

Analysis of BBC Reporting of Dame Margaret Hodge's verbal abuse of Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn in House of Commons 17 July 2018 and subsequent disciplinary action. Transcripts by Box of Broadcasts and Researcher

Date	Programme	Comments
17.07.18	TV BBC2 Newsnight 22.30	[9.12-10.15] Nick Watts Political Editor <i>The Huffington Post reports this evening that veteran Labour MP Margaret Hodge confronted Jeremy Corbyn behind the Speaker's chair after the vote and said, according to, and I have spoken to her friends and they confirmed this, she said to Jeremy Corbyn, "You are an anti—Semitic racist", and then she said to him, then she said to him, "You are wanting to make it impossible for people like me, Jewish people like me, to remain in the Labour Party". Friends of Margaret Hodge said she did not swear. There were reports she did swear. There were reports she did but they said she didn't. The reason why she confronted him was the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party have decided to waterdown the International Holocaust remembrance Alliance definition of anti—Semitism and what has been decided is that this issue should go to a review, it should be looked at that was that issue that Margaret Hodge was confronting Jeremy Corbyn about. Maybe the sun is getting to everyone.</i> .
18.07.18	TV BBC London 22.30	News [5.07] <i>"Dame Margaret Hodge, the MP for Barking, faces action by the Labour Party after reportedly calling Leader, Jeremy Corbyn an anti—Semite. The Jewish MP is said to have confronted Mr Corbyn, as she believes her party is seen as racist by millions of voters. The Holocaust Education Trust has called the decision by the Labour Party to take action against Ms Hodge as appalling."</i>
19.07.2018	TV BBC2 Newsnight 22.30	Interview with Tony Blair. [34.32-34.56] >Do you think Jeremy Corbyn is anti—Semitic?< "That charge has been made by Margaret I've always said I don't believe he is personally anti—Semitic. But this is a disastrous move for Labour, this refusal to accept clearly the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definitions of anti—Semitism. And I am afraid I can understand anti—Semitism. And I am afraid I can understand the anger of much of the Jewish community. I can sympathise with that." >You wouldn't sanction Margaret Hodge?< "I think they would be crazy to proceed with that."
22.07.2018	TV BBC1 Andrew Marr Show	Interview with Rebecca Long-Bailey [36.38-37.40] >Dame Margaret Hodge was forthright in what she said to your leader. Should she be disciplined? < "I was not there when the so-called incident happened so I cannot comment on what was said but what we say within the party is we treat colleagues with respect and that is not to say it is wrong for Margaret, if she did state those things, to express her opinion, it is right to express your opinion to the party. She lost members of her family in the Holocaust and feel strongly about this. Many Labour MPs, not just Jewish MPs, think it would be outrageous to discipline her. I am not sure where we are up to in terms of action taken but I know the matter is being investigated but within the party we are expected to treat colleagues with respect and not engage in personal attacks but it is not wrong for a colleague within the party to express concerns to another colleague, it just has to be done in the appropriate way."
22.07.2018	TV BBC1 Sunday Politics	[Photo of Hodge & Corbyn at start][5.37] Commentary: >There was condemnation from the Jewish community for a policy on anti—Semitism which differed from the internationally agreed wording. Veteran Jewish Labour MP Margaret Hodge confronted the Labour leader, calling him an anti—Semite and a racist.< [34.04-] Interview with Stella Creasey. >Let's talk more about the Labour Party. There has been more about the Labour Party. There has been an almighty row about anti—Semitism this week. This has been going on for months and it is unbelievable the

Labour Party has not put this to bed yet. We have seen senior MP, Jewish veteran MP Margaret Hodge calling your party leader racist and an anti—Semite. How has it got to this position that that this is so toxic for the Labour Party? <

“Many of us are despairing. I was speaking at the [] Festival in January. I went to the PLP and told Jeremy Corbyn what people were saying and the concerns they had. I do not think Jeremy Corbyn is an anti—Semite, but I think what is happening now requires his leadership, he is required to step in. This document has been adopted by countless councils, the CPS and other countries. It is clear what the examples of anti—Semitism are.”

