

The Labour Party

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Ms. M. Van Der Zyl
President, Board of Deputies of British Jews
1 Torriano Mews
London NW5 2R

02 May 2019

Dear Ms Van Der Zyl,

Thank you for your recent letter.

I have answered, in statements and interviews, the false accusation that I endorsed the antisemitic content of this 1902 text by the widely referenced liberal theorist J.A. Hobson. And I am deeply saddened that the mischievous representation of my foreword to the book will have caused real stress within the Jewish community.

When writing the foreword for the book, I reserved praise for some of the broad themes of Hobson's century-old classic study of imperialism in Africa and Asia. As with many books written in this era, the work contains highly offensive references and observations. I totally deplore the language used in that book to describe Jews and people from colonised countries.

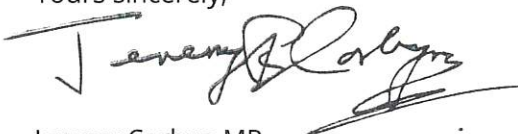
This accusation is the latest in a series of equally ill-founded accusations of anti-Jewish racism that Labour's political opponents have made against me. I note that the Hobson story was written by a Conservative Party peer in a newspaper whose editorial policy, and owner, have long been hostile to Labour. At a time when Jewish communities in the UK, and indeed throughout Europe, feel under attack, it is a matter of great regret that the issue of antisemitism is often politicised in this way.

As Leader of the Labour Party, I re-state unequivocally that my Party and I stand in solidarity with Jewish communities against the worrying rise of antisemitism. There can be no future for a society that blames minorities for the problems created by a grotesquely unfair economic system and governments that support austerity and free market economics.

I am proud to have been a long-standing participant in anti-racist campaigns and encourage everyone to give practical and moral support to victims of racism. If somebody attacks a synagogue, a church, a mosque or a temple, it is an attack on all of us.

I look forward to working with you to challenge antisemitism and support communities coming together in solidarity and mutual celebration.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Corbyn MP
Leader of the Labour Party