

National Council Meeting Report – 11/12/2025

Introduction and Summary

The fourth 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 a number of topics, including:

- Feedback from UJS Convention 2025
- The presidential election
- Including students from all denominations and levels of observance
- Financial reimbursement process
- The Student Refugee Ambassador Programme
- The Sixth Form Leadership Fellowship
- The launch of the UJS Women's Network
- 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, December 11th 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:

- Very positive feedback on Convention, especially that it was well organised and engaging.
- How UJS-wide, national events can complement and support smaller JSoc events, and vice-versa.
- How UJS Sabbatical Officers are supporting incoming committees.
- Students are grateful for the financial support from UJS, although there have been complaints about reimbursement delays. UJS are aware of the issue and are taking steps to fix it.

- Progressive Jewish students sometimes feel underrepresented in larger JSocs.
- How UJS can engage and support students at universities without a JSoc.
- How Convention can become more inclusive, eg by offering parallel sessions alongside the silent disco.
- How UJS can create more clarity around its grant policies and system for applying for specific JSoc funding.
- How to maximise the potential of UJS presidential debates, for example through pre-submitted questions from students, and social media highlight reels of the debate to increase student engagement.
- How UJS can engage more with students from small arts universities, as well as international students.
- JSoc committees must make a concerted effort to combat cultures of exclusivity. Occasionally such cultures can be viewed as a barrier to engaging with JSoc by students from outside of London. UJS are launching the Cultural Review to explore what more can be done to enhance inclusivity.
- JSoc Medic Families is a good idea for supporting Jewish medical students both pastorally and academically. It exists in Nottingham already but could be replicated in other JSocs.

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 months we should continue to increase National Council visibility on UJS social media.

President's Report

Engagement – Recapturing Jewish Pride

- First Student Refugee Ambassador Programme (SRAP) seminar and first Sixth Form Leadership Fellowship seminar both went well.
- Good feedback from SRAP, especially regarding outreach and including students who were not previously very involved in UJS.
- Netball tournament in London was well attended, including by parents.
- Men's football tournament was a big success; the women's tournament is upcoming.
- Re-chazon (training) happening in December for the UJS team.

- Sixth Form JSoc open day was very successful, with 50 attendants including parents.
- Campus Roadshow: Ruben and Naomi took 30 sixth form students to Oxford and Cambridge.
- This year's presidential election saw the second highest voter turnout on record. Attention is now moving to recruiting Sabbatical Officers for 2026/27, the process for which will start in the new year.
- 250 Jewish students attended Convention.

Antisemitism – Getting on the Front Foot

- Time for Change campaign launch has gone well – the Stand Against Terror campaign was a good springboard into it.
 - Proactive campaigning is continuing to go well.
 - Plans to support JSoc Presidents and Campaigns Officers through a new Campaigns Forum are underway.
 - Louis and Samantha Cass had a productive conversation with the Prime Minister about Jewish life on campus.
 - UJS team took part in a meeting with the Policing Minister to discuss how protests on campus are policed.
 - UJS attended a roundtable meeting with members of the Shadow Cabinet to discuss what more can be done to combat antisemitism.
 - Louis is set to speak on a panel with Professor Michael Ben-Gad of City University at an event organised by the JC on the work being done to support Jewish students and staff at university.
 - Interfaith week was very successful, with events held around the country.
 - Social action work is going well and Mitzvah day was a huge success, with UJS joining the Prime Minister to make soup.
 - The Prime Minister wrote a letter to Jewish students in the convention booklet, expressing his solidarity and committing to working hard to root out antisemitism from campus.
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- There was an incident at UCL with a lecture mentioning an antisemitic Blood Libel. UCL worked with UJS following the incident and responded incredibly well and efficiently.
 - There was a protest in Leeds following the father of an IDF soldier who was killed coming to speak. UJS and CST supported the JSoc in responding and the event went ahead successfully.

Leadership – Building Strength from Crisis

- UJS Women's Network launch event in London had 35 attendees, 50% students and 50% professionals. The purpose of the network is to provide Jewish students who are women with dedicated events and to connect them with Jewish professionals who are women. More events upcoming.
- University Leadership Fellowship second seminar went well. It focused on providing the fellows with a leadership toolkit and practical tools as part of

leadership. Fellows are progressing well with the planning of their campus projects.

Comms – Excite and Inspire

- Social media will be a priority for the next half of the year.

Israel – Brave, Hopeful Spaces

- Israel educator course has continued well; some mixed reviews of speakers.

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:

- We discussed the ticket preferencing of students from host cities for big events like Booze4Jews (B4J). UJS allows students from the host city to buy tickets before other students because any B4J event is always a collab with the host JSoc.
- UJS platforms speakers on the Sixth Form Fellowship to provide a breadth of perspectives for the fellows.
- There is a strong culture of self-reflection with the UJS team, especially regarding what has and had not worked well over the past semester.
- We discussed potential reasons for why there were less candidates for National Council (NC) and Board of Deputies (BoD) this year, and how to improve numbers next year. This year showed the highest voter turnout for the NC and BoD elections on record.
- We discussed female representation in UJS events.

President's Response

It was great to catch up with National Council following an extremely busy November. We reflected on the many successes, and took away some key learnings that will inform our work in the second half of the year. My thanks as always go to Elia, Julia, Leah, Levona and Tash for the work they do to amplify student voice and keep me posted on all that is going on.

I'm looking forward to the new year, and we have some really exciting plans lined up. I'm also keen to ensure you can play a greater role in our work. Participating in our Time for Change testimony campaign is a good start, and we're actively exploring ways to involve more students in the scrutiny and feedback process. Watch this space!

Happy new year to you all.

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.*](#)