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Jennie Formby  
General Secretary  
Labour Party  
C/O Labour Party Compliance Unit  
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*By post and e-mail*

24th March 2018

Dear Ms Formby,

## **FIRST COMPLAINT AGAINST JEREMY CORBYN MP**

We wish to restate our complaint of 23rd September 2016 (“the first complaint”), a copy of which is appended hereto.

Our complaint amounts to charges that Jeremy Corbyn MP breached the Party's Conditions of Membership as set out in Chapter 2, Clause I (8) of the 2016 edition of the Party's Rule Book, by committing an act grossly detrimental to the Party in characterising Jewish people as dissembling and dishonest in their reporting of antisemitism, and by using the influence and prestige of his office to disseminate and normalise the same, contrary to Chapter I, Clause IV (2) (B) of the Party's Constitutional Rules, as contained in the 2016 edition of the Party's Rule Book.

We have no objection to your investigating the first complaint in conjunction with the further complaint against Mr Corbyn and the complaints against other parties which we set out below (“the second complaint”).

## **SECOND COMPLAINT AGAINST JEREMY CORBYN MP**

Further to the first complaint, we charge that Mr Corbyn has breached the Party's Conditions of Membership as set out in Chapter 2, Clause I (8) of the current edition of the Party's Rule Book by committing acts grossly detrimental to the Party, as set out below.

## Palestine Live Facebook Group

Mr Corbyn breached the National Executive Committee's Code of Conduct: Social Media Policy ("the Code of Conduct") which forms part of the current edition of the Party's Rule Book. The Code of Conduct requires that those who spread hatred on social media should be "shunned" and "challenge[d]", as well as specifically requiring that Party members report such conduct in the following terms:

"We encourage the reporting of abusive behaviour to the Labour Party, administrators of the relevant website or social media platform, and where appropriate, to the police. This is a collective responsibility and should not be limited to those who have been subjected to abuse."

A two-part report<sup>1</sup> issued on 7th March contains screenshots showing that Mr Corbyn was a member of a secret Facebook group called "Palestine Live" in which egregious antisemitic material was posted.

Furthermore, Mr Corbyn participated in the group, even posting comments on antisemitic material, and remained a member until a number of weeks after he was first elected as Leader of the Labour Party.

The screenshots, gathered by blogger David Collier, catalogue exchanges which took place within the Facebook group, including discussion of conspiracy myths about the Rothschild family and supposed Israeli involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, as well as links to material produced by neo-Nazi groups and antisemites such as antisemitic conspiracy theorist David Icke, and the former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, David Duke. The Facebook group's membership includes numerous individuals previously found to have been antisemites, Holocaust deniers or Jew-baiters, such as Paul Eisen, Baroness Jenny Tonge and Gilad Atzmon. It should be noted in particular that Mr Atzmon's antisemitism is so extreme that he has been publicly shunned by prominent pro-Palestinian activists. Mr Eisen, a former colleague and friend of Mr Corbyn's, uses the group to express the view that "You'll continue feeling depressed, dismal and let down until you start standing up to the Jews – not the Israelis, not the Zionists, the Jews".

Among a number of antisemitic posts, the screenshots show members of the group discussing whether they prefer the term "ZioNazi" to "JewNazi". One member is shown commenting: "am reading Mein Kampf [by Adolf Hitler]...everybody should be forced to read it, especially Jews who have their own agenda as to why they were not liked".

The reports show Mr Corbyn's participation in the group, including the following examples:

1. See [http://david-collier.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/180305\\_livereport\\_part1\\_FINAL.pdf](http://david-collier.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/180305_livereport_part1_FINAL.pdf) and [http://david-collier.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/180305\\_livereport\\_part2\\_FINAL.pdf](http://david-collier.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/180305_livereport_part2_FINAL.pdf).

