

Foreword

The British Jewish community has a long and vibrant history. Following the readmission of Jews to the UK in 1655, Jews established thriving communities, large and small in every nation and region of the country.

Today the UK is home to a Jewish community of around 300,000 people. We are diverse in our backgrounds and traditions, but we are all committed to contributing proudly to every aspect of British life and building strong and cohesive communities with our neighbours from every faith and background.

Sadly, the period since 7 October 2023 has seen a massive rise in antisemitism across our society. This has included the deadliest attack on British Jews since Medieval times at Heaton Park Synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, on 2 October 2025.

It also witnessed the arson attack against the Hatzola ambulance service in Golders Green on 23 March 2026. Further attacks, planned by groups linked to the Islamic State and Iran, have been thwarted due to the professionalism and bravery of police, the security services, and the Jewish community's own Community Security Trust.

We have also seen a surge of antisemitic incidents at demonstrations, in the media, online, on university campuses, in the NHS, in educational settings, in workplaces, trade unions, culture and sport.

Jewish communities are understandably anxious. At the same time, we are resilient, and proud of our contribution to the UK and our local communities. May-June 2026 will see the first-ever British Jewish Culture Month, celebrating our community's artists, philanthropists, cooks, comedians and musicians with events across the country.

Local government plays a vital role in providing security, fighting back against prejudice, avoiding importing international conflicts, and shaping the conditions in which our communities can continue to thrive. When local officials have a good understanding of our community, this ensures best possible dialogue, relationship-building, practical advice, and policy.

Even in places where the local Jewish population is not especially large, engagement with the local community and with national representatives can be vital. Local events can have national impact. Understanding issues that Jewish people face can ensure that challenges are addressed before they escalate.

This Manifesto sets out how councils can support Jewish life through six sections: **Fight Antisemitism; Safeguard Education; Promote Community Cohesion; Avoid Importing Conflict; Make Public Services Inclusive; and Celebrate Jewish Culture.**

Each section contains practical recommendations for councillors and candidates who want to serve all their residents well. We hope you will use this Manifesto as a starting point for constructive engagement.

Councils are particularly encouraged to support and celebrate the Jewish heritage of their residents and local areas, and to take opportunities to connect their non-Jewish residents with local Jewish communities and their culture, whether at Jewish religious festivals like Chanukah or the new Jewish Culture Month.

We want members of our Jewish communities, and our friends and neighbours of different beliefs, to experience the light, creativity and laughter of Jewish life in the UK. It is time we all had less 'oy' and more joy in our lives. We look forward to a wonderful celebration of all that is good and positive in our community.

We are grateful to many partner organisations and our elected deputies who have given their input to this publication.

You will find contact details for local Jewish Representative Councils at the end of this document. If you would like to speak with us, please contact the Board of Deputies via info@bod.org.uk, and we will be happy to answer questions and connect you with Jewish organisations in your area.

Thank you for your commitment to building safe, cohesive, and vibrant communities. We look forward to working with you.



Phil Rosenberg
President



Six key pledges

1. Fight antisemitism

Councils should ensure action on antisemitic incidents, dealing promptly with antisemitic graffiti and flyposting, and work with Jewish communities, the police, and the Community Security Trust (CST) to safeguard Jewish facilities and events. Councillors and professional leadership should seek training on how antisemitism manifests in the modern day, from organisations with the confidence of the Jewish community. This includes understanding far-left, far-right, and Islamist ideological drivers, and making use of the IHRA definition (see Appendix).

2. Safeguard education

School governors, academy trustees, head teachers, Prevent leads, and welfare leads should receive training on Jewish life and on antisemitism as part of broader efforts to promote understanding and tackle racism and prejudice. Antisemitic incidents in schools should be recorded and treated with the same seriousness as other forms of racism. Multi-Academy Trusts should also be engaged with to ensure there is a consistent commitment to inclusion across the local area. Local authorities should work with the police and university authorities to ensure university campuses and the areas around them are not hostile spaces for Jewish staff and students.

3. Avoid importing conflict

Local authorities sometimes face pressure to take sides on international conflict in a way that exacerbates local tensions. They should not harm community cohesion through polarising decisions about symbolic displays; pension investment and divestment; town twinning; the raising of foreign flags, procurement, or use of council property. Local leaders should oppose campaigns relating to the Middle East conflict which harass, marginalise or intimidate Jewish communities.

