

Councillor Jo Bird - A674976 – Questions

Justice4Marc Meeting

1. The Party has reason to believe that you spoke at a Justice4Marc meeting in Manchester in 2018. Can you confirm this is the case?
2. At this meeting did you say "It's what I call a Jew process"? If so, what did you mean by this?
3. At this meeting did you say "privileging one group over another is divisive"? If so, what did you mean by this?
4. At this meeting did you say "Seriously, one of the things that does worry me is the privileging of racism against Jews, over and above - as more worthy of resources than other forms of racism"? If so, what did you mean by this?
5. Is there anything else you believe the Party should know about this meeting?

Item 1 - Labour Briefing Article

6. Please see item 1 attached overleaf. The Party has reason to believe that you are the author of this article. Can you confirm this is the case?
7. Please explain what you meant by "Jew process"?
8. Please explain what you meant by "privileging one group over another group is divisive. It's bad for the many as well as the Jews."?

Further Questions

9. Rule 2.1.8 in the Party's rulebook states:

"No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. The NEC shall take account of any codes of conduct currently in force and shall regard any incident which in their view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation as conduct prejudicial to the Party: these shall include but not be limited to incidents involving racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia or otherwise racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions, sexual harassment, bullying or any form of intimidation towards another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as determined by the NEC, wherever it occurs, as conduct prejudicial to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.11.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions except in any instance inconsistent with the Party's aims and values, agreed codes of conduct, or involving prejudice towards any protected characteristic."

What is your response to the allegation that your conduct may be or have been in breach of this rule?

10. The Party's Code of Conduct: Social Media Policy states that *"treat all people with dignity and respect. This applies offline and online"* do you think the evidence in this pack is consistent with this policy?
11. Looking back at the evidence supplied with this letter, do you regret making any of these comments?
12. Do you intend to post or share content of this nature again in the future?

Item 1



CLPs affiliate to Jewish Voice for Labour

Jo Bird



WIRRAL SOUTH AND WALLASEY CLPs are among the latest to affiliate to Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL). JVL has a central role to play both in dealing with antisemitism as well as false allegations of antisemitism. We don't receive money from the state of Israel nor its agencies. Unlike the Jewish Labour Movement, we are not affiliated to Zionist organisations – and we call on the UK to immediately suspend its arms trade with Israel.

JVL was formed one year ago as a network for Jewish members of the Labour Party, like myself. We stand for rights and justice for Jewish people everywhere, and against wrongs and injustice to Palestinians and other oppressed people anywhere.

To strengthen JVL, Labour members, branches, CLPs and organisations can affiliate. To find out how, click [here](#). Bringing a motion to affiliate to JVL is a catalyst for a good discussion about what to do about antisemitism.

JVL calls for disciplinary hearings to be paused until a due process has been established based on principles of natural justice - what I call "Jew process". JVL campaigns with others to overturn Marc Wadsworth's unfair expulsion and to defend Jackie Walker - who is black and Jewish.

Shami Chakrabati's report placed antisemitism where it should be - not on a pedestal but alongside other forms of racism. I am concerned about the privileging of racism against Jews as more worthy of resources than other forms of discrimination such as against black people, Muslim people and migrants. These abuses of power are measured in detentions, deportations and deaths - so let's have a sense of proportion and perspective in the current situation.

Of course, every type of racism is different, is wrong, and needs a time and a place for discussion. And privileging one group over another group is divisive. It's bad for the many as well as the Jews.

- Jo Bird was Labour candidate for Eastham in the May 2018 council elections, increasing Labour's vote share from 24% to 36% - the best result on the Wirral.
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