

Board of Deputies of British Jews: Speech

It's a pleasure to be invited here this morning to speak with you, and in these eventful times – shifting coalitions, short-lived governments... British politics is in danger of making Israeli politics look stable.

It's an honour to stand before you as Communities Secretary. An important part of my role is representing communities of different faiths. Celebrating our rich diversity. Helping to build a country which is respectful of faith and of individual liberty, but integrated and united.

As the UK's longest-established religious minority, our Jewish community has led the way with its incredible contribution to our national life.

And the Board of Deputies of British Jews has been at the heart of this for more than 250 years. Led today by you Marie and Gillian, my former parliamentary neighbour. I look forward to working with you all to ensure members of our Jewish community can observe their faith and traditions, achieve your aspirations and continue to prosper in the years ahead.

As our Prime Minister has said: our nation would be less without our Jewish citizens. Married to a Jew and with three Jewish daughters, I cannot imagine a Britain without our Jewish friends, neighbours and loved ones.

But I am all too aware of the challenges you face. The scourge of antisemitism is a stain on our society.

Whether on our streets or in the comfort of our own homes using social media, there is no place for antisemitic abuse, and this Government will do everything possible to ensure Jewish people feel safe wherever they are.

This Government led the way by adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism – the first Government to do so. But I regret that this lead has not always been followed.

Sitting on the front line of our democracy, our local councils have a duty to act and stamp out antisemitism wherever they find it. So it's troubling that, in some cases, we're seeing the reverse. As Secretary of State for Local Government, I will be writing to all councils insisting that they adopt the IHRA definition at the earliest opportunity and use it on all appropriate occasions, including in disciplinary proceedings.

Boycotts, divestment and sanctions against the State of Israel are also damaging and divisive – I will not tolerate them on my watch.

Councils should not be wasting time and taxpayer's money pursuing their own foreign policies – often seemingly obsessed with Zionism – to the detriment of delivering high quality services for residents.

My British wife was born in Israel and I've visited many times, so I am well placed to say that Israelis are often the fiercest critics of their government's policies.

Israel's vibrant democracy allows for lively debate and the country is about to head to the polls for the second time in a year!

We are in dangerous times when some, including those in prominent positions in public life, cannot distinguish between legitimate criticism of the policies of a democratically elected government and blatant antisemitism.

Replacing the word "Jew" for "Zionist" when pedalling vile and offensive views can never sanitise them. Rejecting Israel's right to exist is antisemitic and suggestions that the IHRA definition of antisemitism curtails legitimate criticism of the Israeli government must be countered.

I am also concerned by the evidence coming out of our universities – the disgraceful experiences that Jewish students have lived through at certain universities.

From the case of 200 students voting against the establishment of a new Jewish society at one university, "Hitler was right" stickers appearing around the campuses of three universities, to academics indulging in ludicrous and deeply prejudiced conspiracy theories.

Attending university for me was a life enriching experience. Tragically that's not always the case. We wrote to many universities urging them to adopt the IHRA definition. Yet some didn't even reply.

These organisations are recipients of public money – failure to act is unacceptable.

As Secretary of State, I will be writing to universities asking them to adopt the IHRA definition. And as with council leaders, I will be calling Vice Chancellors personally to press for action if none is forthcoming.

The figures compiled by the Community Security Trust not only showed antisemitic incidents in 2018 at an all-time high for the third year running, but a very significant increase in online hate.

Today I'm pleased to announce on behalf of the Government that we are going to be providing £100,000 funding to tackle the spread of antisemitic material on social media.

This funding will support the Antisemitism Policy Trust's ongoing work to tackle the spread of antisemitic tropes online and challenge harmful narratives about the Jewish community.

During the latest Spending Round, the Chancellor doubled the funding for the Places of Worship Fund to £3.2 million. We continue to fund education courses to tackle racism; the outstanding work of the Holocaust Education Trust through their lessons from Auschwitz programme; and further work to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, for

which I helped to secure £1.7 million in my former role at the Treasury.

We continue to do all we can to protect Jewish schools and institutions. I'm grateful to the CST for their work and to all those who volunteer at synagogues and Jewish centres to help keep people safe.

The Government also proscribed the antisemitic Hezbollah terror group in full earlier this year. The untenable distinction between a military and a political wing was dropped after years of campaigning by activists inside and outside Parliament, myself included.