4. Promote community cohesion

Local leaders should promote good relations between local communities, including by promoting multifaith engagement, to build understanding and promote joint work towards the common good. Council-led multifaith forums can often be an important resource to overcome differences and bring people together for the good of the local community.

5. Make public services inclusive

Local service providers should ensure services are fit for Jewish residents, including sensitivity to specific religious or cultural needs. They should ensure Jewish residents are aware that they can be referred to community-based support and engage meaningfully with Jewish-specific providers and commission them directly where appropriate. Involve Jewish charities, housing associations, care providers, and community organisations when developing borough strategies, and encourage public health teams to adopt best practice codes with community input. Give service users a tick box option to identify their ethnicity as Jewish when collecting data for purposes of service delivery, policy development and equality monitoring.

6. Celebrate Jewish culture

Local authorities should celebrate the Jewish heritage of the local area and Jewish residents. This includes by participating in Jewish Culture Month (in 2026, 16 May to 16 June); highlighting the historic contribution of Jewish people and institutions through the Jewish Heritage Plaque Scheme; and accepting invitations from local Jewish communities including to attend Chanukah celebrations and to visit local synagogues for Civic Shabbat events.

1. Fight antisemitism

Ensure action on antisemitic incidences and graffiti; safeguard facilities and events; and seek training.

Antisemitic incidents rose to unprecedented levels in the wake of 7 October 2023 and have remained at historic highs.¹ This affects Jewish residents across the country, including in areas with only small or informal Jewish communities. These experiences range from harassment in public spaces to targeted abuse around religious buildings or events. This has left many Jewish people feeling vulnerable in the places where they live, work, travel, and worship.

Antisemitic incidents spike in response to increased violence in the Middle East, and in response to high profile antisemitic incidences in the UK or internationally.

Antisemitic incidents rose significantly after Hamas' attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, even before any military response by Israel, and after the Heaton Park attack in October 2025.

Because of the threat of antisemitic violence, Jewish buildings have long been subject to extensive security and protection measures. It is not possible simply to walk into a synagogue to pray in the way one can walk into a church, because of the very real security threat. Councils should recognise

the extra security needs of Jewish facilities and events, and work with communities, the police, and the Community Security Trust (CST) to ensure procedures are in place.²

Those most immediately identifiable as Jewish through their appearance feel most vulnerable day to day. This is particularly true of Strictly Orthodox (Charedi) Jews. Efforts to confront antisemitism should therefore engage these communities and address their particular concerns.

Local officials can set an important example and influence the tone of public debate by showing an understanding of antisemitism in all its forms and displaying their commitment to confronting it with determination. Firm and prompt responses to hate incidents and antisemitic graffiti help to build community confidence. Local authorities should step in where local venues, and particularly council property, accept bookings from speakers or performers likely to spread antisemitic hatred. Local officials should work closely with community safety partners, police, and local organisations to that end.

Councils should follow government guidelines by adopting and using the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism to evaluate incidents. This definition does not prevent criticism of Israel but does show in context how certain kinds of language in relation to Israel can be antisemitic.

Councils should provide antisemitism training and ensure that antisemitism and Jewish way of life are recognised within wider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) frameworks and training.

Too often, EDI officers adopt binary conceptions of race and racism that fail to take account of Jewish ethnicity and anti-Jewish racism. Local authorities should draw on the expertise of established organisations including CST and the Antisemitism Policy Trust.

Councils should ensure Jewish participation on borough-wide forums concerned with crime prevention and Safer Neighbourhood Boards. Jewish groups such as the Community Security Trust should be included in planning discussions for major operations in areas with



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significant Jewish populations, or around Jewish holidays.

Local and regional leaders should work with central government to ensure there is no antisemitism in public services, and particularly the health service. This includes proactively implementing the government commitment to antisemitism training in the NHS; adopting uniform guidance that ensures all service users feel respected and safe; and implementing the findings of the forthcoming review of antisemitism in healthcare being led by Lord Mann.

The “Protecting What Matters” Government white paper identifies a role for local government in promoting cohesion and disrupting

extremist activity and influence. Local authorities should be aware of their role in combating rising extremism, and local Prevent officers should be trained to recognise antisemitism as a form of extremist threat.