23.07.18 | TV BBC1 Breakfast

[1:40.15-1:40.38]

>The heated row over anti-semitism in the Labour Party came to a dramatic head last week when MP Margaret Hodge angrily called the Labour leader an anti-semite. Jewish MP’s will now claim tonight the Party’s new Code of Conduct does not go far enough...This is what Jeremy Corbyn had to say about the row yesterday.<

Jeremy Corbyn clip from Tolpuddle on 22.07.18

“I want us to deal with anti-semitism in our society as well as in all of our parties including my own. What’s been done is an honest attempt to make sure that we do make it clear that we will not tolerate anti-semitism in any form and we will allow legitimate debate on issues facing Israel and Palestine, but it cannot ever be conducted in any kind of anti-semitic form.”

<What action is Margaret Hodge facing for her criticism?>

“A complaint has been made about her behaviour towards me in the Commons the other day and”

<How did that feel, sir?>

Mm, I felt not pleased about it, I felt upset about it, but as always I’m very calm and I always treat people with a great deal of respect. I don’t shout at people, I just listen to what they have to say, and a complaint’s been registered and that will have to be dealt with by the Party but that is independent of me.”

<Have you spoken to her?>

“Not since then, no.”

[1:40.39-1:41.35]

Louise Ellman, former Parliamentary Chair of the Jewish Labour Movement.

<Good morning to you. Thank you very much for coming on this morning. So you heard from your Leader there. He’s saying tonight’s emergency motion should be delayed. What would be your response to that?<

“Well Jeremy’s wrong and he does have to face up to the fact there’s mounting anger about the Labour Party’s failure to deal with anti-semitism in its own ranks. Last week Labour MP’s overwhelmingly asked the National Executive of the Labour Party to adopt the full international definition of antisemitism and within two days the Labour Party completely ignored that, treated its MP’s with contempt and since then there’s been absolute uproar, not just within the Jewish community but outside of that as well. So tonight I’m taking a resolution to Labour MP’s to stop or to start a process where we can put that full definition of anti-semitism in our own standing orders and Labour MPs can then set an example to the national Party which I hope they’ll follow.”

>And, you’re aware of what they are saying about it. They are saying they are covered, not reproduced word for word but they are covered in their new code. In some ways they say it goes further.>

“Well, this is nonsense and it just sets out to confuse people, well people aren’t fooled and why doesn’t the Labour Party just say very clearly, we accept the international definition of anti-semitism and indeed a committee of the Labour Party did accept it only two years ago, but now things seem to have changed. So I do think the Labour Party should reconsider this as a matter of very great urgency and get on with tackling anti-semitism within the Party. It really comes to something when anti-semitism within the Labour Party is dominating the political agenda, I think Jeremy should use his leadership to recognise the problem and address it.”

>Why do you think there is this problem and why do you think it has taken so much pressure from others like yourself to try and bring it to a head and if it is taking attention away from other important issues, the point you just made, why hasn’t it been sorted out?<

“There does seem to be a pretty deep seated problem within parts of the Labour Party to recognise anti-semitism on the left and particularly on the hard left. It isn’t a new phenomenon it’s always been around, it’s now become much more dominant within the Labour Party and I think there are Labour Party members and I think Jeremy’s one of them who are very happy to address anti-semitism on the right wing of politics and are very familiar with that but they find it very hard to accept there’s also anti-semitism on the left. Well it is there and it’s a very ugly reality, and it just needs to be dealt with.”

>Let’s also talk a bit about Margaret Hodge who we know is critical of Jeremy Corbyn. Some in the Party say she

needs to be disciplined. What's going on, what do you think should be done?<

"Well, I wasn't present when this incident happened so I don't know exactly what was said but I do know that the anger that Margaret was expressing is really reflecting what's felt by many many people, many Labour MPs, it's not just Jewish MPs, it's Labour MPs, many Labour members and many people across the community. And of course the Jewish community has become completely united from liberal rabbi's to Haredi rabbi's, which uniquely come together to condemn what's going on. So there's great anger out there and I think what Margaret did was really expressing that and the Party are very wrong to try and make an example of Margaret Hodge, she's the wrong target and I think they should withdraw that."