It gives me great comfort that the Hezbollah flag, emblazoned with an automatic rifle, will no longer be flown with impunity on the streets of London or the UK.

People need to see leadership on this issue from all sides of the political divide.

In addition to the appointment of Rehman Chishti MP to succeed Lord Ahmad as Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, I'm delighted that we now have two independent figures dedicated to tackling antisemitism.

Lord Pickles and John Mann come from very different political traditions, but both are strong campaigners and individuals of great integrity, committed to rooting out discrimination and will bring their considerable experience and energy to doing so.

I am pleased that Eric is continuing in his current role as Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues ensuring that the UK continues to play a central role in all international discussions on Holocaust-related matters and continuing his brilliant partnership with Ed Balls as co-chairs of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Advisory Board.

A partnership that has been considerably more graceful than anything Ed attempted on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Eric will also continue to focus on the vital restitution of art and immovable property and promoting the implementation of the 2009 Terezin Declaration and Holocaust Era Assets programme.

John will be providing me as Secretary of State with independent advice on the most effective methods to tackle antisemitism within Britain.

As he has said, he will continue to call out those throwing stones of hatred at Jewish people and his role will be to advise me on combatting antisemitism wherever it is found in the United Kingdom – particularly where we have seen it take hold in and corrupt our institutions. We must ensure that the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is built in Westminster. The centre has the complete and unshakeable support of the Prime Minister and myself.

And I politely say to those who raise concerns about the park and the setting that is in today – concerns we have engaged with and sought to answer, and will continue to do.

I too walk there on a weekend when I am in Westminster and appreciate it. I too take my children there to play in the playground.

But my children are the great-grandchildren of Holocaust survivors and I do not want them or their children to live through those horrors ever again.

It is hard to think of a stronger public interest than that. Help us to build this fitting memorial in the shadow of the mother of parliaments and educate ourselves and generations to come of the ultimate consequences of hate, prejudice and discrimination. In my constituency, I have the Beth Shalom Holocaust centre. The founders of that unlikely museum, Stephen and James Smith were, two non-Jews with no prior connection to Israel or the Holocaust, who were so moved by the experience of visiting the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, and surprised to learn that our country had so little to remember and learn about it, that they returned home to Nottinghamshire and persuaded their parents to convert their own home into a Holocaust museum.

I never cease to be amazed and uplifted by their altruism and sacrifice and it makes me even more determined that we should and will see the national centre built in Westminster.

As long as I am Secretary of State, you, the Jewish community will have my unflinching support.

On behalf of the Prime Minister and I, Toda raba. Anachnu itchem tamid

[‘The kingdom through my lens’: British Embassy Riyadh launches photo competition](#)

To participate, share your photo on social media tagging the British Embassy’s social media channels as well as the competition hashtag. Winning entries will be awarded a return ticket to London sponsored by Al Mosafer. For full details of the competition, read the terms and conditions carefully.

How to enter

To enter the competition, all participants must follow these steps:

1. Submit your picture on Twitter or Instagram using hashtag #بين_المملكتين_الصدّاقَة and tagging the [Embassy’s Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

2. Fill in the required details in the [entry and consent form](#), along with the link to the image on Twitter or Instagram and accept the competition terms and conditions by signing the form.
3. At the end of the competition 2 winning entries will be chosen – one from Saudi Arabia and one from the UK.
4. Top entries will be shortlisted by a jury and 2 winners will be chosen and their images and names shared on the Embassy Twitter and Instagram channels.

Duration of competition

The competition opens on 13 September 2019 and closes at 11:59 pm on 12 October 2019 (KSA time).

Any entry received before the opening date or after the closing date will not be considered. The British Embassy Riyadh and VisitBritain accept no responsibility for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any system, server, provider or otherwise that may result in any entry being lost, delayed or not properly registered. Competition winners will be notified before 27 October 2019. The British Embassy will inform the participant how to claim the winners' prize.

Terms and conditions

- The competition is open to any citizen or resident of Saudi Arabia.
- Each contestant can submit only one entry.
- Where a participant is under the age of 18, his/her entry must be submitted on his/her behalf by a parent/guardian over the age of 18 years who, in submitting the entry, agrees to and accepts the competition's rules.

Prizes and selection of winning entries

The entries will be judged by British Embassy Riyadh and panelists. The judges' decision is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into with unsuccessful participants.

