



**Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP**

House of Commons

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His Excellency Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Bin Hazizi  
Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK  
High Commission of Malaysia  
45 Belgrave Square  
London  
SW1X 8QT

Our Ref: JR14822

Dear High Commissioner,

I write to express my deep concern and disappointment at Malaysia's decision to bar Israeli swimmers from participating in the World Para Swimming Championships, a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, which are being held in your country from 29 July to 4 August 2019.

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."

As an MP who represents a constituency in the city, I recall with pride the spirit inspired by the holding of the Paralympics in London in 2012. I cannot think of an act more contrary to that spirit than the actions taken by your government.

I would strongly request that Malaysia reconsiders this decision.

Yours sincerely,

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