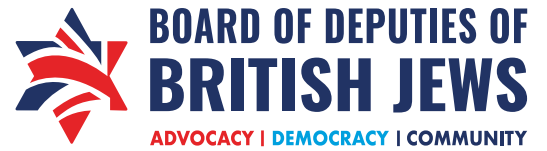


THE JEWISH



MANIFESTO FOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



[BOD.ORG.UK/MANIFESTO2022](https://www.bod.org.uk/manifesto2022)

The Ten Commitments



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

Community safety

Tackle and confront antisemitism in a way that carries the confidence of the Jewish community by adopting and championing the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Community cohesion

Maintain a community-led borough's interfaith network with senior member involvement and council officer administrative support.

Social care & local public services

Work creatively to ensure service users can access faith and culturally sensitive local public services where relevant.

Education and young people

Ensure that Jewish families can choose – where demand allows – a Jewish school, or mainstream school, safe in the knowledge that their child will be supported in either setting.

Public health

Work with Jewish communities on delivering public health programmes and ensure that public health data collection includes an explicit Judaism/Jewish option under ethnicity questions.

Culture and heritage

Ensure that local Jewish communities have a contact person in the council with whom they can have a regular dialogue with regarding planning local Jewish civic events.

Planning, housing and development

Ensure adequate provision of housing and tenure, taking into account larger families, first-time buyers and vulnerable members of the community in need of culturally and religiously appropriate sheltered accommodation.

Israel

Recognising the importance of Israel for the Jewish community, promote positive engagement with Israel, including supporting peacebuilding initiatives with the Palestinians and opposing divisive rhetoric and the counterproductive Boycotts Divestment Sanctions campaign.

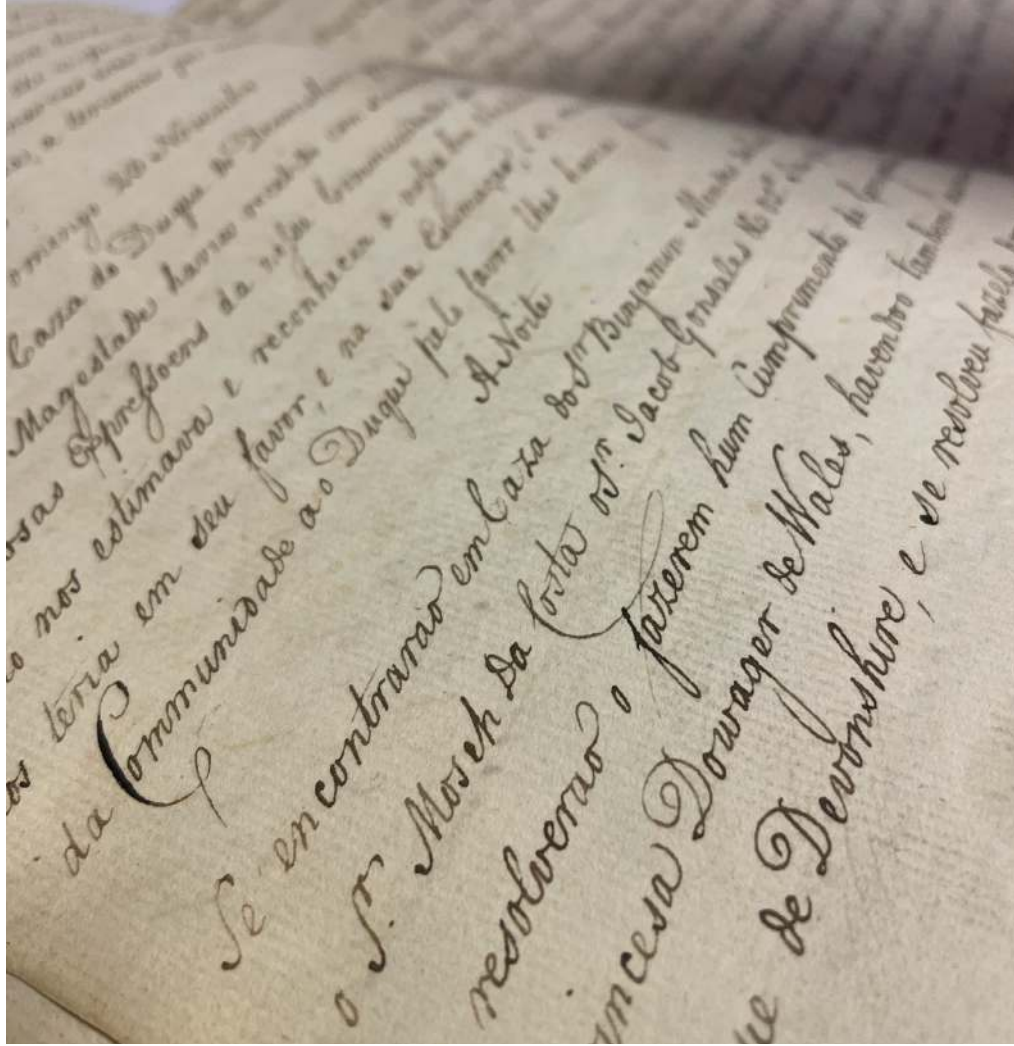
Social justice and action

Stand up for a pluralist society and against prejudice, hate and structural barriers faced by those such as the Muslim, Black and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and work with faith communities to support refugees.

Small and dispersed communities

Pay attention to the needs of smaller Jewish communities, who may feel especially vulnerable to increases in anti-Jewish rhetoric and need particular support to promote viable, ongoing Jewish life in their areas.

About the Manifesto



Minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, 1761.

This Manifesto is a guide for UK councillors, council candidates and local authority officers who want their local authority to do all it can to support their local Jewish community, no matter how large or small.

By backing the summary #tencommitments and the wider manifesto you are helping to ensure that your area, and the UK as a whole, is a great place to be Jewish. Now is the time to support the manifesto and the Jewish community.

The headline Ten Commitments are expanded on in larger sections, each with its own concrete policy asks. If you have an interest in a particular policy area, these are useful starting points to understand the needs of your local community. Engaging with your local Jewish community and the Board of Deputies can ensure that these broad national guidelines are adapted appropriately for your area.

Contact details for Local Jewish Representative Councils are included in this publication. If you do not have a Representative Council operating in your area, the Board of Deputies can signpost you to local community representatives. We hope that you will find this Manifesto useful and informative, and we look forward to working with you to implement these policies.



Advocacy



Democracy



Community

Community Safety

TACKLE AND CONFRONT ANTISEMITISM IN A WAY THAT CARRIES THE CONFIDENCE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BY ADOPTING AND CHAMPIONING THE IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

British Jews enjoy living in a country that generally supports and celebrates its Jewish community. However, the prevalence and spread of anti-Jewish hatred – antisemitism (please note the spelling without a hyphen) – remains a key challenge for British society. According to figures from the Community Security Trust (CST – the charity responsible for the security of the Jewish community), 2021 witnessed the highest level of anti-Jewish hate incidents ever reported for any year since records began, and May the highest such level for a month. 2,255 antisemitic incidents were reported for the year, and 661 in May.

The impact of hate crime and hate rhetoric on victims, and their wider community who may feel vulnerable following such attacks, is a scourge that our society must tackle. It is important that local authorities explicitly include 'Jewish' as part of their ethnic, as well as faith, data collection. Local authorities often collect data on ethnicity but not faith, which may mean they may miss out issues such as hate crime that affect the Jewish community if they do not explicitly include 'Jewish' as an option in ethnic data collection.

Tackling hate often requires the implementation of practical processes. For example, local authorities should ensure that once antisemitic graffiti or vandalism is identified, it is cleared up

as soon as possible as long as the police have had the opportunity to access relevant evidence. Despite the need to liaise with outside agencies and often contracted-out services, the best local authorities have shown an ability to do this within hours.