There will be 2 winners, each will receive 1 return ticket to London as given by the sponsor Al Mosafer. Prizes cannot be exchanged for money or any other goods or services.

The British Embassy accepts no responsibility for failure to notify winning participants or failure to deliver prizes where such failure results from the provision of inaccurate contact details by the participant or from the acts or omissions of any third party (including, without limitation, any internet

or postal service provider) and shall have no liability to any entrant if it is prevented from or delayed in delivering any aspect of the competition or the prizes by acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond its reasonable control.

Publicity and rights

The British Embassy intends to publish names and photographs of the winners on the [British Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), press releases and in other promotional and marketing material. By entering the competition, the participant agrees to the use of their name and image and agrees to cooperate with any such publicity or marketing if they win the prize.

Participants will retain copyright of the entry material that they submit to the British Embassy. By entering the competition each participant grants the British Embassy, VisitBritain (referred to as VB) and Al Mosafer, to use the image free of charge, for promotion and marketing and may use the images worldwide for sharing across Embassy, VisitBritain and Partners' social media platforms without the payment of any fee or royalties. The contestant gives permission to use the entry material (including, without limitation, modifying and adapting it for operational and editorial reasons) in any media for purposes connected with the competition and for the promotion of Britain in social, digital or print for commercial/trade/promotional/advertising/partnerships or any other medium deemed suitable, without any further permission needed from the contestant or any further approval. The contestant grants British Embassy, VisitBritain and Al Mosafer the non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, complete buy out, worldwide, royalty-free, right to use the material as authorised by this agreement. Usage includes any medium chosen by British Embassy, VB and Al Mosafer, including but not limited to, digital, social media platforms and print.

Each participant confirms that the entry material is their original work, is not defamatory and does not infringe any English or Saudi Arabia laws, that they have the right to give the British Embassy, VisitBritain and Al Mosafer permission to use it for the purposes specified above, and that all necessary consents for the submission of the entry material have been obtained.

The contestant agrees that the image may be stored on the [VisitBritain's image library](#) for tourism related purposes without the payment of any further usage fees. In conjunction with this Agreement, the contestant grants to VB the right to use your name, image, likeness, photograph, biographical information and other indicia of persona/identity for commercial/trade/promotional/advertising purposes.

The contestant hereby waives all moral rights with respect to the photograph, the social media postings, written content, or any use of your persona/identity in conjunction therewith, including any right to inspect or approve any re-posting of the Photograph/, Social Media Postings, written content or your persona/identity by British Embassy Riyadh, VisitBritain for internal marketing use. The contestant understands that the photograph, social media postings, written content or your persona/identity may be used

in combination with other works and materials, with or without attribution to you. (British Embassy, VisitBritain will attribute the photograph or social media postings or written content to you where possible, or identify you in conjunction therewith; British Embassy, VisitBritain shall determine the format, content, context and all aspects of such attribution/identification).

Additional content usage

The contestant agrees that the photograph, written content and social media postings cannot include any content that:

- is pornographic, vulgar, obscene or inappropriate
- disparages or insults persons based on their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or otherwise
- advocates illegal conduct, acts of violence, drug or alcohol use
- disparages Great Britain, and/or VB
- has as its primary objective espousing a certain religious, political or other view

The contestant shall be responsible for obtaining consent from the locations where the photographs are captured and will be responsible for gaining these permissions. The contestant will also be responsible for procuring the consent of any models used.

All rights in the British Embassy's name and logo, website, Facebook, Twitter, press releases and other promotional and marketing material and all course and examination content and materials (together the 'Embassy's materials') shall vest in and remain with the VB, British Embassy (or its licensors). By participating in the competition, participants agree that they will not use, broadcast, publish, export, exploit, reproduce nor copy part or all of the Embassy's materials.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not accepted under any circumstances. All photographs suspected of plagiarism shall be disqualified. The photograph must have been taken specifically for this competition. You are not allowed to use copyrighted images. You must not use images of private persons without their written consent. The British Embassy may disqualify or refuse to accept the entry of any participant which does not meet the eligibility criteria or does not otherwise comply with these competition terms and conditions. No British Embassy, British Consulate-General Jeddah, British Trade Office or VisitBritain or Al Mosafer, contractors and family members are allowed to participate in the photography competition.

