

Glasgow Jewish Representative Council



1914 - 2015

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Edward Isaacs

Sandra White MSP
c/o Sandra.White.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

11th November 2015

Dear Sandra

The Representative body of the Glasgow Jewish Community does not often intervene or directly respond to what individual MPs or MSPs say, write or tweet but the extent of concern within the Community is such that it is necessary to do so on this occasion.

All of us are entitled to take views on the rights and wrongs of the Israel - Palestinian dispute, that is democracy. Your passion for the Palestinian cause, however, cannot excuse the clearly anti-semitic cartoon which you recently posted, albeit briefly. The cartoon represented a classic anti-semitic depiction.

You are a Glasgow MSP. Glasgow and East Renfrewshire represent the biggest Jewish Community in Scotland and the fourth largest in the UK.

As a local MSP you will have been aware that 2014/15 saw the most serious outbreak of anti-semitism locally. In our area, more than 25 people have been arrested and charged on anti-semitic or related activity. As a local MSP, your voice was not heard in condemning this.

The cartoon tweeted by you has surely crossed a line that should never have been crossed. Anti-semitic depictions do not help the Palestinian cause in any way and whatever the extent of anti-Israel sentiment you may feel this should not have spilt over into anti-Jewishness.

You will wish to know that I am receiving a lot of traffic on this issue from within our Community and wish to convey their - and our - concerns directly to you.

Yours sincerely

Paul H Morron
President

The Council was founded in 1914 to speak on behalf of the Jewish Community of Glasgow and the West of Scotland. It fosters good relations between the Jewish Community and others, manages the Jewish Community Centre on behalf of the entire Community, and provides a democratic forum for the synagogues and the welfare, educational, social and cultural organisations in the Community. Its charitable arm is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity, No SCO16626.