidarity of our members was essential in both taking on the Party Leadership from 2015-2019 over its failure to tackle antisemitism; and in ensuring that Keir Starmer has delivered on his promise to fix the problem
- That there will always be work to be done to ensure that the Labour Party remains true to its anti-racist values and holds firm against antisemitism
- That through both education and an independent disciplinary process we have been able to change the toxic culture across much of our Party
- That the changes to the disciplinary system should give all members of protected characteristics, and groups representing them, confidence to report cases of discrimination and harassment to the Party

### **JLM Resolves:**

- To continue delivering our antisemitism awareness education to all levels of the Labour Party
- To continue to hold Keir Starmer, Angela Rayner and the rest of the Labour leadership to account for their pledges to tackle antisemitism and the work being undertaken to meet that commitment
- To work alongside other groups in the Labour Party to support them in tackling discrimination and make sure it is a welcoming place for all members, regardless of their background

### **Motion 3: Campaigning for a Labour government**

#### JLM Notes:

- The country is at breaking point and desperately needs a Labour government.
- We have campaigned for Labour Party victories for over 100 years.
- JLM campaigned across London and the North West to win key council seats in the 2022 local elections seeing huge numbers of our members elected as councillors, especially as new councillors.
- We saw Barnet Council turn Labour for the first time – a hugely symbolic gain and a strong sign that Labour is rebuilding trust with Jewish voters.
- Recent opinion polls have suggested that every constituency with a modest Jewish population is winnable for the Labour Party.

#### JLM Believes:

- That only through a Labour government are we able to put our social justice values into practice.
- That by using JLM's place within the Jewish community, we can show that Labour can be a force for good that has changed drastically since Jeremy Corbyn's tenure as leader.
- That the victory in Barnet shows that it is possible to win all three parliamentary seats there at the next election, as long as the Party continues its approach of zero tolerance of antisemitism.

#### JLM Resolves:

- To harness our membership across the country to campaign in key seats needed to win at the next general election and put Keir Starmer in Number 10.

## **Motion 4: Fighting for refugees**

### JLM Notes:

- The hostile environment for refugees and asylum seekers is being perpetuated by the Conservative government and their recent Nationality and Borders Bill under Priti Patel's tenure as Home Secretary.
- Schemes to support refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine are falling short and Afghan refugees continue to live in bridging hotels and Ukrainian refugees, as the 6-month scheme is nearing its end for many, could be facing homelessness.
- Safe passage and safe routes to claim asylum in the UK must be opened.

### JLM Believes:

- That the Jewish community is one with a refugee and immigrant heritage.
- That we should remember our experiences as a community and hold to our values of welcoming the stranger as we were once.
- That the Government's Rwanda scheme is abhorrent, antithetical to British values of tolerance and promotes dog-whistle politics which plays to the far-right

### JLM Resolves:

- To lobby the Labour Party to adopt policies for our manifesto for the next general election that support refugees and asylum seekers.
- To challenge narratives that seek to delegitimise Ukraine's right to defend itself against Russian aggression.
- To lobby for the government's deplorable Rwanda Plan to be scrapped.
- To make the case within the Jewish community that more must be done to support and welcome refugees; and to promote good examples from the community of it living these values to the Labour Party.

## **Motion 5: Opposing the far-right and authoritarianism around the world**

### JLM Notes:

- That there is a terrifying rise of the far-right across the world, both in the form of dictatorships like those in Hungary and Belarus, the success of Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy, but also in the form of terrorist activity and far-right discourse.
- In the UK, 41% of counter-terrorism arrests in 2021 related to far-right activity.
- We campaigned on Daniel Kawczynski's links to the European far-right and collected hundreds of signatures supporting our call for him to lose the whip in February 2020.
- JLM has hosted Belarussian activists on the ground in September 2020  
Lukashenko crushed the uprising.
- We joined forces with Masorti UK to call out Boris Johnson's meeting with far-right Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in May 2021

### JLM Believes:

- As anti-racists we must oppose the far-right and its ideology.
- Much of the UK Government's rhetoric, around immigration policy and wider 'culture war' issues, seeks to stoke flames of discontent from which the far-right will benefit.

### JLM Resolves:

- To work alongside HOPE not hate, CST, trade unions and other organisations to oppose the far-right.
- To continue to highlight the rise of the far-right across Europe.
- To challenge Government rhetoric which plays into the far-right's hands and to encourage the Labour Party to campaign for positive messages on key policy areas here, like immigration.

## **Motion 6: Ukraine and Russia**

### **JLM Notes:**

- Russia is an authoritarian state that stifles free speech, persecutes LGBT+ citizens and is responsible for murdering opposition politicians and critics of the Kremlin.
- Russia has used banned chemical weapons on British soil resulting in the murder of innocent British citizens.
- On 24 February 2022, following the invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russia illegally invaded and occupied Ukraine creating the largest conflict on the continent of Europe since WW2.
- Vladimir Putin and Russia have committed numerous war crimes through massacres and indiscriminate attacks on civilians since the invasion and has threatened the use of nuclear weapons, including Jewish communities in Ukraine.
- Russia has sought to weaponise energy and created a global energy crisis.
- Russia has placed severe limitations on the activities of the Jewish Agency, reminding many Jews of the persecution faced under the Soviet Union.
- Millions of Ukrainians have fled their homes and Jewish families are hosting refugees in Britain.

### **JLM Believes:**

- Russian dissidents should be supported in opposing the Putin regime.
- That Ukraine is an imperfect, nascent democracy that should be supported.
- That the position of Labour Party, Keir Starmer and the Government on Ukraine is correct.
- Attempts on the far left to equate Russian aggression with Ukrainian self-defence and to prioritise castigating NATO over criticising Russia should be rejected by all progressive internationalists.
- Vladimir Putin cannot be allowed to succeed in his illegal war.

### **JLM Resolves:**

- To support British Jewish communal agencies active in Ukraine, including World Jewish Relief.
- To support likeminded Ukrainian activists in Britain within the Labour Party.
- To campaign for and support Ukraine in their battle against Russia.