Local authorities should work with central government on other policies to tackle antisemitism as outlined in the government’s December 2025 policy paper: *“Antisemitism: recent government actions and next steps”*. These include: “sharing intelligence with the police, rethinking approaches to protests, making best use of Public Space Protection Orders, and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s Working Definition of Antisemitism.”

Local authorities should mark Holocaust Memorial Day to remember where hate can lead, following the guidance set out on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website to ensure that commemorative events are meaningful and sensitive.

1. Antisemitic Incidents Reports 2025, CST. <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2026/02/11/antisemitic-incidents-report-2025>
2. The Community Security Trust (CST), is a dedicated Jewish charity which works closely with the police. CST trains community volunteers to secure Jewish community buildings and events, and administers a government grant to fund professional security guards.

2. Safeguard education

Record and respond to antisemitic incidences with the same seriousness as any other form of racism and ensure safe access to education.

Local authorities must ensure schools fulfil their commitments to be welcoming to all their pupils and are meeting their obligations regarding political impartiality.

Authorities should ensure teaching on the Middle East complies with school duties on objectivity, for example by using resources available on the government's Educate Against Hate website. They should also avoid the display of partisan flags, fliers and badges, or partisan activities or protests promoted by school leadership or staff. Authorities should also stop activist groups or unions introducing politicised material into the staffroom or the classroom.

Local authorities must engage with the challenge of rising antisemitism in schools.

A 2024 survey by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research found that 21% of parents of children in non-Jewish schools reported that their child had experienced an antisemitic incident. A 2025 survey of Jewish members by NASUWT found 51% of Jewish teachers have experienced antisemitism in the workplace in the past year and 52% of those felt appropriate action was not taken. Antisemitism can affect Jewish pupils particularly in areas with only small Jewish communities, or in schools with a small number of Jewish pupils.

Local authorities should support Sir David Bell's review of antisemitism in

schools launched by the Department for Education in March 2026 and stand ready to implement its findings.

It is important also to recognise that antisemitism affects pupils in Jewish schools, particularly when travelling to or from school.³ Local authorities should also be aware of a rising demand for places in Jewish schools in academic year 2025-26.

Local authorities should recognise antisemitism as a safeguarding issue and ensure that antisemitic incidents are recorded and treated with the same seriousness as other forms of racism.

Prevent leads in state schools should be trained to recognise antisemitism, including its different forms and drivers.

Councils should ensure a proper understanding of Judaism, the Jewish community and antisemitism among school leaders, governors and teachers.

As part of broader efforts to tackle racism and prejudice, school leaders, head teachers, and welfare leads, as well as teachers, should receive training on Jewish life and identity, and antisemitism. Efforts should be made to recruit local Jewish representation to SACRES. Resources like the Board of Deputies' Jewish Living Online and Jewish Living Experience Exhibition are available to enable educators to teach about modern Jews and Judaism with confidence. Councils should

engage proactively with new government programmes for Tackling Antisemitism in Education. When bringing external educators into schools on these issues, it is important that they have the confidence of the broader Jewish community. Local authorities should also work to expand school engagement in Holocaust Memorial Day and with Holocaust educational charities. Visits to synagogues and other key Jewish sites should be encouraged.

Faith schools must ensure teachers know how to avoid passing on anti-Jewish tropes in lessons, particularly when using religious sources.

The Winchester Diocese has developed an initiative with Jewish community members to equip RE teachers with resources to teach Christianity – especially Easter – in a thoughtful and responsible way, which could be a model for other areas.

Education leads in local government should support steps to address the mental health and social impacts of antisemitism and other forms of hatred including embedding RSHE in the curriculum with discrete timetabling and training for teachers. This can help ensure hate incidents relating to antisemitism, as well as anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of racism, are identified and responded to. Local authorities should also collaborate with Jewish organisations such as



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PaJeS to ensure mainstream school guidance on sensitive issues such as SEND, school absence or mental health, is tailored for Jewish schools.

It is also important to recognise the diversity within the Jewish community, and the different demographics and issues for Jewish schools in different sectors of the community. The Strictly Orthodox community has distinct educational, cultural and socioeconomic characteristics, including larger family sizes and a high reliance on low-cost independent provision. Local authorities should engage with representative school bodies such as Chinuch UK to ensure that planning for school places, family services, and community infrastructure reflects user

needs, including planning proactively for projected growth in Jewish communities.