- Report part 2, page 22: Mr Corbyn participated in a thread with Chaz Labrock, Ms Green and Lynn Falkner. His friendly response to them all is directly below theirs, in relation to organising an event in his offices on 3rd October 2014. All three individuals are well known for disseminating antisemitic discourse, variously Holocaust denial, conspiracy myths about the Rothschild family, and conspiracy myths blaming Mossad for various ‘false flag’ acts of terrorism, as evidenced in the report elsewhere.
- Report part 2, page 34: Mr Corbyn posted a supportive comment in a thread that starts with a post asserting that “Israel is illegitimate”, followed by another comment citing a book called “The Invention of the Jewish People” followed by another that refers to “wayward Jews”.
- Report part 2, page 29: Mr Corbyn commented in a thread where the first visible comment utilises the racist term “Zio” which Baroness Chakrabarti’s report<sup>2</sup> into antisemitism in the Labour Party, and the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee’s report<sup>3</sup> into the rise of antisemitism in Britain both condemned as an unacceptable term of abuse.

Further information indicates that Mr Corbyn’s claims, as published by *The Guardian* on 8th March, that his relationship with the founder and administrator of the “Palestine Live” Facebook group, Elleanne Green, was merely one of “acquaintance”, were untrue. Evidence in the reports, which we have published on our website,<sup>4</sup> indicates firstly, that Ms Green was well-known to Mr Corbyn, was friendly with him, and interacted with him on multiple occasions within and outside the Facebook group, on one occasion organising an event with her and sharing a thread in relation to the event; and secondly that she is a prolific disseminator of antisemitic material, including extreme antisemitic material, who invited Holocaust deniers and other far-right antisemites into the group, where she positively engaged with them. By lying about their relationship, and in continuing to stretch credulity in saying that he had no knowledge of her views when he shared her taste in poetry, jokes and opinions in relation to wider causes, he has further brought the Party into disrepute. It is additionally clear that Mr Corbyn also lied by telling the *Daily Mirror* on 8th March that “I was joined on to that group without knowing it” as at various points he clearly must have known.

In considering this part of our complaint, we wish to draw your attention to the following:

- The antisemitism in the Facebook group is obvious and graphic, and would be plain to any member of the group, especially members who participated in discussions.
- As well as participating in the group, Mr Corbyn is clearly an associate of Ms Green, the founder and administrator of the group, with whom he organised the meeting referred to above.
- The group used the Party’s logo and group members exhorted others to join the Party. In such circumstances, Messrs Corbyn’s and Lewis’ membership of the group would likely have been seen as endorsement of the group.

2. See <https://antisemitism.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Chakrabarti-Inquiry-Report-CAA-Highlighting.pdf>.

3. See <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/136/136.pdf>.

4. See <https://antisemitism.uk/administrator-of-antisemitic-palestine-live-facebook-group-was-not-an-acquaintance-of-jeremy-corbyn-but-a-close-friend-who-repeatedly-propagated-extreme-antisemitism>.

- According to a study conducted by Mr Collier between 1st and 15th February 2018, the intensity of antisemitic posting in the group was so high that it was nearly impossible to be a participating member of the group and avoid seeing it. A statement<sup>5</sup> by a former member of the group attests to the level of antisemitism a member would have been subjected to during the summer of 2014, when Mr Corbyn was an actively posting member of the group.

### History of Palestine Facebook Group

Mr Corbyn may have further breached the Code of Conduct through his alleged membership of the “History of Palestine” Facebook group in which he is likely to have seen extreme antisemitic material which it appears he failed to challenge. It has been reported<sup>6</sup> that as of 22nd March he was still a member of the Facebook group.

### Inquiry into Ken Livingstone

On 5th April 2017, Mr Corbyn announced a new inquiry by the National Executive Committee into fresh “offensive remarks” Ken Livingstone made after the outcome of his hearing before the National Constitutional Committee became known in April 2016. Mr Corbyn said: “Since initiating the disciplinary process, I have not interfered with it and respect the independence of the Party’s disciplinary bodies. But Ken’s subsequent comments and actions will now be considered by the National Executive Committee.”<sup>7</sup> Ten months later, it is clear either that no such inquiry took place, or at the very most, it was started and then halted, with senior journalists notified that Mr Livingstone was to return to the Party when his suspension from office was due to expire on 27th April 2018. Mr Corbyn misled the public and the 107 Labour MPs who signed a statement<sup>8</sup> declaring that “the Labour Party have betrayed our values” and that “this insidious racism” would not “go unchecked”. In doing so, particularly in a matter regarding an allegation of racism in an avowedly anti-racist Party, we assert that Mr Corbyn has further brought the Party into disrepute.