Just as all council staff should have some level of competence around safeguarding, we should move to a similar approach towards countering hate crime. Relevant staff should be trained by reputable and expert organisations such as CST in recognising hate crime and incidents. They should be able to inform local authority service users regarding the appropriate third-party reporting organisation if that is the route through which such users are most comfortable reporting, such as CST in the case of antisemitic incidents. Third-party reporting organisations make reports to the police on behalf of victims who often do not want to go directly to the police. Local authorities themselves can act as third-party reporting organisations, and such services should be suitably publicised.

CST has launched an initiative to share its knowledge regarding securing communal safety to other communities called Security Advice For Everyone (SAFE) and would welcome discussions about whether, and how, it could share this best practice with communities in your area.

The recent spike in antisemitism in 2021 was driven to a certain extent by rallies and activism in connection to an escalation in violence between Israel and Gaza in May 2021, which were largely peaceful but included significant

examples of antisemitism. In an atmosphere where speakers were calling for 'resistance by any means necessary' or led chants celebrating violence against Jews, Jews were targeted in the streets, in schools and online.

Meanwhile, the traditional threat from the far right continues to require attention. A more recent form of antisemitism has emerged referred to as 'MUU' – category of Mixed, Unclear and Unstable. In an age where individuals are often radicalised not within a coherent movement, but through self- or algorithmically-curated content online, many barriers that separated established categories of antisemitism continue to break down. MUU content can operate at the fringes of the anti-vax and Covid-conspiracy worlds.

Concerns about violent extremism should be understood in the wider context of sister Jewish communities such as those in the United States, Germany, Belgium, France and Denmark suffering violent antisemitic terrorist attacks in recent years. The increase in the antisemitic discourse in this country over the 2010s alarmed the Jewish community.

Those in public office bear a particular responsibility not to engage in or spread racism, which – as well intimidating members of the Jewish community – may help create an atmosphere that nurtures violence. There is, therefore, widespread concern at the proliferation of antisemitic discourse in UK politics over the last decade, where politicians and activists have employed antisemitic narratives and stereotypes in their language and actions.



Rally against antisemitism in Manchester, 2018

Councillors should receive training in recognising antisemitism and what to do when they come across it. Elected representatives should seek training, or review readily available educational materials from organisations such as CST, the Antisemitism Policy Trust (APT) and Yad Vashem, to ensure they do not engage, unknowingly or otherwise, in antisemitic language, particularly in reference to the Middle East conflict.

Local politicians should also call out antisemitism when they see it and show solidarity with the Jewish community at times of tension. If a rally or event takes place locally and the Jewish community has expressed concern about any incidents that have occurred, local authorities should ensure that organisers have been contacted to review what has happened, with appropriate action taken and lessons learnt. If elected representatives see misinformation online in their feeds, they should call it out.

Politicians and officials from all parties and institutions must lead by example, use responsible language, and call out others when they do not. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its 11 examples should be consulted as a first step when considering whether an action or rhetoric may be antisemitic.

A clear way in which your local authority can take a stand against antisemitism is to adopt the IHRA definition as part of your equalities policies (see next page for the full definition). If your local authority has not done so,

please do so. Those local authorities that have adopted the IHRA definition should ensure it is incorporated into its policies and practices. Councillors should become advocates for the IHRA definition of antisemitism in the wider civil society networks in which they participate. Crucially, councillors should receive training in recognising and countering antisemitism from reputable organisations such as CST or the APT. Some information on the Jewish way of life should feature as part of any wider cultural competencies training for councillors or staff.

Extremism

Jewish communities worldwide have been a focal point for terrorist attacks by supporters of the so-called ‘Islamic State’, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups in cities such as Paris, Toulouse, Brussels and Copenhagen. The Far Right remains a threat, motivated by a conspiratorial belief that Jews are covertly responsible for the world’s ills, a belief structure which is often adopted by those in the Mixed, Unclear and Unstable category. Jewish institutions, particularly synagogues and schools, employ a rigorous approach to security procedures which can be costly and require additional support.

We therefore ask local authorities to play their part in countering extremism, as part of their wider safeguarding strategy, working with national government and developing local approaches.

The Prevent programme acts as a nationally-mandated locally-grounded safeguarding initiative around problems of extremism. It is right that the Government reviews and renews such programmes. However, the need for local authorities to safeguard against extremism and radicalisation is important for the safety of all citizens. It is important that councils engage with local communities sensitively in a way that builds support for such safeguarding efforts. While carrying out local authority responsibilities under such programmes is a statutory responsibility, local authorities should advocate openly for their safeguarding role regarding extremism, given the vulnerability of the discourse regarding programmes such as Prevent to disinformation. We also ask for local authorities to be mindful of events they hold. Local authority-supported venues should not provide a platform for hate speakers or extremists.

“A clear way in which your local authority can take a stand against antisemitism is to adopt the IHRA definition as part of your equalities policies.”

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism

The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, so with evidence that the scourge of antisemitism is once again on the rise, we resolved to take a leading role in combating it. IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is.

The IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial worked to build international consensus around a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, which was subsequently adopted by the Plenary. By doing so, the IHRA set an example of responsible conduct for other international fora and provided an important tool with practical applicability for its Member Countries. This is just one illustration of how the IHRA has equipped policymakers to address this rise in hate and discrimination at their national level.

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

Policy Asks



ADOPT IHRA

Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism in full, including its examples. Where already adopted, ensure that it is incorporated into procedures and policies.

TRAIN STAFF & REPRESENTATIVES

Elected representatives and relevant staff should receive appropriate antisemitism training from an organisation with Jewish communal confidence, such as the CST or APT.

MANAGE RISK

Be particularly aware of the risk of increased antisemitism at times of heightened conflict in the Middle East. If events occur that concern the Jewish community, follow up with organisers anything that went wrong and how lessons can be learned.

LANGUAGE & BEHAVIOUR

Be responsible in your language and behaviour, calling out harmful rhetoric and actions, online and offline.

ESTABLISH ROBUST SYSTEMS

Ensure the local authority has systems to deal with hate incidents swiftly (eg. antisemitic graffiti clear up).

REPORT HATE INCIDENTS

Appropriate council staff should be trained in recognising when service users have experienced an anti-Jewish hate incident and how to report it, either to the police or a third-party reporting organisation such as CST. Local authorities should also have an appropriately publicised third party reporting mechanism.

RECORD ACCURATELY

Ensure that in data collection regarding safety and security, 'Jewish' is explicitly included in any ethnic as well as faith section.

COUNTER EXTREMISM

Challenge extremism wherever it is found.

PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE

Publicly make the case for local authorities' active participation in national anti-extremist safeguarding programmes.

DEPLATFORM HATE

Do not host organisations or individuals that spread hatred or extremism.

Community Cohesion

MAINTAIN A COMMUNITY-LED BOROUGH'S INTERFAITH NETWORK WITH SENIOR MEMBER INVOLVEMENT AND COUNCIL OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Members of the Jewish community are committed to positive engagement with people of all faiths and none, through participation in intercommunal organisations, projects, and initiatives. The Board of Deputies can facilitate meetings between local authorities and interfaith and faith groups.

While much of this work is driven by the faith groups themselves at a local and national level, local authorities have resources that could facilitate its strategic growth. We know that small amounts of well-allocated local authority funding can have a large impact. Ideally, local authorities would support their own local interfaith, intergroup, or intercommunal networks, which can draw upon staff time for administrative support and are co-chaired by a portfolio holder or other senior member along with at least one local religious leader. By a senior councillor stepping forward to co-chair, the network is given prestige and can ensure that any issues raised are dealt with at the appropriate level within the council.

A supported interfaith network can provide many benefits for local authorities, such as mobilisation for events or as a communications channel to residents. However, in the most effective Interfaith networks, the agenda is set by the constituent groups, not the council, so they have a sense of ownership over the network's outcomes. This can include issues as varied as sharing best practice on

mental health or offering support for refugees.

