Reject IHRA: The real target is Corbyn

At long last, the witch-hunt in the Labour Party has reached its long-intended, main target: Jeremy Corbyn. For the last three years, vastly exaggerated claims that the Labour Party is awash with anti-Semites have been used to attack the left. But Ken Livingstone, Jackie Walker, Marc Wadsworth, Tony Greenstein and hundreds of other Labour Party members were little more than collateral damage.

This vicious campaign,orchestrated by the pro-Zionist lobby and the right in the party, never had anything to do with fighting anti-Semitism - but everything with getting rid of Jeremy Corbyn. His pro-Palestinian views and socialist policies make him unacceptable to both.

That is why the NEC was wrong to adopt in its Code of Conduct, the working definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and most of the examples that have been published alongside it. The intent of this document is not to define Anti-Semitism – after all, the Oxford English Dictionary manages that in six words: “Hostility to or prejudice against Jews.” No, its sole purpose is to conflate criticism of Zionism and Israel with anti-Semitism - even without the four examples that the Code has (so far) left out.

Therefore we call on the NEC and Labour Party members to reject the whole IHRA working definition:

• Most IHRA examples refer to Israel. In effect, the IHRA definition is labelling anti-Zionism as anti-Semitic. But Zionism is itself a cause of anti-Semitism today: Israel, by claiming to be a Jewish state, associates Jews everywhere with its crimes against the Palestinians.

• The most disputed IHRA example would ban the description of Israel as a “racist” state. But racism is exactly what the Israeli government has now enshrined via its ‘Nation State’ law.

• We must defend freedom of speech on Palestine. In their identical front pages, the Jewish Chronicle, the Jewish Telegraph and Jewish News admit that: “Had the full IHRA definition with
examples relating to Israel been ap-
proved, hundreds, if not thousands, of
Labour and Momentum members
would need to be expelled."

• Any attempts by the NEC to intro-
duce so-called ‘safeguards’ are
doomed to fail. Not only would they
compete with the IHRA examples
(which rule is more important?). Any
assurance that past comments would
not be investigated are also useless,
because Jeremy Corbyn has already
been declared an anti-Semite.

There is still time to bring this witch-hunt
to an end. But Jeremy Corbyn and his al-
lies have to stand up to the enemies of
the democratic Labour left:

• They have to reject the whole IHRA
working definition and clearly say that
the Labour Party is not riddled with
anti-Semites.

• All those summarily expelled or
suspended from membership without
due process should be immediately
reinstated.

• We need mandatory reselection of all
Labour MPs. The right wing saboteurs
in the PLP have to go.

• Momentum has be radically democ-
ratised - or abolished. Instead of de-
fending Corbyn, Momentum owner Jon
Lansman has sided with the witch-
hunters. He has thrown Jackie Walker
and Pete Willsman to the wolves and is
now ready to abandon Corbyn, too. He
wants the term ‘Zionism’ banned. He
runs Momentum like a dictator, having
abolished all democratic structures.

Democracy and free speech are es-
sential in the struggle to transform
our party and society.

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Sunday September 23, 7pm

LAW fringe event at
Labour Party Conference

with Chris Williamson MP,
Jo Bird (Jewish Voice for Labour)
and others

Roddick Rooms, 54 St James Street,
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