

Wendy Nichols  
Chair of the National Executive Committee

City Hall  
Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4380  
Mincom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

17 July 2019

Dear Wendy,

We welcome Jeremy Corbyn's statement that Anti-Semitism is vile and a poison in our society and is unacceptable in any form. We need urgent and appropriate action and do not think this should, or needs to, wait for the investigation by the EHRC, or hold a lengthy internal investigation, for us to put the Labour house in order.

We would refer you to the IHRA statement on a Working Definition of Antisemitism (May 2016), adopted by the Labour Party, which clearly sets out illustrations and examples of antisemitism.

As members of the London Assembly Labour Group, we wish to express our concern at the continued failure of the Labour Party to address the serious allegations of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party as outlined in last week's BBC Panorama. We should be ashamed that we, the Labour Party, have let ourselves down in dealing with complaints about anti-Semitism appropriately. We need to deal with the backlog of existing complaints – review those sanctions that have been applied previously to ensure that appropriately strong action has taken place.

Between us, London Assembly Labour Group members represent all Londoners, irrespective of what faith they hold, or none. We are concerned that the apparent continued reluctance of some of our most senior Labour Party representatives and officials to take this seriously is damaging our claim to be an anti-racist party. Nobody can have watched the young party members and members of party staff talk about their genuine distress at situations in which they had been placed without being moved. We ask that those concerned stop blaming those raising the issue and start demonstrating the leadership our party needs at this time. There are too many people giving too many examples of anti-Semitic behaviour, and examples of it not being tackled, for this to be dismissed as an attack on the Leader of the Party and his allies.

We are also deeply concerned at the tone, nature and content of the debate on anti-Semitism in meetings, on online forums and in social media, a lot of which is not being reported but nonetheless is very much out there. This is causing people to leave the party because they do not wish to be associated with such vile views. It is also likely to have the effect of causing serious electoral damage to the Labour Party in London and we call on you to ensure all candidates in elections, starting with the London Assembly elections in May 2020, sign up to a Code of Conduct that includes a commitment to anti-racism, **including** anti-Semitism, in all its forms.

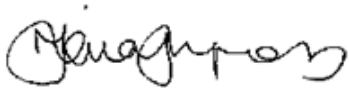
We would urge you, and other NEC members, to ensure that this issue is dealt with effectively and with the speed that has been lacking so far. It is time for those inside the Labour Party who make comments similar to neo-Nazis and other holocaust deniers to be called to account and ultimately to be expelled from the Labour Party.

Yours sincerely,

Eleven Members of the London Assembly Labour Group



Len Duvall AM  
Leader, London Assembly Labour Group



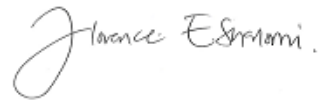
Fiona Twycross AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Andrew Dismore AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Umesh Desai AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Florence Eshalomi AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



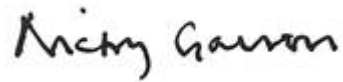
Leonie Cooper AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Joanne McCartney AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Navin Shah AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Nicky Gavron AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Dr Onkar Sahota AM  
London Assembly Labour Group



Tom Copley AM  
London Assembly Labour Group

Copied to:

Leader's Office, Labour Party  
Hazel Flynn, Regional Director, London Labour Party  
Jim Kelly, Chair, London Labour Party