



Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP

House of Commons

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Mims Davies MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society
Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London, SW1A 2BQ

Our Ref: JR14822

Dear Minister,

I write to draw your attention to the decision of Malaysia to bar Israeli swimmers from participating in the World Para Swimming Championships. As you will know, this is a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, which are being held in Malaysia from 29 July to 4 August 2019.

Malaysia's decision to act in this manner against participants from the world's only Jewish state is utterly discriminatory. It is also a clear breach of the International Paralympic Committee's Mission "to promote Paralympic sport without discrimination for political, religious, economic, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or race reasons".

It also breaches the fundamental principles of Olympism which state: "The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play."

I would ask you to join with me in writing to the Malaysian High Commissioner to protest against this decision and to urge his government to immediately reconsider it.

I would also ask that, if Malaysia declines to do so, you request the International Paralympic Committee and World Para Swimming to relocate the Championships to a nation where Israeli athletes can participate and the ideals of the Olympic movement can be properly upheld.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP
Member of Parliament for Enfield North
Chair, Labour Friends of Israel