Councillors can also support Jewish independent schools that wish to transition into the voluntary aided sector.

This includes facilitating access to suitable sites, supporting applications and maintaining a clear and appropriate local framework to guide such provision.

Local government must also play a role in ensuring university campuses are safe and welcome for Jewish students and staff. As the government has affirmed, “Antisemitism is affecting many students on campus,” and “divisive campus discourse on

Israel and Palestine continues to escalate, sometimes leading to the glorification of terrorism.”⁴

A survey by the Union of Jewish Students has found that 49 per cent of students surveyed had heard slogans or chants glorifying Hamas, Hezbollah or other proscribed groups.⁵ In some cases, Jewish and Israeli staff are targeted for intimidation and harassment. Local authorities should work with the police and universities to ensure frequent and intrusive protests on both public and private land do not breach the law, infringe on free speech and access to education, or inhibit Jewish religious expression.

3. “Antisemitic Incidents 2025”, CST (2026), p. 7.
 4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/antisemitism-recent-government-actions-and-next-steps/antisemitism-recent-government-actions-and-next-steps>
 5. https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ujs/pages/1126/attachments/original/1773576815/Time_for_Change_-_Online_Version.pdf?1773576815

3. Avoid importing conflict

Local authorities should avoid taking sides in international conflict and oppose campaigns that harass or intimidate.

Community cohesion depends on local differences not being inflamed by international events. Free expression is a central British value and everyone has the right to express legitimate views on international affairs. However, when international conflicts spill into local civic life, they can create tensions in communities which otherwise live together respectfully.

Most British Jews feel significant emotional attachment to Israel⁶, connected by social, family, cultural and or religious ties, just as many other British citizens have special ties to other countries for reasons of heritage. Movements that seek to delegitimise or stigmatise Israel's very existence as a state have the effect of marginalising British Jews.

Local and regional governments have a responsibility to represent all their residents and should resist pressure to make international politics part of council business or 'take sides' in a way that alienates residents of a particular background. Elected officials should act with due regard to the local area's diversity and the council's duty to uphold inclusive governance. In the context of international conflict, councils should not display foreign national flags from council property in ways that are likely to exacerbate tensions. Decisions relating to twinning or detwinning should be sensitive to the imperative

to advance inclusivity and cohesion at home, and avoid creating sources of division.

Local and devolved authorities should reject initiatives to boycott or divest from Israel. These initiatives have a negligible impact on the State of Israel or its government but have a very real negative impact in undermining community cohesion and marginalising and stigmatising British Jews. In terms of procurement, councils should be aware that, whilst it is legal under certain circumstances to seek specifically a British supplier, it is not legal to rule out suppliers from individual countries.

Local leaders should also oppose campaigns relating to the Middle East conflict which divide communities such as those claiming to create so-called "Apartheid-free zones" or "Zionist-free zones", which have the effect of harassing or intimidating Jewish people.

Public servants should not display divisive political symbols relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict when delivering services. Jewish residents report fears of not receiving equal treatment from service providers displaying conspicuous pro-Palestine or anti-Israel symbols or slogans.

Locally elected officials should oppose the use of slogans and phrases associated with violence against Jews or the elimination of the State of Israel.

This includes "globalise the Intifada" and "from the river to the sea". The former is associated with indiscriminate terrorist attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets such as took place during the Second Intifada; the latter calls for the State of Israel to be dismantled. Sentiments like these do not help the situation in the Middle East, but they do threaten and intimidate British Jews. Police forces should follow the examples of Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester Police in clarifying that they will make arrests in relation to chants such as "globalise the Intifada".⁷

Local Prevent officers should be aware that protests and online spaces where people incite against Jews, Zionists and Israelis can be radicalising spaces. Protests in response to conflict in the Middle East have too often become venues for anti-Jewish hate speech and incitement. In some cases protests directly target Jewish areas, or Jewish or Israeli-linked businesses or property. Violent extremist groups such as Palestine Action have vandalised Jewish or Israeli linked businesses. This climate is the context for deadly terrorist violence against Jewish people, as seen in the Heaton Park attack, and violent attacks in other countries such as the Bondi Beach attack.

