



THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON 2 MARCH 2017

The Belfast Jewish Community, supported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has summarised the Jewish community's aspirations into 'Ten Commitments'. The Ten Commitments were presented to the political parties prior to the 2016 Assembly elections and the initiative was universally welcomed.

The Belfast Jewish Community is the centre of Jewish religious and cultural life in Northern Ireland. The Board of Deputies 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. Support and maintain the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project', which includes a visit to Auschwitz by representatives from 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. The project was reintroduced to Northern Ireland in 2017 after a number of years of absence.
5. Act 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 Holy Day 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, for example, 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. The community greatly appreciates the all-party efforts to help repair the Jewish section of the city cemetery after it was desecrated.
10. Tackle wider challenges like poverty, climate change and human rights abuses.

I SUPPORT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY'S
#TENCOMMITMENTS
