



A JEWISH MANIFESTO FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

The Northern Ireland Assembly election is scheduled to take place on 5 May 2016. The Belfast Jewish Community, supported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has summarised the Jewish community's aspirations into 'Ten Commitments', and we call on candidates to show their support for them. The Belfast Jewish Community is the centre of Jewish religious and cultural life in Northern Ireland. The Board is the voice of the Jewish community in the UK.

The Ten Commitments

We call on candidates to:

1. Promote good relations, cooperation and understanding between all of Northern Ireland's communities.
2. Fight all forms of racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland – including antisemitism.
3. Support existing efforts to remember and understand the Holocaust and strive to prevent any other genocide, including by participating in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January.
4. Re-introduce the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project', which includes a one day visit to Auschwitz, in schools and colleges. Lessons about the Holocaust are pertinent in challenging wider sectarianism, racism and antisemitism, and ensure that students understand where hate can lead.
5. Commit to acting responsibly in making statements concerning conflict in the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. Politicians should recognise extreme comments can lead to racist attacks against Jewish or Muslim communities at home, and damage community relations generally.
6. Draw upon the experience of peace-building in Northern Ireland to engage positively and constructively with all those in the Middle East working towards comprehensive peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians.
7. Protect religious freedoms, including the right to a Jewish way of life. This would include provision of kosher meat, protection of circumcision and flexible working to accommodate Sabbath and festival observance.
8. Celebrate contemporary Jewish culture in appropriate ways – including the Belfast community's Jews Schmooze cultural programme – as part of promoting a diverse and inclusive Northern Ireland.
9. Preserve the community's heritage by maintaining the former Annesley Street synagogue and disused Falls Road Jewish cemetery, and ensuring appropriate commemoration in Belfast for the birthplace of past Israeli president, Chaim Herzog.
10. Tackle wider challenges like poverty, climate change and human rights abuses.

I SUPPORT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY'S
#TENCOMMITMENTS