Local politicians who want to engage with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should do so in ways that build bridges between communities. The

focus should be on exporting peace, not importing conflict. When partnering with civil society organisations, councils should also ensure those organisations' agendas align with the promotion of community cohesion.

Local Authorities should take on board the recommendations of the LGA and Belong network guidance document, "Common ground: Building cohesive communities" (January 2026)⁸ to stop international conflict inflaming community tensions.

The recommendations include: preventing misinformation and disinformation; understanding the risks of international conflict fuelling radicalisation; proactive engagement with communities affected by marches or protests; and promoting interfaith and interethnic dialogue.

Councils should be aware that there are a growing number of Israelis resident in the UK. Some hate crimes target specifically Israeli people and businesses, or those perceived to have links to Israel, such as restaurants or cafés. Neither British Jews nor Israelis living in the UK are responsible or accountable for the actions of the Israeli government, any more than a person of

another nationality or ethnicity is responsible for the actions of a country to which they are tied by culture or heritage.

Local officials should take on board the concerns expressed by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation Jonathan Hall KC about the failure to enforce the law in relation to stirring up hatred against Israelis and the direct links between this and antisemitism.⁹

Israeli resident in the UK are not necessarily connected closely with the established Jewish community in the same area, so it is important to be aware of them and their specific needs.

Local officials should ensure proper engagement with local Jewish communities in relation to sensitive policing decisions, taking on board all the recommendations of the Home Affairs Select Committee report into the Maccabi Tel Aviv fan ban (February 2026).¹⁰ These include building relationships of trust with local Jewish communities and ensuring that Safety Advisory Groups are not influenced by undue political agendas.

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6. According to a 2025 survey of British Jews, 75% feel either very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. "Two years after the October 7 attacks: British Jewish views on antisemitism, Israel and Jewish life", Institute for Jewish Policy Research (2025).
 7. Statement from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police & Chief Constable of the Greater Manchester Police, 17/12/2025.
 8. <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/common-ground-building-cohesive-communities>
 9. <https://policyexchange.org.uk/events/the-lessons-of-bondi-beach-terrorism-hatred-and-the-law/>
 10. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5901/cmselect/cmhaff/1553/report.html>

4. Promote community cohesion

Councils should take the lead in promoting good relations between different communities in the area.



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Local authorities should manage or create council-led multifaith forums to ensure regular cooperation and dialogue between the council and different faith groups, making sure all local faith institutions are involved.

Local political leaders should build cohesion and resilience by bringing together faith communities to promote understanding and practical cooperation.

The Board of Deputies invites local authorities to partner with its Optimistic Alliance initiative, which brings together British Jews and Muslims.

Councils should convene local communities to tackle different kinds of prejudice, including antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Black racism, homophobia, misogyny, transphobia, and anti-Traveller bigotry.

Local authorities should encourage joint social action projects, whether around enhancing local amenities, poverty, asylum, climate change or other issues of common cause. Initiatives like Mitzvah Day are a good example of best practice in terms of bringing groups together.

5. Make public services inclusive

Local providers should ensure services are fit for Jewish residents, including sensitivity to religious or cultural needs.

Jewish residents' needs in receiving public services may be shaped by religious observance, cultural practice, or demographic factors. This includes in social care, health provision, housing support, or access to appropriate community-based charities, with needs varying by areas and community. Councillors play an important role in ensuring that local authorities design and commission services that work well for all residents.

Local officials should build and maintain effective partnerships with Jewish charities, care providers and representative groups, to draw on their specialist expertise and so that Jewish residents can be referred when appropriate to community-based charities. This may include commissioning Jewish-specific providers where appropriate. These providers often hold specialist expertise in areas such as disability support, mental health, older people's services, and culturally sensitive residential care. If a borough employs a lead officer to work with the Jewish community, that role must be grounded in direct relationships with a full range of Jewish charities and organisations, particularly on health and wellbeing. This includes organisations engaged with particular sectors of the community with distinct characteristics, such as Interlink in the Strictly Orthodox (Charedi) community.