### Brick Lane Mural

In late 2012, Mr Corbyn posted on Facebook, in relation to the work “Freedom for Humanity” by artist Kalen Ockerman (also known as “Mear One”). There was a clamour for the mural to be removed, as its offensive nature was self-evident to local residents and the Labour Mayor of Tower Hamlets. The artist himself complained: “Some of the older white Jewish folk in the local community had an issue with me portraying their beloved #Rothschild or #Warburg etc as the demons they are” and reported that the mural was to be removed. Mr Corbyn responded in a Facebook post, asking: “Why? You are in good company. Ruckerfeller

5. See <https://shirazsocialism.wordpress.com/2018/03/11/palestine-live-nazi-grade-unequivocal-racism-and-reader-i-wanted-no-part-of-it/>

6. See <https://order-order.com/2018/03/22/corbyn-was-member-of-second-anti-semitic-facebook-group/>

7. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-39499640>.

8. See <http://archive.is/w88K1>.

destroyed Diego Viera's mural because it includes a picture of Lenin." In doing so, Mr Corbyn demonstrated that he had examined the mural and what it represented and what it signified, and found it appropriate for public display.

On the afternoon of 23rd March, Mr Corbyn responded by claiming his post was purely in defence of free speech. In terms of the standards expected of Labour Party members in relation to witnessing hateful imagery, this is a wholly inadequate response, as was pointed out by several of his own MPs. Essentially, he made clear that he considered that it was acceptable for the Leader of the Labour Party to defend such material.

Forced to issue a further statement, he said: "I sincerely regret that I did not look more closely at the image". However, the image consisted of little other than antisemitic caricatures and tropes, painted twenty feet high on a wall. It is impossible for anyone with even the slightest awareness of antisemitism not to understand what it meant, and Mr Corbyn's Facebook post evinces that he saw it clearly, and felt so moved as to comment in public in its defence.

In defending an antisemitic mural, claiming that he had not looked at it closely enough to see the antisemitism in it, and further, in refusing to answer questions about it that had been posed in the press over two years earlier, Mr Corbyn has lied.

In doing so he has brought the Party into yet further disrepute, and failed to observe the Code of Conduct.

## **COMPLAINT AGAINST TOM WATSON MP**

We previously wrote to Tom Watson MP on 23rd September 2016 to lodge the first complaint. That complaint was ignored by Mr Watson and we therefore wish to complain about Mr Watson's conduct in failing to act upon a complaint. The complaint was sent to Mr Watson by e-mail and it was widely reported upon by the national media.

## **COMPLAINT AGAINST CLIVE LEWIS MP, SEBASTIAN CORBYN, PAUL MASON AND JACK BOND**

Clive Lewis MP, Sebastian Corbyn, the journalist Paul Mason, and Jack Bond, are all alleged to have been members of the Palestine Live Facebook group, and our complaint against Jeremy Corbyn's membership of the group is therefore repeated in respect of Messrs Lewis, Sebastian Corbyn, Mason and Bond.

## **COMPLAINT HANDLING**

Due to the Party's failure to properly process the first complaint, please acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm how our complaints will be investigated and handled.

We also particularly ask that these complaints be considered by a person or panel which is independent of the Labour Party, entirely uncompromised by allegations of antisemitism, and not the subject of inducements such as the offer of a peerage.

Yours sincerely,

Gideon Falter  
**CHAIRMAN**

Joseph D. Glasman  
**HEAD OF POLITICAL AND  
GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS**



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Tom Watson MP  
Deputy Leader  
Labour Party

*By e-mail only*

23rd September 2016

Dear Mr Watson,

We are writing to you pursuant to Chapter 1, Clause IX (2) (B) of the Labour Party's Rule Book regarding the conduct of Jeremy Corbyn. We request that you present our disciplinary complaint to the Party's National Executive Committee, for consideration by the Party's National Constitutional Committee.