Even in areas with small numbers of Jewish residents, every effort should be made to ensure there is Jewish representation on your Interfaith Network, as it is an important signal to the Jewish residents you do have that they are recognised. If you are struggling to find a representative of the Jewish community, you can contact the Board of Deputies who can make an introduction for you.

The Board of Deputies continues to lead on interfaith engagement for the Jewish community as a whole. Our Invest In Peace programme, working with education organisation Solutions Not Sides, brings together local churches and synagogues to support Israeli-Palestinian peace-building. We have also worked to deepen and broaden links between Jewish and Muslim communities. We look to local authorities to support us in this work.

For example, the Board of Deputies is working with human rights organisation René Cassin to raise awareness

of challenges faced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Britain. Local authorities have an important role to play in addressing the concerns of these communities, particularly with respect to planning policy for authorised traveller sites. A lack of these often leads to the proliferation of unauthorised sites, which can be a source of tension between communities and the police being put in an impossible position of containing that friction. It is better that local authorities act early in supporting the provision of sites and maintaining community cohesion, rather than allowing the issue to become one of law enforcement.

Given Jewish history, the Jewish community is particularly sensitive to the plight of immigrants and asylum seekers and condemns pejorative language that stigmatises new arrivals to this country. It is important that councillors are sensitive in language used regarding refugees and other migrants, given that these groups can be vulnerable to stigmatisation and even violence.

“Given Jewish history, the community is particularly sensitive to the plight of immigrants and asylum seekers and condemns pejorative language that stigmatises new arrivals to this country.”



Policy Asks



WORK WITH REP COUNCILS

Engage with local Jewish Representative Councils, where they operate, on issues relating to intercommunal relations.

FACILITATE INTERFAITH EXCHANGE

Provide council administrative support to interfaith networks and facilitate and convene meetings by a senior member of the council. However, its agenda should be driven by the faith representatives. Even in areas with small numbers of Jewish residents, the Board of Deputies can assist in identifying a Jewish representative.

SUPPORT THE GYPSY, ROMA, TRAVELLER COMMUNITY

Ensure that adequate local provision is made for authorised traveller sites.

HUMANISE REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Be sensitive in language used regarding refugees and other migrants, given that these groups can be vulnerable to stigmatisation and even violence.

Social Care & Local Public Services

WORK CREATIVELY TO ENSURE SERVICE USERS CAN ACCESS FAITH AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES WHERE RELEVANT

Many Jews value the option of culturally-sensitive care when choosing a provider, and it is widely accepted that culturally specific care is a necessity for a person's wellbeing. For example, many Jews would prefer care settings that offer meaningful experiences for the Sabbath (Shabbat that occurs between Friday evening and Saturday evening), High Holy Days and Festivals. Meanwhile the preparation of kosher food requires both knowledge and understanding. Social care service users are often among the most vulnerable and can have very particular needs. Local authorities should have a policy of supporting a diverse marketplace of providers, so service users and families can find the right provider for them.

Local authorities are sometimes reluctant to contribute to the care of a resident when they choose to leave the local authority area to obtain specialist, religious and culturally-sensitive care. Likewise, the 'destination' local authority may be unwilling to assist funding a resident who has come from elsewhere. A client may find themselves caught between the bureaucracies of two local authorities, and, as a result, experience distress. It is important that local authorities work collaboratively and creatively to resolve such situations. This can be more difficult for younger service users with more complex needs, but these are the exact situations that require the greatest focus on specialised care which is

appropriate for the user. The Board of Deputies would support more working on these issues at Combined Authority or Local Authority Alliance level.

Following many years of public-funding real-terms cuts, providers of Jewish social care sector for older people now estimate that there is a serious gap between the amount that a local authority is willing to fund for a residential care place and the actual cost of the place. The gap for Jewish providers is even greater because of the increased costs of providing for Jewish observance. The Jewish community is very fortunate to have a supporter infrastructure of volunteers and a fundraising base which enables it to subsidise these services, but there is a limit to how much resource can be provided his way. The Government has promised increased funding as part of its People at the Heart of Care December 2021 White Paper. It is critical that when allocating this funding, local government takes into account the need to provide faith and culturally sensitive care for users.

The NHS as well as local authorities have a role in ensuring that care is provided in a faith and culturally sensitive way, in particular, through its Continuing Health Care teams. Therefore, when local authorities are engaging with the NHS through their external scrutiny function, they should in particular talk to local Clinical Commissioning Groups on this issue. CCGs should be asked whether their Continuing Health Care teams go beyond assessing physical health needs to ensuring support for protected

characteristics such as faith when sourcing care for individuals.

Local Public Services

There are often faith community charities that can be mobilised in regard to particular topics, such as Jewish Women's Aid that supports Jewish women experiencing domestic and sexual abuse or JAMI that supports mental health in the community. Faith and culturally sensitive services are often more effective than direct state provision, as service users can be more comfortable receiving such services in the familiar context that such organisations provide.

The Jewish community also supports culturally and faith-specific employment and skills services such as Work Avenue, Resource, and the Jewel Foundation in Manchester. These are largely funded by the community itself. Local authorities can support the work of these organisations by collating local employment and skills data, which allows for analysis by faith and ethnicity. In such data collection, Judaism/Jewishness should be offered as an explicit choice for both faith and ethnicity. Such data would enable these organisations to plan.

These organisations have been very successful at supporting Jewish clients back into work. If you would like to engage in some of their best practice models, please contact the Board of Deputies who will put you in touch with the relevant organisation.

Policy Asks



PROVIDE CULTURALLY SENSITIVE CARE & SERVICES

Local authorities should consider the provision of culturally-sensitive care and welfare services as an important factor in ensuring the wellbeing and mental health of users. This should be reflected when allocating the increased investment they should receive as outlined in the 2021 Adult Social Care White Paper.

COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

Local authorities should ensure that people who need to obtain care from a specialist provider in a different local authority are able to do so, through creative and collaborative partnerships.

RESPECT SPECIALIST PROVIDERS

Local authorities should be mindful that providers of services who do so within a particular religious and cultural context are often more effective at supporting services users than generalist providers.

“Faith and culturally sensitive services are often more effective than direct state provision, as service users can be more comfortable receiving such services in the familiar context that such organisations provide.”

Education & Youth

ENSURE THAT JEWISH FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE – WHERE DEMAND ALLOWS – A JEWISH SCHOOL, OR MAINSTREAM SCHOOL, SAFE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR CHILD WILL BE SUPPORTED IN EITHER SETTING

Jewish schools are the pride of those communities where they operate. There are more than 130 Jewish schools across the UK mainly concentrated in London, Manchester and Gateshead.

School league tables demonstrate that faith schools are among the most successful in the country. Their high performance reflects the importance of having a clear ethos and moral values deeply embedded within an educational framework, which are core to any faith school. The discipline of and focus on mind and spirit associated with a clear ethos and moral values has a discernible positive impact on the performance of students. These values mean that their students go on to make valuable contributions to wider society.

Over the past few years, there have been an increased pressure, particularly on Jewish secondary schools, to increase the supply of places. Research was produced by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in association with Partnerships for Jewish Schools has looked at provision for the community since 2015 and updated projections in 2018 and 2021 to understand the supply and demand. Consequently, there are some schools looking to expand provision and others thinking creatively about their future. We would hope that local authorities would respond positively to Jewish schools who reach out to work together to look at these issues.

The overwhelming majority of Jewish children attend a Jewish school giving them the opportunity to enjoy a Jewish education rooted in British values and

the national curriculum. The community firmly believes that teaching secular and religious studies alongside one another creates balanced well-rounded students. The state-supported schools pride themselves on being models of best practice, promoting links between schools of all faiths and none, ensuring children understand and appreciate individuals with backgrounds that differ from their own.

Supporting Jewish pupils in mainstream schools

The Board of Deputies supports an educational system that provides Jewish parents with the choice of sending their children to either a Jewish faith school where there is the requisite demand or a mainstream school. Therefore, it is vital that mainstream schools are supportive and welcoming environments for Jewish children.

