

Council: 31 January 2017

Agenda item 14.3 – Opposition amendment in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Brian Gordon – An internationally recognised definition of anti-Semitism

Delete all and replace with (*additions highlighted in bold*):

“Council deplores the marked increase in anti-Semitic incidents in this country.

This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic tropes.

Council notes the variety of guises in which anti-Semitic hate-mongering can be manifested and the indirect tactics often employed to promote animosity towards Jews, such as inflammatory, slanderous attacks on Israel and Zionism.

Such tactics are equally deplorable, be they from extreme Right, Left or fundamentalist sources.

Criticism of Israel can be legitimate, but not if it employs the tropes and imagery of anti-Semitism.

Council considers these developments to be of particular concern within this Borough, which has the largest Jewish population in the country, and prides itself on the good inter-community relations existing among its citizens.

Council accordingly welcomes the lead taken by HM Government in promoting the adoption of an internationally recognised definition of anti-Semitism, consistent with that adopted last year by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. This states:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The guidelines highlight manifestations of anti-Semitism as including:

“• 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.

- 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 behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism (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.”

Council welcomes the cross-party support within the Council for combating anti-Semitism in all its manifestations.

Council hereby adopts the above definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism, as well as all other forms of racism and hate crime.”