



The Ten Commitments

The Northern Ireland Assembly election is scheduled to take place on 5 May 2022. The Belfast Jewish Community, supported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has summarised the Jewish community's aspirations into 'Ten Commitments', and we call on candidates to show their support for them. The Belfast Jewish Community is the centre of Jewish religious and cultural life in Northern Ireland. The Board is the voice of the Jewish community in the UK.

We call on candidates to:

- 1.** Promote good relations, cooperation and understanding between all of Northern Ireland's communities.
- 2.** Fight all forms of racism, sectarianism and antisemitism in Northern Ireland. This should include enforcing Part III of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 which relates to 'stirring up hatred or arousing fear', or any successor legislation with regard to hate speech. According to the Independent Review into Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland, Part III of the order is 'has been little used and there continues to be limited awareness of the law.'
- 3.** Advocate for a trade settlement which enables the Jewish community of Northern Ireland to access kosher goods, ritual products, and other items necessary to lead a Jewish life.
- 4.** Show leadership in encouraging schools to include Judaism as part of their religious education curriculum, so wider society understands the Jewish community.
- 5.** Support the Belfast Jewish community in engaging in and generating cultural events that explain the Jewish way of life to wider society.
- 6.** Provide protection for Jewish infrastructure and heritage such as cemeteries.
- 7.** Support existing efforts to remember and understand the Holocaust and strive to prevent any other genocide, including by participating in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January and continue to support the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.
- 8.** Commit to acting and speaking responsibly in making statements concerning conflict in the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. Politicians should recognise extreme comments can lead to racist attacks against Jewish or Muslim communities at home, and damage community relations generally. Support the efforts of those building peace rather than those escalating the conflict.
- 9.** Protect religious freedoms, including the right to a Jewish way of life. This would be the protection of circumcision and flexible working to accommodate Sabbath and festival observance.
- 10.** Tackle wider challenges like poverty, climate change and human rights abuses.

Please share your support for these ten commitments on social media with the hashtag #tenccommitments @BoardofDeputies