A critical issue for Jewish students in mainstream schools is the ability to take leave for the Sabbath (Hebrew: Shabbat), which begins on a Friday at sunset and so may require some time off in the winter, in addition to High Holy Days and Festivals. More information on this issue can be found in the Authorised Absence for Religious Leave section below.

The Jewish community offers training in countering anti-Jewish hate – antisemitism – in school settings, for pupils or teachers through the Stand Up! Education against Discrimination interfaith educational project. The organisation charges no fee to local authorities or schools with an aim to empower young people to learn about and act against antisemitism and

anti-Muslim hate. It is always delivered by Jewish and Muslim facilitators. The organisation can also offer training to council officers, school management and teachers.

Informal education is also key to ensuring that Jewish pupils are welcome in mainstream schools. UJIA's Jewish Activities in Mainstream Schools (JAMS) initiative offers content for Jewish children in non-Jewish schools and can be key to making Jewish pupils feel recognised and engaged with Jewish education. SACREs should also be advocates for JAMS in schools, promoting the programme to those schools in your borough with Jewish pupils.

SACREs

Maintaining a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory duty for local authorities in England and Wales. SACREs, comprised of councillors, teachers and faith leaders, set the Locally Agreed Syllabus for local authority schools and make decisions about collective worship. However, despite this important role, many SACREs are under-resourced.

Local authority involvement has been transformed in recent decades, with the best local authorities managing the transition from one of control to one of convening and advocacy. SACREs should be a key part of that advocacy, emphasising to schools – whether they are academies, free schools, UTCs, Further Education colleges or otherwise – how religious education is vital in preparing future citizens for a pluralistic society where we respect each other's

“One in every three schools in Britain is a faith school, and approximately two-thirds of Jewish children of school age in the UK attend Jewish schools.”

beliefs. Furthermore, we should think about how knowledge of faiths can be part of Personal, Health, Social and Economic education and across the curriculum. SACREs should also be able to signpost schools on how to access the necessary resources.

As such, we would urge you to ensure that your SACRE is regularly convened and well-supported. It should be clear on the local authority website who to contact to engage with the SACRE. The Board of Deputies maintains a network of Jewish representatives on SACREs, offering them support and guidance. If your local authority has difficulty filling a vacancy for a Jewish representative on your SACRE, please contact the Board of Deputies, who will be able to help identify a suitable candidate.

RE and informal education

Ofsted’s research review on Religious Education (RE) has noted that 25 per cent of primary schools and 56 per cent of academies do not meet the minimum amount of curriculum time for teaching RE. This is in stark contrast to the 90 per cent of faith schools who do meet these requirements. RE develops pupils’ knowledge and understanding of religions, values, cultures, and traditions.

The Jewish community believes that the teaching of RE helps to foster better relations in communities where there is diversity. RE can help to combat misunderstanding, discrimination, and racism, including anti-Jewish racism – antisemitism. It is more important than ever for children to be knowledgeable about other faiths, so that tolerant

communities can be sustained where people of all faiths and none feel secure.

The Board of Deputies’ Jewish Living Exhibition is an educational, interactive mobile exhibition which travels around the country, often to places where there are few or no Jewish residents. It provides schoolchildren and the wider public with accurate information about the Jewish way of life including religion and culture. Local authorities should consider approaching the Board of Deputies regarding hosting the Jewish Living Exhibition.

Students at University

Jewish students face similar issues to students generally, including exploitative landlords, gender-based violence and difficulties with mental health. There are several areas where council policy can be particularly helpful. Many small and ageing Jewish communities may live alongside vibrant university Jewish societies. Council action on employment and employability, ensuring students are aware of career-launching jobs in the area can help revitalise these small communities. Secondly, council staff should be able to direct service users who have suffered from hate crime to the appropriate third-party hate crime reporting centres. Many universities and students’ unions are already third-party reporting centres, but where the Jewish community is concerned, the Community Security Trust should be contacted.

Furthermore, councils should bear in mind their obligations in providing a duty of care to Jewish students when entering into formal partnership

agreements with universities. Councils should engage with the Union of Jewish Students when forming these partnerships, especially if said agreements relate to combatting racism.

Authorised absence for religious leave

For many Jewish families, observing the Sabbath (Shabbat in Hebrew – which occurs from before sunset on Fridays until after sunset on Saturdays) and High Holy Days are important commitments. Traditionally, activities such as writing, travelling by car or public transport and the use of electronic devices are forbidden.

Dates of festivals will fall on different dates each year. The relevant dates for 2022- 2026 can be found at the back of this manifesto. When High Holy Days fall during the week, observant teachers and children from observant families will not attend school. When High Holy Days fall at weekends or bank holidays, such students may also struggle to complete the amount of homework teachers would expect on a normal weekend. During the winter, pupils from observant families may require authorised absence on Friday afternoons to enable them to reach home before the commencement of the Sabbath.

The Board of Deputies endorses either a policy of unlimited student leave for religious observance, or a fixed number of days of leave for observance requiring only notification from parents with a written statement from a clergy leader for any further days of absence. This understanding is also critical for Jewish staff such as Jewish teachers and Jewish employees of councils.

Policy Asks



SUPPORT JEWISH FAITH SCHOOLS

Work with existing Jewish faith schools in your local authority and welcome any new ones.

FACILITATE LINKAGES BETWEEN SCHOOLS

Support formal linking programmes between schools of different faith and non-faith backgrounds, ensuring that schools are the main drivers of programme design.

DELIVER COUNTER-ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION

Engage with the Stand Up! Education against Discrimination initiative to deliver counter-antisemitism informal education in schools.

ENSURE JEWISH PUPILS FEEL INCLUDED IN NON-JEWISH SCHOOLS

Non-Jewish schools with Jewish pupils should approach JAMS to develop informal Jewish content for their Jewish pupils, so that they feel recognised within the school community. The Board of Deputies can facilitate an introduction if this would be useful.

AUTHORISED ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS LEAVE

Advocate for schools to have a faith-sensitive policy regarding authorised absence for religious leave.

SUPPORT SACRE REPS

Your SACRE should be a strong advocate for faith education and faith awareness. Encourage existing Jewish SACRE representatives to contact the Board of Deputies as we maintain a network that offers support and opportunities to share best practice.

ADVOCATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Encourage schools to incorporate religious education into their syllabuses.

HOST THE JEWISH LIVING EXHIBITION

Consider hosting the Board of Deputies Jewish Living Exhibition.

PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Work on employment information and employability schemes for students.

ENSURE ROBUST HATE CRIME REPORTING PROCESSES & TRAINING

Ensure council staff know how to signpost victims of hate crime to the appropriate third-party hate crime reporting centre.

Public Health

WORK WITH JEWISH COMMUNITIES ON DELIVERING PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND ENSURE THAT PUBLIC HEALTH DATA COLLECTION INCLUDES AN EXPLICIT JUDAISM/JEWISH OPTION UNDER ETHNICITY QUESTIONS

Specialist services

Local authorities with significant Jewish communities will only be able to commission or provide religiously and cultural services to their Jewish residents if they have good links with the Jewish community. Other local authorities should ensure that they can obtain advice when necessary.

In both settings, for those commissioning any religiously and culturally appropriate services for Jewish residents with mental ill health, physical disabilities or learning disabilities, working with organisations that offer culturally sensitive Jewish services will lead to better quality of life for service users and value for money for the local authority.

Data collection

Many local authorities collect data by ethnicity and not faith, and so can miss out on issues affecting the Jewish community if they consider Judaism only as a faith and not an ethnicity.

This was particularly problematic during the first wave of the Covid Pandemic when Jewish men were two and half times more likely to suffer mortality controlling for socio-economic factors than secular men. Therefore, local authorities should take care to include 'Jewish' as an explicit category for ethnicity in data collection initiatives concerning health.