We charge that Mr Corbyn has breached the Party's Conditions of Membership as set out in Chapter 2, Clause I (8) of the Party's Rule Book by committing an act grossly detrimental to the Party in characterising Jewish people as dissembling and dishonest in their reporting of antisemitism, and by using the influence and prestige of his office to disseminate and normalise the same, contrary to Chapter I, Clause IV (2) (B) of the Party's Constitutional Rules, as contained in the Party's Rule Book.

The allegation that Jews lie and deceive in order to further hidden agendas is an age-old antisemitic trope. It has now been manifestly deployed by Mr Corbyn in his leadership campaign video. It falls under the definition of antisemitism used by decent nations around the world — including our own — by “making mendacious...allegations about Jews”. The definition can be found on our website at [www.antisemitism.uk/definition](http://www.antisemitism.uk/definition).

Although Mr Corbyn and his allies have a long history of association with antisemites, it was not until April 5th this year that he crossed the line and made an antisemitic statement. At that point, when his brother, Piers Corbyn, characterised the antisemitic abuse complained of by Jewish MP Louise Ellman as a politically motivated “absurd” attack on his brother, Jeremy Corbyn agreed, saying his brother “was not wrong”. This, at a time when Campaign Against Antisemitism, the Chief Rabbi and others concerned with the welfare of British Jews had all called for firm action to excise the antisemitism in Labour's ranks.

What followed over the following months was an institutionalising of the trope by senior Party figures under Mr Corbyn's leadership. On May 1st, Diane Abbott MP stated on the Andrew Marr Show that any accusations of antisemitism in Labour were "a smear", while Len McCluskey declared that the row had been "got up" by Mr Corbyn's enemies. Ken Livingstone and Rupa Huq MP averred. The message was heeded: in a YouGov Poll a few days later, 49% of Labour members were in agreement.

On the 30th of June, 2016 Ruth Smeeth MP suffered antisemitic abuse at the launch of Baroness Chakrabarti's whitewash report into antisemitism in the Party. Mr Corbyn was unmoved, failed to intervene and moreover was filmed talking in very familiar terms with the perpetrator after the incident. Again, the signal sent to the public was clear; Ms Smeeth subsequently received 20,000 mostly antisemitic abusive messages in the next twenty-four hours, including death threats. She now requires police protection and a bodyguard to attend the Labour Party conference.

The recent leadership hustings were characterised by Mr Corbyn's supporters' groans of ennui whenever Owen Smith raised the subject of antisemitism. Any person truly opposed to racism would have taken action to counter this chilling normalisation of antisemitism by discrediting its victims, but instead Mr Corbyn has compounded it.

This week, Mr Corbyn's personal Facebook and Twitter accounts released a video featuring supporters declaring they were "tired of hearing" about antisemitism, characterising the Jewish community's complaints as 'rubbish' — physically and metaphorically — to be tossed onto the floor. In an admission of guilt, the video has been withdrawn, but by then it had been viewed and endorsed over 200,000 times, and there has been no rebuttal by Mr Corbyn.

These accumulated acts committed by Mr Corbyn himself or under his direct leadership form the basis of our complaint under the clauses stated above, that Mr Corbyn has committed acts grossly detrimental to the Party in characterising Jewish people as dissembling and dishonest in their reporting of antisemitism, and by using the influence and prestige of his office to disseminate and normalise the same.

Our system of justice depends on our institutions having adequate rules, which must be enforced, and seen to be enforced. Under Mr Corbyn, the Labour Party that was once a pioneer in the fight against racism, has made itself deaf to Jews.



Labour's institutions have failed to act decisively against Sir Gerald Kaufman MP, Ken Livingstone and countless others. It is now high time that the Party acted to preserve its values, and to defend the much-abused Jewish community against the antisemitic lie promoted by Mr Corbyn that our complaints of antisemitism are hollow and motivated by hidden agendas.

Yours sincerely,

Gideon Falter  
**CHAIRMAN**

Joe Glasman  
**HEAD OF POLITICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS AND LIAISON**

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