

## **Anti-Semitism: Support for Freedom of Expression within the Labour Party**

SE Cornwall CLP agrees with the conclusions of the composite motion on Palestine passed at Party Conference last year, which condemns the Government of Israel's "aggressive attempt to rewrite history", "supports developing solidarity with Palestinian refugees" and "resolves to call for an independent international investigation into Israel's use of force against Palestinian demonstrators; a freeze of UK Government arms sales to Israel; and an immediate unconditional end to the illegal blockade and closure of Gaza."

We believe that it is vital that Labour members are able to freely express opinions regarding the actions of the state of Israel without being accused of anti-Semitism.

SE Cornwall CLP notes the official statistics published by the General Secretary of the Party, Jennie Formby, regarding the disciplinary process. They confirm that over the last 10 months complaints received led to 453 cases being investigated for anti-Semitism. This represents 1/12th of 1% of the membership. Some received suspensions, others formal/written warnings about their behaviour, while just 12 were expelled; and 24 cases are still outstanding. There is no wave of antisemitism in the Party.

We agree with Jewish Voice for Labour when they say:

"The existence of antisemitism in the Party, as everywhere in society, is not in doubt. It needs to be contested, and the Party's beefed up disciplinary processes are doing just that. But these figures, and the experience of the hundreds of our Jewish members in the Labour Party, give the lie to the false narrative that the Party is rife with antisemitism. Such a description bears no resemblance to reality.

The flood of exaggerated claims of antisemitism make it harder to deal with any real instances of antisemitism. The credibility of well-founded allegations is undermined by the less credible ones and real perpetrators are more likely not to be held to account. Crying wolf is dangerous when there are real wolves around the corner."

Finally, this Constituency wishes to express its support for Jennie Formby when she wrote in her letter to Tom Watson MP:

"It is absolutely inappropriate for you to set up a vague parallel complaints monitoring system... you will undermine the work that my staff and I are doing and will confuse and pollute the existing formal process, compromising it and slowing it down. Politicians have no role, nor should they, in processing or in monitoring complaints."

### **This Constituency Labour Party therefore moves to:**

Write to Jennie Formby, the general secretary, and the National Executive Committee with a copy of this motion.

**South-East Cornwall CLP, 16/03/19**