Immunisation

Since the earliest days of vaccination in the UK, Jews have supported immunisation to prevent infectious diseases, particularly in children. Local authorities should work with their local Jewish communities, working together local health care staff, teachers and rabbis to ensure a high take-up of immunisations. Materials used for education should always be culturally and religiously sensitive.

Some avoidable infectious disease outbreaks have occurred in Jewish schools. These have been tackled swiftly and successfully based upon collaborative initiatives between local authorities and the local Jewish community. A key element was the social and cultural tact with which this was handled. This sensitivity is crucial when working with minorities, including Jews.

Covid-19 has highlighted the importance not only of maintaining campaigns to foster immunisation, but also of promoting preventive approaches. Combatting anti-vax material has been necessary, and local authorities have an important role in this.

Death certification, coroners' services and autopsies

Jewish tradition requires that burial should take place as soon as possible after death. Funerals do not take place on Shabbat or on festivals, but as soon as possible afterwards.

Therefore, handling by a coroner in the English and Welsh system and a procurator fiscal in Scotland should be concluded as expeditiously as possible. When there is any uncertainty about cause of death, and a death certificate cannot be issued, in England and Wales the death is reported to the coroner or the procurator fiscal in Scotland who must decide whether or not to release the body for burial. Coroners or procurator fiscals may also order autopsies and initiate inquests.

This process can also be adversely impacted by the lack of a coroner or procurator fiscal being available 'out of hours', the absence of the appropriate doctor, or the lack of available facilities in local authorities for rapid registration. This can cause distress to bereaved families and can delay both the funeral and the traditional Jewish mourning process.

The anxiety caused to bereaved families, by a delayed process whether they be Jewish or of another faith or belief, is being taken seriously by the Chief Coroner for England and Wales, who is promoting an out-of-hours service as best practice.

Furthermore, the High Court in *Adath Yisroel Burial Society v HM Senior Coroner for Inner North London 2018* upheld the principle that senior coroners should consider family requests for case prioritisation, whether that be to fulfil religious obligations or any other reason. When Senior Coroners can consider such requests with due attention it can also do much to alleviate the distress of bereaved families.

“Collaborative initiatives between local authorities and the local Jewish community have prevented and reduced outbreaks.”

Autopsies are also an area of concern for the Jewish community. Jewish tradition decrees that the body of a deceased person should be buried without any undue interference. There is a strong preference for avoiding invasive autopsies, and consent is only given when there is clear evidence that the procedure will be of benefit. There is an exception when the requirement for autopsy is legal, i.e. ordered by the coroner or the procurator fiscal. This can occur where there is uncertainty as to the cause of death, as well as when there is suspicion of an offence.

In recent years, there has been considerable public interest in the use of minimally invasive autopsy – where a computerised tomography (CT) scan is used – which has been validated in Government-funded studies. This technology is of value not only to Jews but also to the wider population, since the quality of this form of autopsy is as good if not better than conventional procedures.

The Chief Coroner promotes the minimisation of the invasiveness of autopsies as best practice, using CT scanning where possible. While minimally invasive autopsy has been adopted by many coroners, it is still far from universal practice. As it involves expense, the Jewish community may consider how it might contribute to meeting the cost.

While in England and Wales coroners are not employed by local authorities – and their decisions rightly enjoy judicial independence – they are appointed

and funded by them. Local authorities have a statutory duty under Section 24 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to provide “staff and accommodation” to coroners.

Therefore, councils can help ensure a culturally-sensitive coroner service in a number of ways:

- When generating funding agreements with coroners, local authorities should advocate strongly for an out-of-hours service as part of any arrangement.
- When appointing coroners, local authorities should ask candidates will do to provide a faith sensitive service.
- According to the Chief Coroner’s model guidelines, senior coroners should provide an annual report for local authorities which should be displayed on the local authority website. Local authorities should request these reports cover issues such as out-of-hours services, minimising the invasiveness of autopsies and providing a faith sensitive service.
- Use the local authority’s external scrutiny function to ask the local coroner service concerning the faith sensitivity of their service.

Policy Asks



SIGNPOST SERVICES

Local authorities must ensure that their commissioners are aware of the Jewish community faith and cultural welfare organisations and services that are available in their areas and liaise closely and co-operatively with them.

TRAIN COMMUNITY TEAMS

Local authorities must make sure that those working in the community are educated and trained in handling the faith and cultural sensitivities that might arise with local Jewish residents.

FUND SPECIALIST PROVISION

Local authorities should fund culturally specific and specialist services as an important investment in the mental health and wellbeing of service users from all minority religious and ethnic backgrounds as their needs are often not met sufficiently by generic providers.

COLLECT ACCURATE DATA

Local authorities should take care to include 'Jewish' as an explicit category for ethnicity in data collection initiatives concerning health.

MAKE IMMUNISATION ACCESSIBLE

Ensure that immunisation strategies are widely accessible, robust, and engage with all religious and cultural groups, including Jews, within local authorities. Ensure that proactive immunisation campaigns to combat anti-vax campaigns are supported.

HELP ENSURE A FAITH SENSITIVE CORONER SERVICE

Use the appointment and funding process for coroners to help secure a faith sensitive service, as well as the local authority's external scrutiny function. Request that the senior coroner's reports to the local authority covers faith sensitivity issues such as out-of-hours service, prioritisation and autopsy, and that the report is displayed in an accessible way on the council's website.

Planning & Housing

ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF HOUSING AND TENURE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LARGER FAMILIES, FIRST-TIME BUYERS AND VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN NEED OF CULTURALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY APPROPRIATE SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

Planning

The Jewish community is constantly evolving and requires a fair and flexible planning system. The Jewish population is fast-growing in areas such as Hertfordshire and Greater Manchester.

Location is a vital factor for Jewish families. Living within walking distance of communal facilities, such as synagogues, kosher shops, Jewish schools and community centres is especially important for Jews who follow Orthodox practice and who therefore do not use transport on the Sabbath (Shabbat that occurs between Friday evening and Saturday evening) or High Holy Days. This need, however, may often also be important for those who do not follow all observances, especially those who wish to send their children to a Jewish school. For this reason, as families grow, households will often seek to extend or renovate the home in which they already live, rather than move away from their community.

Local Development Plans (Local Plans) have the potential to support residents in creating the conditions for sustainable development. It is also critical that Local Plans do not put a strain on the specific infrastructure needed by parts of the Jewish community, and this should be amply considered by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in the early stages of drafting Local Plans and when considering planning applications.

Equally, LPAs should endeavour to

reduce any unnecessary bureaucracy that comes with home extensions or other planning applications. This is also true of synagogue extensions, new synagogues, and ritual baths (mikva'ot) which are vital for Jewish communal life. In recent years, the Jewish community has breathed new life into buildings that previously had different uses, such as public houses or industrial units. These spaces are now vibrant community hubs, where they might once have been in danger of becoming derelict. While every planning application must be considered on its individual merits, we would strongly encourage a 'presumption in favour' of sustainable, faith-based development in line with national planning policy.

LPAs should ensure that they fully resource its pre-application advice services, especially for applications which provide faith-based or faith-specific infrastructure or services to the local area. This will ensure that officers are fully informed about any faith-specific needs of the applicant in relation to development.

In a similar respect, planning officers should be aware of various faith-based stakeholders in their borough, including local synagogues or organisations, to advise developers both on faith-specific consultees and on ways to engage them. Officers should ensure that all relevant stakeholders are engaged at an early stage of the planning process. Consultation should include representatives of the Jewish community where appropriate. The Board of Deputies is happy to assist in

facilitating such engagement.

Some larger Jewish communities have been engaged with local authorities in recent years over the issue of Eruvs (Eruvim). An eruv is a boundary demarcation, virtually unnoticeable to the wider population, that allows observant Orthodox and Masorti Jews to carry and push buggies and wheelchairs on Shabbat, and to carry items often relevant to prayer, making a significant difference to the lives and religious freedoms of Jewish families and individuals alike. A constructive consultation led by the local authority will reassure the wider community.