Participant's consent

Insofar as is permitted by law, the British Embassy will not in any circumstances be responsible or liable to compensate the participants or accept any liability for any loss, damage, personal injury or death occurring as a result of taking up the prize except where it is caused by the negligence of the British Embassy or that of their employees. These terms and

conditions shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales, complemented by local jurisdictional laws if applicable. The courts of England and Wales shall have non-exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes or claims (including, without limitation, non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with the competition.

Privacy notice

The British Embassy will collect and store the names, email addresses and social media handles of all participants. We do this in order to fulfill the terms and conditions of the competition, which participants agree to by signing the entry form.

The British Embassy will use this personal data for the following purposes:

- managing the relationship between the participants and the British Embassy
- communicating with participants to answer their queries about the competition
- communicating with winners, inviting to the Embassy or arranging delivery of their prize
- marketing and publicity for this competition

British Embassy will use the information that you are providing in connection with processing your application. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application. We will keep your information for a period of 2 years from the time of collection.

Important notice: The entry and consent form is for the participants of the photography competition or parent of participants under 18 Gregorian years. By signing you confirm that you have read and agree to the competition terms and conditions and you understand how personal data will be processed and you consent to the use of personal data as set out in the privacy notice.

Communities Secretary commits funding to tackle online hate

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP today (15 September 2019) confirmed £100,000 funding to stem the spread of antisemitic material online, as he underlined this government's absolute commitment to tackling hatred in all its forms.

The additional funding will support the Antisemitism Policy Trust's ongoing work to tackle the spread of racist tropes online and challenge harmful

narratives about Jewish people. This forms part of the government's wider agenda to tackle all forms of religiously and racially motivated hatred.

The organisation will use the funding to develop short, educative videos to counter, debunk, and undermine the proliferation of hateful antisemitic material online.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society and I am committed to tackling it at its root.

Online hatred can be a pernicious force that not only causes immediate harm to its victims but can embolden its perpetrators.

By funding innovative programmes that educate future generations and stem the spread of harmful ideologies we will stamp out this scourge, wherever it appears.

In a speech at a Board of Deputies of British Jews event, Mr Jenrick is also due to commit to writing to all councils and universities this week demanding that they adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition as a matter of urgency.

Universities Minister Chris Skidmore MP said:

There is no place in our society for hatred or any form of harassment and it is frankly appalling that the battle against antisemitism still exists.

Universities should recognise the internationally renowned IHRA working definition of antisemitism accepted by the government.

I have already written to all vice chancellors earlier this year urging them to do so, but in recent weeks there have been alarming incidents demonstrating the need for further action and for universities to protect the welfare and act seriously on the concerns of Jewish students.

Universities must not risk damaging their reputation by not acting swiftly to root out antisemitism when it reveals itself.

Antisemitism in the UK continues to be a cause for concern. The most recent national hate crime statistics published by the Home Office last October showed that Jewish people were the most likely group to experience religiously motivated hate crime.

The Community Security Trust (CST), the leading Jewish organisation monitoring and supporting victims of antisemitism, recorded 1,652 reported antisemitic incidents in 2018 – their highest annual total on record for the

third year running.

This government remains committed to protecting faith communities and the freedom to worship.

During the latest Spending Round, the Chancellor doubled the funding for the Places of Worship Fund to £3.2 million, and we continue to fund education courses to tackle the scourge of racism at its root.

The government adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016. We were the first government to do so and have been at the forefront of getting it adopted internationally.

We are providing £14 million this year, and provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and institutions.

In July 2019, John Mann was appointed as an independent adviser on antisemitism. He will be responsible for providing the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government with independent advice on the most effective methods to tackle antisemitism. He will also collaborate with Lord Pickles, the UK's Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, as well as Rehman Chishti MP, the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, to ensure a consistent approach.

The Antisemitism Policy Trust works to educate and empower parliamentarians, policy makers and opinion formers to address antisemitism.

The APT work with British parliamentarians, policy makers and opinion formers to address policy issues relating to antisemitism. They also provide the secretariat to the British All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism and work internationally with parliamentarians and others to address antisemitism.

