

LABOUR
FRIENDS
of ISRAEL

*Working towards a
two state solution*

05/04/2017

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Dear Jeremy,

We are utterly appalled by the decision not to expel Ken Livingstone from the Labour party last night. Mr Livingstone has repeatedly made comments on Nazism that have caused huge offence to the Jewish community, and he appears to take delight in repeating his comments and causing further hurt and insult to Britain's Jewish community.

Nor were last April's comments the first time Mr Livingstone has insulted the Jewish community and made offensive and erroneous comments about Nazi Germany. He has previously claimed that Britain's actions in Ireland were worse than what Hitler had done to the Jews; edited a newspaper which published a cartoon depicting an Israeli prime minister, whose parents and brother were murdered in the Holocaust, as an SS officer; told a journalist he was "just like a concentration camp guard" after finding he was Jewish; said Jews vote Tory because they are rich; and told Jewish property developers to "go back to Iran and try their luck".

Every major Jewish community figure – including the Chief Rabbi – has condemned this decision. A short suspension, amounting to no more than a slap on the wrist, sends a clear and unambiguous message that the Labour party finds anti-semitism within its ranks entirely acceptable. This decision further contravenes your own statements about a zero-tolerance policy towards anti-semitism and racism.

We urge you both to ask the NEC to review this decision immediately and to call publicly for Mr Livingstone's expulsion from the Labour party.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP, LFI Chair

Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, LFI Lords Chair

Michael Dugher MP, LFI Vice-Chair

Louise Ellman MP, LFI Vice-Chair

Sharon Hodgson MP, LFI Vice-Chair

Rt. Hon Pat McFadden MP, LFI Vice-Chair

Rachel Reeves MP, LFI Vice-Chair

Jonathan Reynolds MP, LFI Vice-Chair

John Woodcock MP, LFI Vice-Chair