Local and devolved authorities should provide a tick box option

for individuals to identify their ethnicity as "Jewish", whenever they collect ethnicity data for purposes of public service delivery, policy development or equalities monitoring. Jews identify themselves by varied and often multiple categories including in terms of religion and ethnicity, and Jewish people are protected from discrimination on both racial and religious grounds for the purposes of the Equality Act (2010).¹¹ Failure to collect this data makes British Jews invisible to government departments and public bodies for purposes of research and data collection that can ensure proper evaluation of service delivery and outcomes. Local authorities should also be aware that there is evidence of an undercount in the census of Jewish residents in Strictly Orthodox communities, and should engage with communities to supplement this data when planning and delivering public services.¹²

Public health teams should adopt the recommendations of the NHS Race and Health Observatory Review: "NHS health communications with (and for) the Jewish community" (Dec 2024). These recommendations are intended to combat harmful stereotypes and build trust; improve engagement and outcomes; improve evaluation and allocation of resources; and improve the experience of Jewish NHS staff members.¹³

In areas of significant Jewish population, Councils should involve Jewish charities in the

care sector in the development of borough strategies for Adult Social Care. For example, councils should convene an annual roundtable with representatives from Jewish social care and housing charities to discuss concerns and progress, address shared challenges, and ensure strategic alignment. Social care workers engaging regularly with the Jewish community should receive training to be familiar with Jewish cultural and religious practices.

Where there are sizeable Jewish communities, councils should engage with Jewish housing associations and providers, which cater to the community's unique needs. This engagement could include involving them in consultations on local plans and conversations on housing strategies and supported housing. Councils should also understand Jewish communal interests in the built environment, including the significance of structures like 'mikvehs' (ritual baths) and 'eruvs' (symbolic enclosures around neighbourhoods which allow strictly observant Jews to carry outside their homes on the Sabbath).

Councils should strengthen cross-borough coordination to ensure residents, especially those requiring care in another borough due to specific religious and cultural needs, receive the standard of care they have been assessed for, without delays or cross-borough funding disputes.

11. <https://www.jpr.org.uk/insights/more-and-more-jews-self-identify-ethnicity-whats-difference>

12. <https://www.jpr.org.uk/reports/assessment-2021-census-data-haredi-strictly-orthodox-jewish-children-england>

13. https://nhsrhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/NHSRHO_OutputsReport_-FINAL-v2.pdf

6. Celebrate Jewish culture

Local authorities should celebrate the Jewish heritage of the local area and Jewish residents.

The British Jewish community has a long and vibrant history.

Scholars have suggested that there were Jews in Britain as early as Roman times, and Jews crossed the Channel at the invitation of William the Conqueror. Rising antisemitic violence in the 12th and 13th centuries eventually culminated in the expulsion of all Jewish people from the country. This expulsion was lifted by Oliver Cromwell in 1655, making the British Jewish community one of the oldest immigrant communities in the UK. Many British Jews fought in the First and Second World Wars, and British Jews contribute to every major part of British life, including culture, science, industry and public policy. Even fish and chips, one of Britain's best-loved national dishes, traces its origins back to the immigration of Spanish and Portuguese Jews to London.

Whilst Jewish communities are most heavily concentrated in London and Manchester, there are British Jews across the UK. There are communities of varying sizes in other towns and cities and also many people of Jewish heritage who do not live near a synagogue. Many areas that no longer have large or active Jewish communities have rich Jewish history.

Councils are encouraged to support and celebrate the Jewish heritage of their residents and the local areas, and to take opportunities to connect residents of different faiths and backgrounds with local Jewish communities and their culture. Many Jewish communities will invite civic and other local leaders to celebrate religious festivals like **Chanukah**. A major opportunity will be **Jewish Culture Month**, which will take place for the first time 16 May to 16 June 2026 (corresponding to the Hebrew month of Sivan). Councils should engage with local Jewish communities and national Jewish bodies to promote Jewish Culture Month initiatives and events.

From time to time many Synagogues hold a "Civic Shabbat" where they invite local civic leaders to visit during a Shabbat (Sabbath) service. Local civic leaders are encouraged to take up these valuable opportunities to meet members of the local community and celebrate Jewish life.