Finally, councils should consider overall equality strategy in connection to the planning process. LPAs should also be conscious of development strategy in the context of religious equality and should work with faith groups to ensure their housing needs are met. This should apply to both specific developments and overall strategy with respect to planning and development that will guarantee due consideration of faith-specific stakeholders when appropriate.

Housing

In common with the wider UK population, there is an extensive spectrum of housing needs in Jewish communities. Larger families seek sufficient space within walking distance of community infrastructure, especially when motorised travel is not permitted on the Sabbath (Shabbat that occurs between Friday evening and Saturday evening) or High Holy Days. Appropriate

geographic location is important for access to kosher shops and Jewish schools and wider social networks that can build household resilience. The Jewish community is grappling with a shortfall of social housing. Progress is stifled by a more general polarised debate around the issue, between actors who are keen to build as much social housing as possible and others who are far less enthusiastic. The result is that when social housing is built, there is an emphasis on universal, non-specific social housing.

And yet, homes are made for people and not for statistics. Often, these people might include older residents, single parents, disabled residents, and lower-income earners. As outlined above, people require social networks and infrastructure that supports the expression of who they are in support of resilience and mental health. As was outlined in the *R v Hackney London Borough Council and Agudas Israel Housing Association* case, equality does not require all services to be uniform and uniformly offered. What is key is for all citizens to have their basic individual needs met so they can participate in society equally and have an equal opportunity for a happy and fulfilling life. This means that services should be tailored to specific needs. The various actors that collaborate to generate social housing, should resist compromises whereby only uniform social housing is agreed upon. The best social housing is that based around real, existing needs – there is always a role for specific social housing such as that provided by Jewish Housing Associations.

There continues to be a shortfall of non-owner-occupier options available. However, it is important to note that of all the various interventions that government can make on social housing – general-needs housing, sheltered accommodation, providing ethical lettings agencies, and others – it is not just those on the most modest means who can benefit, but anyone who experiences low resilience. These may include those who face long-term relationship break down, particularly when there are children involved, those returning from residency in Israel or Jewish families who find themselves isolated or too far away from communal infrastructure.

Social housing does not just have a role to play in expanding Jewish communities but also those that are ageing. In such cases, sheltered accommodation can be vital.

Councils should also consider the various ownership models of housing that is dispersed throughout their authorities, such as Shared Ownership, Help-to-Buy, and, more recently, First Homes.

When you meet your local Jewish community, make sure that their housing needs are an issue that is discussed. Is the community expanding and needing options for families, or ageing, and requires support in a different way? Given that Jewish housing associations have some accommodation capacity that stands outside the local authority system, it may be that a signposting role for local authorities as to where individuals can apply is what is needed.

“Living within walking distance of communal facilities is especially important for Jews who follow Orthodox practice and who therefore do not use transport on the Sabbath.”

Policy Asks



REDUCE ONEROUS PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

LPAs should not be overly bureaucratic, to allow the building of new Jewish communal facilities. LPAs should work on a 'presumption in favour' of development that provides sustainable, faith-specific infrastructure.

CONSULT COMMUNITIES

Engage with your local Jewish communities and Jewish housing associations when developing planning policies and Local Plans.

PROVIDE PRE-APPLICATION SUPPORT

Councils should endeavour to effectively support their pre-application advice services, which provide useful guidance to applicants on making development suitable for the area and its intended purpose. In any pre-application advice, planning officers should advise on relevant and potential faith-specific consultees and should recommend methods of engagement with such stakeholders.

SUPPORT ERUV DEVELOPMENT

Support Jewish communities in your area wishing to propose to build an eruv and help to dispel any misconceptions among the wider population.

MAKE HOUSING PART OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

When meeting local Jewish communities, make sure housing needs are an issue that is discussed.

INCLUDE CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROVISION IN SOCIAL HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS

When generating proposals for new social housing, ensure there is a role for culturally specific provision, such as that supported by Jewish housing associations.

ENSURE ADEQUATE HOUSING PROVISION NEAR JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Ensure adequate provision of housing, especially for larger families and first-time buyers, within reach of Jewish communal infrastructure.

Israel

RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF ISRAEL FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, AS THE WORLD'S ONLY JEWISH STATE AND ANCESTRAL NATIONAL HOMELAND OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, PROMOTE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL, INCLUDING SUPPORTING PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES WITH THE PALESTINIANS AND OPPOSING DIVISIVE RHETORIC AND THE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BOYCOTTS DIVESTMENT SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN

Israel is home to between 40 and 50 per cent of all Jews. Recent research reports have shown that the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community identifies in some way with Israel. More than 90 per cent of Jewish people in the UK regard Israel as part of their identity as Jews, 95 per cent have visited and 76 per cent say that Israel is relevant to their day-to-day lives in Britain. Almost 7 in 10 British Jews have close friends and family in Israel and so, whatever their individual views on the politics of the country including the conflict with the Palestinians, they are often personally affected by events that occur in the region.

Positive examples of local government engagement with Israel include twinning arrangements which send an inclusive signal to Jewish residents. For those interested in advancing co-operation between the sides in the conflict, engaging in three-way twinning arrangements or the Board of Deputies' Invest in Peace programme, which offers a platform for Israeli and Palestinian narratives to be heard with respect, represent positive meaningful balanced examples.

Legitimate criticism of the policies and actions of Israel, or indeed any other state, has a place in public discourse. However, local government representatives can sometimes use rhetoric that subjects Israel to discriminatory or disproportionate criticism that is unsettling to the

community. This is especially true when the more substantial shortcomings of other states, including democracies, do not appear to attract similar attention.

It is a historical reality that anti-Israel advocacy has been, at times, used as a vehicle for antisemitism. Therefore – as has been outlined in the Community Safety part of the manifesto – adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism (IHRA) is critical. Under no circumstances should criticism of Israel be used as a pretext for promoting antisemitic tropes such as Jewish conspiracies about political or media control.

Other anti-Israel activities can undermine freedom of speech, including artistic and academic freedom, freedom of association, and community relations in general. The intimidation of people wishing to attend a production at a festival, or to purchase items at particular shops, should be of concern to everyone.

Motions which support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) against the Jewish state, as passed in some local authorities, only intensifies this intimidation and make smaller Jewish communities feel particularly vulnerable. This is especially true when no similar policy exists against other states.

At times when the conflict escalates into military violence, local authorities which display support for one side by, for example, flying the Palestinian flag, will likewise heighten fears among their Jewish population. We recommend flying neither flag during such episodes.

Israel is a hi-tech hub, and there is the exciting potential for economic co-operation to benefit local authority areas and Israel. For more information please contact the UK/Israel Tech Hub, Start Up Nation Central or the Israel Export Institute.

“It is a historical reality that anti-Israel advocacy has been, at times, been used as a vehicle for antisemitism.”

Policy Asks

MODERATE LANGUAGE

Ensure that the tone and language of statements regarding Israel do not unwittingly cause divisions between communities in your area.

REJECT BDS

Oppose the divisive Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment campaign.

FOSTER PEACE

Promote projects that unite communities in your area, including interfaith and inter-communal initiatives and co-existence projects.

PROTECT EVENTS

Make efforts to protect Jewish and Israeli cultural events from intimidation.

DO NOT INCREASE TENSION

At times of heightened tension, do not fly the flag of any party to the conflict, make statements, or pass resolutions that appear to blame only one side. If a local authority believes that it must make a statement in favour of peace, they should consult community representatives to ensure a sensitive approach is adopted.



