

# Antisemitism Policy

## Motion Synopsis

The need for a formal definition of antisemitism as part of our code of conduct, in order to combat the rising antisemitic sentiment in society and our political discourse, has become significant. This motion adds a formal definition of antisemitism to our members code of conduct.

## Motion Text

Conference notes and is deeply concerned by current and rising levels of antisemitism in our society. Conference also notes the party's responsibility to combat antisemitism and to take a strong stance against it.

Conference also notes that the Green Party Executive has been deliberating whether to adopt a formal definition of antisemitism. In a statement on the 13th of August 2018, it was announced that the executive had decided not to adopt a formal definition at this time, saying "One argument was that such a significant decision ought to be taken by the wider membership and in close partnership with our Jewish members in particular".

Therefore conference resolves:

A) To create an antisemitism policy which can be amended by a motion to conference in section D of the agenda, passed by a simple majority, or by a majority vote of the Green Party Regional Council in consultation with relevant committees and stakeholders. Insert into it:

### **1. About the policy**

1.1 There is often a lot of debate about what is and is not considered antisemitism, both within and external to the Green Party, and it is the purpose of this policy to provide a clear set of guidelines for members to follow in order to avoid perpetuating antisemitism and its associated tropes.

1.2 Unlike with some other kinds of discrimination, within the party there is not currently a widely understood and agreed idea of what constitutes antisemitism and what does not, and this policy addresses that.

1.3 When discussing complex issues such as the conflict between Israel and Palestine, it is helpful for members to have a reference to help them to ensure they are not unwittingly perpetuating antisemitism or inadvertently using language commonly associated with antisemitic tropes, which this policy provides.

1.4 This policy draws on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and its associated examples, to provide a clear, internationally and domestically recognised definition of antisemitism to guide members.

1.5 This policy seeks to ensure that it is understood by members that this policy does not limit free speech and criticism of policies or actions of the Israeli government, military, or other state organisations, especially in regards to its treatment of the Palestinian people. For this, it draws on the clarifications issued by the United Kingdom Home Affairs Select Committee, in clauses 3.3 and 3.4.

1.6 It is important to recognise that this policy provides a working definition of antisemitism, and members are encouraged to develop on and amend this policy in order to improve its effectiveness.

1.7 In recognition that this policy provides only a working definition, this policy should be considered a guideline and not an exhaustive definition of antisemitism. Context and evidence should be considered during any application of this policy.

1.8 This policy follows the Macpherson principle: that a racist incident is one perceived to be racist by the victim. Therefore, the perceptions of Jewish people, both as a collective and individually, should be the starting point for any application of this policy. Antisemitism still has to be proven by the criteria provided by this policy, but any accusations should be taken seriously and properly handled and investigated.

## **2. Scope**

2.1 This policy on antisemitism applies to all members of the party, irrespective of any voluntary or professional position they may hold. It is supplementary to the Green Party Members Code of Conduct. It governs members' behaviour with regard

to respect for other members and the effect it has on the effective functioning of the Green Party. It may apply to behaviour towards people outside the party if it is thought to impact on the reputation or effective functioning of the party. It also governs the behaviour of members representing the party externally.

2.2 As an addition to the Green Party Policy on Code of Conduct, this policy applies to any kind of communication covered in that document and may apply further, for example to the conduct of Green Party spokespeople.

2.3 This policy should be referred to during disputes and disciplinary procedures for complaints relating to antisemitism.

### **3. Definition**

3.1 Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

3.2 Manifestations of anti-semitism might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

3.3 It is not antisemitic to criticise the Government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.

3.4 It is not antisemitic to hold the Israeli Government to the same standards as other liberal democracies or to take a particular interest in the Israeli Government’s policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.

### **4. Examples**

4.1 The examples in this section apply only when they do not conflict with the definition of antisemitism outlined in section 3, particularly the clauses which specify what should not be considered antisemitic. They are provided for illustrative

purposes to guide members and relevant committees and are not definitive. Section 3 remains the primary definition of antisemitism in this policy. Particular attention should be focused on where examples refer to criticism of a state of Israel, rather than the state of Israel.

4.1 Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

4.2 Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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).

4.6 Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

4.10 Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

4.11 Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

4.12 Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

## **5. Amending this policy**

5.1 This policy is overseen by Green Party Regional Council and can only be amended by a motion to conference in section D of the agenda, passed by a simple majority, or by majority vote of the Green Party Regional Council in consultation with relevant committees and stakeholders, which may include Disputes Resolution Committee, Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Committee, and relevant staff.

B) To append this policy to the Members Code of Conduct, in the same way as the Policy on Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination, such that breaching it will be grounds for a disciplinary complaint, and that it may be considered in disciplinary investigations and decisions.

C) To insert into the Record of Organisational Statements:

Green Party Regional Council and Green Party Executive to undertake to adopt and implement the policy on antisemitism, including any necessary training as identified during implementation, by Spring Conference 2019.