Another way to celebrate local Jewish heritage is through the Board of Deputies Jewish Heritage Plaque Scheme. The scheme has been created to illustrate the history of the Jewish community in the

UK over many years and to highlight the contribution to British culture and society of outstanding individuals. The first plaque was unveiled in September 2025 on the site of the Jews' Temporary Shelter in the East End of London, which operated from 1930 to 1973 and assisted refugees from the Holocaust and later, Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in India, Hungary, Egypt, Yemen, and Iran.

Councils should ensure that, as far as possible, civic events and major council meetings are not scheduled on major Jewish festivals. Councils should be aware that Jewish festivals commence in the evening and follow on to the next day. They are encouraged to consult members of the local Jewish community or contact us at the Board of Deputies if unsure about which dates to avoid.



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JEWISH CULTURE MONTH

16 May – 16 June 2026

jewishculturemonth.org.uk

@jewishculturemonth

Appendix: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism

In 2015, the IHRA plenary approved a working definition of antisemitism, and in December 2016 the UK Government formally adopted it. The current government has reiterated that local authorities should adopt the working definition, which most councils have already done. The full text of the definition is as follows:

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

Adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

“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 levelled 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.



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

- 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 endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour 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.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organisation with 35 Member Countries (including the UK), 1 Liaison Country, and 7 Observer Countries, founded in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. The IHRA unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, remembrance, and research worldwide, working with partner organisations including the UN and the EU.

Regional Jewish Representative Councils

EAST OF ENGLAND

Hertfordshire Jewish Forum

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☎ 0207 042 8692

Essex Jewish Community Council

✉ admin@ejcc.co.uk

🌐 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

🌐 northeastjewish.org.uk

NORTH WEST

Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region

(incl. Blackpool, Preston and Stoke)

✉ office@jewishmanchester.org

🌐 jewishmanchester.org

☎ 01617 208 721

Merseyside Jewish Representative Council

(incl. Wirral and Chester)

✉ repCouncil@mjjccshifrin.co.uk

🌐 liverpooljewish.co.uk

☎ 01517 332 292

SOUTH EAST

Sussex Jewish Representative Council

✉ info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org

🌐 sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org

WEST MIDLANDS

Representative Council of Birmingham and West Midlands Jewry

✉ jewishbirmingham@talktalk.net

🌐 facebook.com/JewishBirminghamUK

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER

Hull Jewish Representative Council

✉ westernmans@gmail.com

Leeds Jewish Representative Council

(covering Bradford, Harrogate and York)

✉ info@ljrc.org

🌐 ljrc.org

☎ 01132 185 869

SCOTLAND

Glasgow Jewish Representative Council

✉ office@glasgowjewishrepCouncil.org

🌐 jewishglasgow.org

☎ 01415 778 200

Jewish Council of Scotland

✉ communications@jewishscotland.org

🌐 jewishscotland.org

☎ 01416 386 411

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast Jewish Community

✉ belfastjewishcommunity@gmail.com

WALES

South Wales Jewish Representative Council

✉ swjewishrepCouncil@gmail.com

SMALL COMMUNITIES

Jewish Small Communities Network

✉ hello@jscn.org.uk

🌐 jscn.org.uk

Our Five Key Priorities



204
Member
Organisations &
Synagogues

325+
Deputies

27
Under-35 Observers

8
Plenaries A Year

4
Divisions

30
Working Groups
& Committees

265
Years In Operation

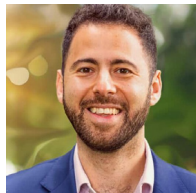
20,000+
Individual
Supporters



The Board of Deputies is the British Jewish community's only democratically elected, cross-communal representative body.

Established in 1760, 325+ Deputies sit at its heart, chosen directly by the synagogues and organisations they serve – from congregations and youth movements to welfare charities and regional councils – giving every corner of our community a voice.