Social Justice & Action

STAND UP AGAINST PREJUDICE, HATE AND BARRIERS FACED BY THOSE SUCH AS THE MUSLIM, BLACK AND GYPSY, ROMA & TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES AND WORK WITH FAITH COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT REFUGEES

The Jewish community has a vibrant social action and social justice sector, contributing to making our shared society and the world a better, fairer place. We support international development and relief charities such as World Jewish Relief, Tzedek, and World ORT; human rights charities such as René Cassin and the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE); and volunteering charities such as the Jewish Volunteering Network (JVN).

Various other Jewish organisations have strong volunteer networks and bases that are regularly deployed to care for Jewish people and people of other faiths and none. The Jewish community engages in an annual day of focused communal social action under the banner of Mitzvah Day, working with local authorities across the country to support local causes. Local authorities

should engage local Jewish groups, such as a local synagogue, to see if they are doing any activities for Mitzvah Day that the local council and councillors can support.

The Board of Deputies has declared a climate emergency, and has taken a leading role in fostering EcoSynagogue, the Jewish community's initiative for driving environmental sustainability within synagogues. More than 300 councils have also declared a climate emergency. If your council has not done so already, it is critical that they adopt a climate action plan. There are numerous resources to support local authorities in developing their climate action plan, from the LGA to organisations like Friends of the Earth and Climate Action.

Jewish communities have been active in establishing support networks for refugees by helping with housing and the needs of daily life in a new country, so

called Community Sponsorship Groups. Local authorities can work with Home Office backed Reset to ensure they are maximising the potential of local groups, including Jewish communities, who want to support refugees.

Institutions have been grappling with their shortcomings in overcoming racism in our society since public opinion demanded such action in the wake of the murder of African-American US citizen George Floyd in May 2020. The Board of Deputies launched its own Commission on Racial Inclusivity to audit what the Jewish community could do to ensure that it is a welcoming and respectful space for its own members of colour. Every institution has a different role with regards to tackling racial injustice in our society, and local authorities should look to see what they can do across all of their work.

Policy Asks

CHAMPION COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Support faith-based social action projects by working with food banks and homeless shelters in your area, including by taking part in Mitzvah Day.

TACKLE RACIAL INJUSTICE

Reflect and examine what the local authority can do to help overcome racial injustice in our society.

TAKE CLIMATE ACTION

Adopt an ambitious climate action plan.

SUPPORT REFUGEES

Local authorities should act sympathetically, speedily and proactively to assist refugees to settle in the borough and receive support to enable integration. Work with Reset and Community sponsorship groups, and those interested in becoming Community Sponsorship Groups, to help support and integrate refugees.

Culture & Heritage

ENSURE THAT LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITIES HAVE A CONTACT PERSON IN THE COUNCIL WITH WHOM THEY CAN HAVE A REGULAR DIALOGUE WITH REGARDING PLANNING LOCAL JEWISH CIVIC EVENTS

When local authorities acknowledge Jewish religious and cultural events throughout the year, Jewish residents feel a greater sense of pride and communities get to know each other.

Local authorities can support a range of events that celebrate Jewish religion and culture, from Hanukkah candelabra (Hanukkiyah/Menorah) lighting in December, to hosting a Sukkah in September/October, meetings for the community in the mayor's parlour and civic services. Often such events require minimal support from the local authority, potentially as little as a location and publicity. Jewish communities will try to provide financial and material resources towards the event. It is important that local Jewish communities have a 'warm contact', on both the elected member side and the council officer side, with whom they can liaise with about civic-religious events.

Jewish Culture

The flourishing UK Jewish cultural scene is a testimony to a thriving and integrated community. The pandemic has accelerated the understanding that a cultural offer can be online. The Board of Deputies' *Hidden Treasures* initiative uses online spaces to share the British-Jewish story that speaks to our development as a multicultural nation. Please contact the Board of Deputies if your local authority would be interested in engaging with its Jewish heritage. However, too often there are incidents that seek to disrupt Jewish events which involve a connection to Israeli society, a major aspect of Jewish life. In particular, we are concerned about

cultural boycotts and intimidatory protests which are directed at Jewish events. Local authorities should be proactive in opposing boycotts of Jewish and/or Israeli events that happen in their area and be mindful of the impact these can have on local residents. Councils should work with relevant agencies such as the police to put plans in place to reduce tensions.

Jewish Heritage Buildings and Cemeteries

There are many beautiful Jewish synagogues and other buildings around the UK. Local authorities should look at what support they can give to the upkeep of these important elements of Jewish and local heritage. This includes supporting security arrangements and local education to safeguard against desecration.

Jewish heritage can also suffer from inconsiderate development, erasing or seriously undermining vital historic sites. Local authorities should protect

such heritage in their planning policies. While planning committees act in a quasi-judicial way and are tasked with the role of implementing policy rather than generating it, any judicial decision always involves interpretation. Planning committees should, within set policy, seek to protect Jewish heritage.

The same is true of Jewish cemeteries. Jewish religious law prohibits interference with burial grounds except in limited circumstances. There is significant importance placed on the preservation of Jewish burial grounds. This is sometimes threatened by developers or geological issues, such as subsidence or development.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, through designated-charity BOD Heritage, holds the titles of eight disused UK Jewish cemeteries. In this role, it works with local authorities and others to protect these cemeteries from desecration and physical dereliction, and to show the contribution of the Jewish community to local history.

Policy Asks

Ensure that your local Jewish community has a contact person on both the elected and officer side, with whom they can have a warm and constructive relationship and can plan Jewish religious and cultural events throughout the year.

Engage with the Board of Deputies' *Hidden Treasures* project, to explore how UK Jewish heritage may resonate with your local authority area.

Work with the Board of Deputies to protect Jewish synagogues, monuments and cemeteries from damage from vandalism or the geological or other harmful impact of nearby development.

Small Communities

PAY ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF SMALLER JEWISH COMMUNITIES, WHO MAY FEEL ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO INCREASES IN ANTI-JEWISH RHETORIC AND NEED PARTICULAR SUPPORT TO PROMOTE VIABLE, ONGOING JEWISH LIFE IN THEIR AREAS

Jewish communities across the country vary in their size, visibility and engagement within the wider community. It is usually in times of greatest need that individuals and communities reach out to their statutory bodies and political representatives. Around 20 per cent of the total UK Jewish population (about 55,000 people) live either remotely or in small communities. All local authorities should be hospitable places for Jews to live, no matter how many or few Jewish residents there are.

Although issues raised throughout this manifesto will apply to small and dispersed communities, please be mindful that such communities may not necessarily have the capacity or expertise to engage with you on several of these topics at once. Please do contact the Board of Deputies or the Jewish Small Communities Network who can support the local Jewish population in articulating and identifying their concerns and possible solutions providing a clear picture for local authorities free of disinformation.

In some cases, the cultural and economic impact of a Jewish community may long outlive the existence of the community itself, leaving behind a heritage of place names and institutions, whose origins may be in danger of being forgotten.

Jewish Needs

Being able to maintain a Jewish lifestyle frequently revolves around a support structure that includes the availability

of Kosher food and proximity to a Jewish place of worship. However individual families may, for work or lifestyle choices, live where there is no Jewish infrastructure.

When it comes to Jewish needs in security, healthcare, welfare and local authority matters it is important that requests are received sympathetically and that unintentional barriers are surmounted.

Communities that have shrunk may struggle to maintain their local institutions such as synagogues or cemeteries. Meanwhile, new communities may present challenges to local authorities while trying to meet previously absent needs.

Security

Communities feel particularly vulnerable at times of increased antisemitism or tension in the Middle East, and will appreciate contact, support or recognition from their local authority and police.

Understanding the issues

Many local Jewish communities have a representative council, which you

can engage with. A contact list of Jewish Representative Councils is also included on the next page. The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Small Communities Network (JSCN) can advise about the local communities in your area.

Board of Deputies of British Jews can be contacted at: communities@bod.org.uk.

The Jewish Small Communities Network can be contacted at: hello@jscn.org.uk.

JSCN also provides a Hub where you can explore many Jewish Heritage Projects that will give you a wider understanding of the Jewish history in your area - jscn.org.uk/heritage.