>I understand what you are saying but to bring up the point Jeremy Corbyn himself made, there is a way of dealing with people and do you feel she stepped over the line, if she did swear and she called him anti-semitic and a racist?<

"Well, I don't know exactly what was said but I do know that there's mounting anger about the Labour Party's failure to deal with its own anti-semitism and perhaps what Margaret did was an expression of that, so I really think that any action against Margaret will just inflame the situation even more but let's get on and sort the problem then we can get on with the normal political business of trying to be the next government."

[1:41.44-1:46]

>Thank you very much and we should let you know that the Labour Party's spokesperson told Breakfast it is consulting with Jewish Groups and the Code of Conduct adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition and, as I said expands on and contextualises its examples to produce robust legally sound guidelines that a political party can apply to disciplinary cases.<

23.07.18

Radio 4 Today 06.00

1:49

>The Labour leadership is being challenged once again over the issue of anti-Semitism. Jewish MPs are tonight asking the parliamentary party tonight to accept in full an international definition of anti-Semitism. This comes after an angry encounter between the former labour minister Margaret Hodge and Jeremy Corbyn in which she apparently called him a racist and an anti-Semite, a charge which he strongly denies. The Party's National Executive adopted a Code of Conduct which excludes some examples from the definition which was written by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The Labour Leader was asked yesterday whether the Party had rewritten that definition of anti-semitism.<

"It wasn't trying to rewrite it, it accepted almost all of it, what it's done is put alongside it a Code of Conduct for members of the Party because we will not tolerate in any form whatsoever in the Party and what we also agreed to do at the National Executive and it was agreed by all members who were there at the meeting that we would have a consultation process now with a number of organisations and indeed I've written to a number of organisations on Thursday of this week asking if we can have a discussion and talk to them and bring it back so we can get it right."

[1:49.57- 1:50.36]

> Well let's talk now to Dame Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP for Barking who is now facing disciplinary action for her encounter with Jeremy Corbyn. She joins us for her first broadcast interview, good morning<

[1:50.44-1:58]

>Good morning. There have been various reports of that encounter. Did you really call Jeremy Corbyn a racist and anti-semite?<

"I always in the past disagreed with the people who have called him an anti-semite, but at the end of the day people have to be judged on what they do and not what they say. They have to be judged on their actions and not their words. And I think what's happened over the last months from failure to respond to anti-semitism against Labour Party members, from failure to respond to the massive demonstration, unique demonstration by the Jewish community, culminating in a failure to adopt in full the universally used definition of anti-semitism, was just a bridge too far"

>We'll come on to that, so you stand by those remarks?<

I stand by those remarks and honestly Martha it's with real heavy heart I don't want to be in this position, nobody would be happier than I would be for Jeremy to say tomorrow and the Labour Party to say we adopt this in full."

>Well, I'm going to come on to the code in full but I wanted to get to the bottom of what exactly happened because it's such a personal attack and you can be critical of the way in which he's been handling the issue as you've been doing without actually using such strong language against him personally.<

"Well, at the end he is the leader of the Labour Party so accountability and responsibility rests with him."

>That's (muffled) from anti-semitic personally isn't it?<

"You can carry on proclaiming, you can carry on saying it, it's like everyone says I'm not a racist but it's by his

actions he has to be judged. And by refusing to adopt the definition in full of what anti-semitism is, he's put himself in a position that he's perceived by many to be anti-semitic. But

>*We've just heard him saying the kind of action that he's taken in the Party, he launched an Inquiry, he says he won't tolerate anti-semitism, he says it again and again.*<

"We keep coming back to the same point, it's not what you say, it's what you do. And he hasn't adopted the full definition of anti-semitism., which every body else has has every other institution, the CPS, the Government, local authorities, the devolved administrations, they all adopted this definition, it's one with which the Jewish community feel comfortable, he's tried to impose another one on us, and that actually leaves out, omits a whole series of actions, which could be , can I give you an example?,,