[Nationwide government events launched to help businesses get ready for Brexit](#)

- New Brexit Business Readiness Events Roadshow gets underway as part of the 'Get Ready for Brexit' campaign
- Advisors from all relevant government departments will be at each event to provide practical advice and support to local businesses
- Over 30 events spanning the UK will run for five weeks

Government advisors from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Home Office, HMRC, the Department for International Trade, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be on hand for businesses to ask questions and receive advice on a range of areas where they may need to make changes to get ready for Brexit ahead of 31 October. We are encouraging businesses to make sure they are fully prepared and advice will include the importing and exporting of goods, exporting services, employing EU citizens and businesses that transfer data, and the extra support available in the local area.

The free events will combine a keynote address from senior government officials, advice stands and in-depth sessions to give businesses the information they need to get ready for Brexit. These will run over the next five weeks, with the first events taking place in Northampton on 16 September, Nottingham on 17 September, Swindon on 19 September and London on 20 September.

Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom said:

The UK will be leaving the EU on 31 October and my number one priority is ensuring businesses have the help they need to get ready for Brexit and take advantage of the opportunities beyond.

The whole of government is stepping up a gear and increasing the pace of our preparations. Businesses have told us that they also want more face to face support and we are listening.

These local events will provide the advice they need from all relevant government teams in one place. I encourage any business who wants more information about what they need to do to attend.

Other activity to enable preparations by businesses includes:

- An additional £2.1bn for Brexit preparations, doubling funding for this year – HMT total funding for Brexit is £6.3 billion. This includes £108 million to support businesses to get ready.
- Making £10m available to business groups and trade associations to help them to help businesses prepare for Brexit – the ‘Brexit Readiness Fund’.
- Setting up a new Business Finance Council to ensure small businesses get the working capital and investment they need. This is made up of senior representatives from the UK’s leading banks and alternative lenders, co-chaired by the Business Secretary and HMT.
- Making £1.3 billion available to lenders in guarantee schemes through the government-owned British Business Bank, so they can enable their SME customers to invest in capital, increase export capabilities and manage

cashflow. The British Business Bank is already providing over £6.6 billion of finance to almost 90,000 SMEs.

- Removing a key administrative burden for businesses who trade with the EU by auto-enrolling nearly 90,000 VAT-registered businesses with an essential Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) trading number. We urge non-VAT registered businesses to register for an EORI on GOV.UK – the process takes less than 10 minutes.
- Securing agreements which cover £89 billion worth of trade and provide certainty for businesses trading with countries around the world. This has moved from £39 billion since March.
- Advice stands will cover issues ranging from the importing and exporting of goods, exporting services, employing EU citizens and businesses that transfer data, to the support available in the local area. Government advisors will be on hand from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Home Office, HMRC, the Department for International Trade, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Notes to Editors

- Businesses are urged to search “Brexit Business Readiness Event” to register to attend
- The [website](#) also provides up to date information on locations and venues for events
- In most locations, sessions will run in the morning and the afternoon
- This event is part of the largest single communications and engagement campaign undertaken by the UK government to get people ready for Brexit. More details [here](#)

Wider support for business

- Business Ministers have also been hosting national and regional roundtables to engage with businesses on a regular basis.
 - A new Business Finance Council, chaired by the Business Secretary, will bring together leading lenders to ensure small businesses get the working capital and investment they need
 - There is £1.3 billion available to lenders in guarantee schemes through the government-owned British Business Bank, so they can enable their SME customers to invest in capital, increase export capabilities and manage cashflow. And the British Business Bank is currently supporting over £6.6 billion of finance to almost 90,000 smaller businesses nationwide
 - HMRC recently announced it is auto-enrolling 88,000 VAT-registered businesses for EORI numbers so they can continue to trade with their customers in the EU after 31 October.
 - The government has published approximately 750 pieces of communications on No Deal since August 2018, including over 100 technical notices explaining to businesses and citizens what they need to do to prepare.
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Drone strike on Saudi Arabia oil facilities: UK statement



A Foreign Office spokesperson said:

The UK condemns the reckless drone attack on Aramco oil facilities in Saudi Arabia this morning, for which the Houthis have claimed responsibility.

Threatening civilian areas and commercial infrastructure is dangerous, provocative and completely unacceptable. This escalation also undermines UN-led efforts to end the conflict in Yemen.

We call upon the Houthis to immediately cease such attacks. The UK remains committed to supporting the security of Saudi Arabia and to achieving a political solution to the devastating conflict in Yemen.

Further information

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