“Communities that have shrunk may struggle to maintain their local institutions.”

Policy Ask

Pay particular attention to the needs of smaller Jewish communities, who may feel particularly vulnerable to increases in anti-Jewish rhetoric and may need particular support to promote viable, ongoing Jewish life in their areas.

Jewish Representative Councils

EAST OF ENGLAND

Hertfordshire Jewish Forum
daniel@hertsjewishforum.org.uk
0207 042 8692

Essex Jewish Community Council
admin@ejcc.co.uk
www.ejcc.co.uk

LONDON

London Jewish Forum
(For Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest also see EJCC in East of England)
info@londonjewishforum.org.uk
londonjewishforum.org.uk
0207 042 8692

NORTH EAST

Representative Council of North East Jewry
repCouncil@northeastjewish.org.uk
www.northeastjewish.org.uk

NORTH WEST

Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region (incl. Blackpool, Preston and Stoke)
office@jewishmanchester.org
www.jewishmanchester.org
0161 720 8721

Merseyside Jewish Representative Council (incl. Wirral and Chester)
repCouncil@mjccshifrin.co.uk
www.liverpooljewish.co.uk
0151 733 2292

SOUTH EAST

Sussex Jewish Representative Council
sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org

WEST MIDLANDS

Representative Council of Birmingham and West Midlands Jewry
jewishbirmingham@talktalk.net
www.jewishbirmingham.org

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER

Hull Jewish Representative Council
westermans@gmail.com

Leeds Jewish Representative Council (covering Bradford, Harrogate and York)
info@ljrc.org
www.ljrc.org
0113 218 5869

SCOTLAND

Glasgow Jewish Representative Council
office@glasgowjewishrepCouncil.org
www.jewishglasgow.org
0141 577 8200

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
scojec@scojec.org
www.scojec.org
0141 638 6411

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast Jewish Community
belfastjewishcommunity@gmail.com

WALES

South Wales Jewish Representative Council
swjewishrepCouncil@gmail.com

SMALL COMMUNITIES

Jewish Small Communities Network
www.jscn.org.uk
hello@jscn.org.uk

Festival Dates 2022 - 2026

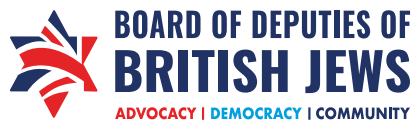
			2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Fast of 10 Tevet		Fasting		Tue 3 Jan		Fri 10 Jan	
Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees)			Mon 17 Jan	Mon 6 Feb	Thur 25 Jan	Thur 13 Feb	Mon 2 Feb
Fast of Esther		Fasting	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar	Thur 21 Mar	Thur 13 Mar	Mon 2 Mar
Purim	Eve		Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar	Sat 23 Mar	Thur 13 Mar	Mon 2 Mar
	Day		Thur 17 Mar	Tue 7 Mar	Sun 24 Mar	Fri 14 Mar	Tue 3 Mar
Fast of Firstborn		Fasting	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr	Thu 10 Apr	Wed 1 Apr
Pesach (Passover)	Eve	Work Restrictions	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr	Sat 12 Apr	Wed 1 Apr
	1st Day	Work Restrictions	Sat 16 Apr	Thur 6 Apr	Tue 23 Apr	Sun 13 Apr	Thur 2 Apr
	2nd Day	Work Restrictions	Sun 17 Apr	Fri 7 Apr	Wed 24 Apr	Mon 14 Apr	Fri 3 Apr
	Intermediate days	Work Restrictions	Mon 18– 21 Apr	Sat 8–11 Apr	Thu 25–28 Apr	Tue 15 Apr – 18 Apr	Sat 4 Apr – 7 Apr
	Eve	Work Restrictions	Thur 21 Apr	Tues 11 Apr	Sun 28 Apr	Fri 18 Apr	Tues 7 Apr
	7th Day	Work Restrictions	Fri 22 Apr	Wed 12 Apr	Mon 29 Apr	Sat 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr
	8th Day	Work Restrictions	Sat 23 Apr	Thur 13 Apr	Tue 30 Apr	Sun 20 Apr	Thur 9 Apr
Shavuot (Pentecost)	Eve	Work Restrictions	Sat 4 Jun	Thur 25 May	Tue 11 Jun	Sun 1 Jun	Thur 21 May
	1st Day	Work Restrictions	Sun 5 Jun	Fri 26 May	Wed 12 Jun	Mon 2 Jun	Fri 23 May
	2nd Day	Work Restrictions	Sun 6 Jun	Sat 27 May	Thu 13 Jun	Tue 3 Jun	Sat 23 May
Fast of 17 Tammuz		Fasting	Sun 17 Jul	Thur 6 Jul	Tue 23 Jul	Sun 13 Jul	Thur 2 Jul
Tish'a B'Av (Fast of 9 Av)		Fasting	Sun 7 Aug	Thur 27 Jul	Tue 13 Aug	Sun 3 Aug	Thur 23 Jul
Rosh HaShana (New Year)	Eve	Work Restrictions	Sun 25 Sep	Fri 15 Sep	Wed 2 Oct	Mon 22 Sep	Fri 11 Sep
	1st Day	Work Restrictions	Mon 26 Sep	Sat 16 Sep	Thur 3 Oct	Tue 23 Sep	Sat 12 Sep
	2nd Day	Work Restrictions	Tues 27 Sep	Sun 17 Sep	Fri 4 Oct	Wed 24 Sep	Sun 13 Sep
Fast of Gedaliah		Fasting	Wed 28 Sep	Mon 18 Sep	Sun 6 Oct	Thu 25 Sep	Mon 14 Sep
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Eve	Fasting, Work Res...	Tue 4 Oct	Sun 24 Sep	Fri 11 Oct	Wed 1 Oct	Sun 20 Sep
	Day	Fasting, Work Res...	Wed 5 Oct	Mon 25 Sep	Sat 12 Oct	Thur 2 Oct	Mon 21 Sep
Sukkot (Tabernacles)	Eve	Work Restrictions	Sun 9 Oct	Fri 29 Sep	Wed 16 Oct	Mon 6 Oct	Fri 25 Sep
	1st Day	Work Restrictions	Mon 10 Oct	Sat 30 Sep	Thur 17 Oct	Tue 7 Oct	Sat 26 Sep
	2nd Day	Work Restrictions	Tue 11 Oct	Sun 1 Oct	Fri 18 Oct	Wed 8 Oct	Sun 27 Sep
	Intermediate days		Wed 12 – 16 Oct	Mon 2 – 6 Oct	Sat 19 – 23 Oct	Thur 9 Oct – 13 Oct	Mon 28 Sep – 2 Oct
Shmini Atzeret (8th Day of Assembly)	Eve	Work Restrictions	Sun 16 Oct	Fri 6 Oct	Wed 23 Oct	Mon 13 Oct	Fri 2 Oct
	Day	Work Restrictions	Mon 17 Oct	Sat 7 Oct	Thur 24 Oct	Tue 14 Oct	Sat 3 Oct
Simchat Torah (Celebration of the Torah)	Day	Work Restrictions	Tue 18 Oct	Sun 8 Oct	Fri 25 Oct	Wed 15 Oct	Sun 4 Oct
Chanukah	1st Night		Sun 18 Dec	Thur 7 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Sun 14 Dec	Fri 4 Dec
	8th Night		Sun 25 Dec	Thur 14 Dec	Wed 1 Jan	Sun 21 Dec	Fri 11 Dec
Fast of 10 Tevet		Fasting		Fri 23 Dec		Tue 30 Dec	Sun 10 Dec

The Board of Deputies of British Jews
is the democratic and representative
body for the UK's Jewish community.



[BOD.ORG.UK/MANIFESTO2022](https://bod.org.uk/manifesto2022)

We are the first port of call for
government, the media and others
seeking to understand the Jewish
community's interests and concerns.



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