

# National Council Meeting Report – 12/11/2025

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Introduction and Summary

The third of our monthly National Council meetings was another great opportunity to check in with Louis and the Sabbatical Team, and raise the concerns of Jewish students. We discussed:

- Feedback from the UJS Fellowship Cyprus trip
- Inclusion of both religiously observant and religiously progressive students
- Convention
- Political engagement
- Launch of Jewish News Student Section
- UJSix Fellowship
- Time for Change campaign

Below is a full report detailing our meeting, in line with our commitment to UJS policy '[Your Union 3: Ensuring an Accountable UJS](#)'.

Every National Council member is very keen to hear your feedback and pass on your views to Louis and the team. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us anytime.

Elie Glaser,

Chair, UJS National Council 2025/26

## Meeting Agenda, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Student Conversations

We began our meeting by feeding back views to Louis from our series of conversations with Jewish students since our last meeting. Key points from these conversations include:

- This academic year has seemingly brought higher levels of Jewish student engagement with Jsocs, especially students who were not previously involved in Jewish life on campus.
- Fellowship trip to Cyprus was lots of fun, well organised, and the religious diversity of the cohort received positive feedback.
- Positive feedback towards UJS working as an effective political force.
- Jewish students would like to see more focus on UJS's career network.

- Lots of excitement for the upcoming UJS Cup (football tournament), although some disappointment that it is falling during exam season.
- Some students have reported delays with the UJS reimbursements processes, which UJS are aware of and are working to solve.
- UJS should continue its efforts to include students of all Jewish backgrounds and religious affiliations, especially those in big Jsocs who did not attend Jewish schools.
- Positive feedback on UJS's social media content, which helps students stay up-to-date on UJS activity.
- More opportunities to volunteer in Holocaust education and more interfaith initiatives would be appreciated by students.
- UJS should continue its efforts to make small Jsocs feel like a priority. Small Jsocs would like UJS to help them grow through increased advertising of their activity.
- UJS could focus more on bridging the gap between Jewish and non-Jewish communities on campus.
- Many students are unaware of what happens at convention or why they should attend – UJS could work on platforming convention to a wider audience.
- It is essential that Jsocs offer a wide range of events, including sober socials. Sabbatical Officer engagement with Jsoc Presidents and Committees must include training on how to provide a well-rounded programme of events.

## Objective Check

National Council 2025/2026 objectives:

1. **Create a more visible, accountable, accessible and active National Council.**
2. **Ensure UJS policy is monitored and student experience remains front-of-mind all year round.**
3. **Amplify a more diverse range of student voices to broaden UJS democracy.**

We discussed how far we have fulfilled our objectives for this month. We concluded that all goals are being met so far, but for the upcoming month we should make sure to increase National Council visibility on UJS social media.

## President's Report

### Engagement – Recapturing Jewish Pride

- Sold out Booze4Jews in 21 minutes, despite various technical hiccups with system.
- Inter-JSoc cup launched, as well as netball tournaments.
- Student Refugee Ambassador Programme launched, 50 signups and opening seminar on Sunday!

- Interfaith week – Tamzin has met with MHCLG ministers and going to Deputy Mayor roundtable, Samantha L to attend an interfaith soup making event for Mitzvah Day at No 10, Tamzin has also supported a number of events nationally with an interfaith guide.
- Rabbi Mirvis road trip went very well, similar visits are in the pipeline.
- London regional Friday Night Dinner was a big success, more collaboration to follow – Tel Aviv takes London coming this week.
- March of The Living are offering 25% subsidy to first 15 signups from UJS.
- Convention sign-ups going well, approaching 250. Great programme of speakers and some subtle but powerful changes.
- Really excellent feedback on programming.

### **Antisemitism – Getting on the Front Foot**

- High-level political engagement, including No 10 meeting, Secretary of State for Education meeting, Universities UK call, Office for Students questions.
- Stand Against Terror campaign has received lots of positive feedback.
- Successes – Office for Students guidance letter, increased cross-governmental engagement re protest regulation and police investigation.
- Campaigns forum to launch 8 December.
- Further MP engagement in the pipeline including parliament days and MP Friday Night Dinner in March.
- Tackling Antisemitism in Education team rollout continues, as does regular engagement with Vice Chancellors and Student Unions.

### **Leadership – Building Strength from Crisis**

- Cyprus trip received brilliant feedback, especially regarding cross-communalism and “productive discomfort”.
- Women’s network event with an impressive guest list set to happen on 3rd December.
- UJSix fellowship applications jumped from 9 to 39, we’ve picked a cohort of 30, starts this Sunday.
- JSoc open evenings for sixth formers coming up.

### **Comms – Excite and Inspire**

- Launch of Jewish News student section.
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- Showcasing brilliant work at Jsocs around country, e.g. Leeds Jewish Culture Day.

### **Israel – Brave, Hopeful Spaces**

- Israel educator course has been a phenomenal success so far, with brilliant speakers.
- Event hosted for students with Haviv Rettig Gur, which was a fascinating opportunity to hear from a leading Israeli journalist.

## **Other**

- Staff changes: Matt Plen serving as interim COO.

## **Q&A**

Following the President's Report, we held a Q&A with Louis, whereby the National Council scrutinised the President and UJS's work. The key findings from the Q&A are:

- All Jsoc committee elections should be held in a way that maximises the engagement of students who are most committed (i.e. the vote for President should not take place at the end of the AGM, because then students who unsuccessfully run for President cannot run for any other position).
- The National Council Contact Form should be shared on UJS social media before each National Council meeting.
- Convention plans were discussed.
- Ways to leverage Convention in order to improve Jewish students' understanding of National Council was discussed. We will be running a National Council Q&A at Convention, as well as hosting the motzei Shabbat pub quiz.

## **President's Response**

It's been another great month at UJS, and with November our busiest yet, it was great to have some time to chat to National Council about everything that is going on. Their feedback, as always, was invaluable, and as I do after every meeting, I will be writing to my sabbatical team to keep them posted on how our members are feeling.

Looking ahead to Convention, I'd strongly encourage any student to apply for National Council. It is a brilliant opportunity to influence the work of our Union, and to ensure that the voices of you and your peers are amplified. I genuinely value my National Council's input so much, so a massive thank you as always to Elie, Julia, Leah, Levona and Tash.

Louis Danker

UJS President 25/26

**The National Council Contact Form can be found [here](#). This form can be used to provide feedback to the President about UJS initiatives and the reputation of the Union.**

***Members of National Council can be found [here](#).***