OUR HONORARY OFFICERS



Phil Rosenberg
President



Adrian Cohen
Senior Vice President



Karen Newman
Vice President



Jeremy Michelson
Vice President



Ben Crowne
Treasurer

OUR INDEPENDENT CHAIR



Louise Ellman



BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

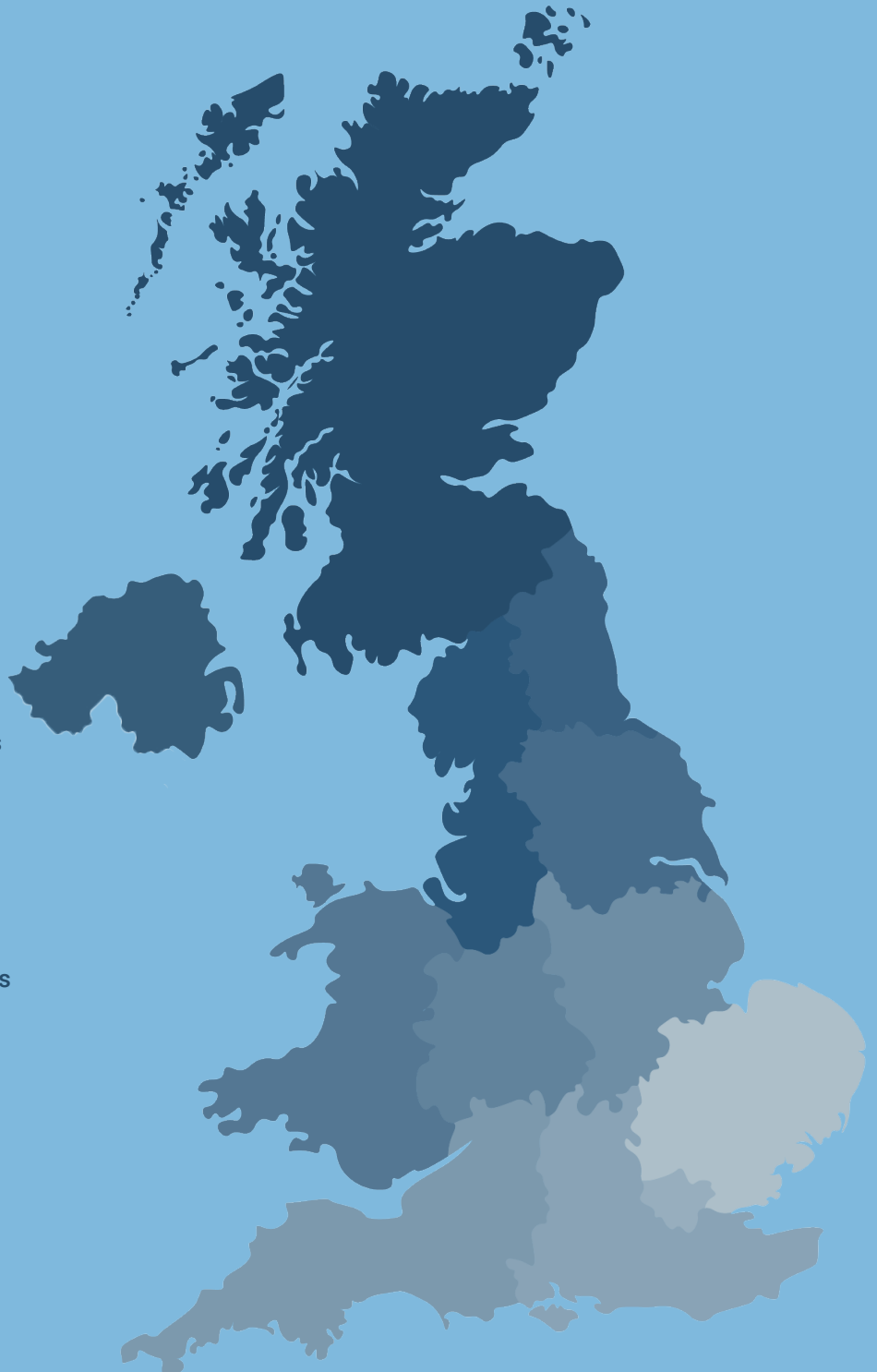
ADVOCACY | DEMOCRACY | COMMUNITY



The Board of Deputies is the democratic, cross-communal, representative organisation for the British Jewish community. For 265 years, we have advanced the interests of our diverse community.

The Board comprises 325+ deputies representing nearly 204 member synagogues and organisations from across the religious and political spectrum and every part of the UK. We fight for the shared interests of our entire community, engaging with Government, Opposition, other authorities and the media, as well as faith and civil society organisations.

In a time of political uncertainty and historically high levels of antisemitism, the Board's voice is needed more than ever. Our credibility comes from our democracy, representing synagogues and organisations across the country.



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

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THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

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