>*What Labour says that it has adopted the Code in full, but hasn't adopted some of the examples attached to the code*<

"The document sits as a whole, let me give you some examples because in a way it becomes a sort of theoretical argument, a technical argument about what's in, what's out. Er since the incident in the House of Commons last week, I've clearly had a spate of anti-semitic emails and social media messages to me, well I have to say to you Martha I think I've had more supportive messages than negative ones and the Sunday Times published some of them that appear on FaceBook. I've been called a Zionist bitch. I've been told that I'm under the orders of my paymasters in Israel. I've been called a supporter of the racist state of Israel and I've been told that they should dress me as a Palestinian so the paymasters might shoot me. Let me finish with this point, the only connection between me and Israel is that I'm a Jew and Jew's live in Israel and seeing my beliefs in Israel through the prism of my Jewish identity is at the heart of this argument."

>*Clearly (talking over each other) highly unpleasant*<

"All those would be allowed under his definition"

>*Well I think Labour would strongly dispute that ... what makes you think in the definition, because the code because the code specifically says being allowed to criticise the state of Israel*<

"Of course it does and that's the absurdity of this whole argument. The actual code, established by the international community does talk about legitimate criticism of the state of Israel. I've been one of the most vocal critics of the governments of Israel down the years. I think a lot of what they are doing is terrible. But by adjusting, by omitting from the definition all references to Israel what Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party have done have meant that people can call me a Zionist bitch and not be disciplined by the Labour Party"

>*Well, hang on the Code is clear that any denial of Israel's right to exist is a form of anti-semitism and Labour says we will not allow discriminatory double standards to be applied which covers the point about Israel is a racist endeavour*<

"Are you taking about the Labour Party code?"

>*This is the Labour Party saying because the code, the code covers this area*<

"No what they have done, there are various..., in the definition, if you take the definition you can be challenged or disciplined against the definition and that's the red card. What they've taken is taken it out of the red card and they've put it in the yellow card area so it's a behaviour that is una..."

>But what makes you sure that people who wrote to you in such foul terms are members of the Labour Party anyway?<

"These are all taken from FaceBook pages that are supportive of Jeremy Corbyn"

>*Well you can't be sure they are Labour Party members*<

"Well I can't be sure but I can tell you this Martha, within twelve hours of my actual talking to Jeremy Corbyn face to face I received a disciplinary letter. Twelve hours. Thinks how long it has taken for the Labour Party to respond, if at all, to any of the allegations of anti-semitism and I just don't even know whether the Labour Party has responded to the terrible terrible words that appeared in the Sunday Times accusing me of absolutely horrific things.

>*You're fighting your case, this disciplinary action, have you considered resigning the whip over this?*<

Listen, I've been in the Labour Party for so long you know, I fought the BNP, this all about what is my identity and my values. I could at the time of fighting the BNP have walked away, my husband had died, but it was really an important fight. This is the same. This is a fight about my identity, the values that brought me into the Labour Party, I'm going to fight within the Labour Party and it's terrible that within 2018, I have to do that.

>*Dame Margaret Hodge, thank you*<

[2.02]

Headline News

>*The headlines. The Labour MP Margaret Hodge says she stands by her criticism of handling anti-Semitism in the Party despite facing disciplinary action.*<

[2.40.49]

>The Labour MP Margaret Hodge told us earlier that she's standing by her attack on Jeremy Corbyn. Jewish MPs and others in the Party are angry because the leadership hasn't accepted the entire definition of anti-Semitism which was written by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Nick Thomas Symonds is Labour's Shadow Solicitor General and Shadow Security Minister and Joins us now.

>I hope you heard Dame Margaret Hodge earlier. She's saying she's standing by her angry encounter with Jeremy Corbyn, saying it's by his actions he has to be judged, by refusing, in her words by refusing to adopt the definition he comes across as anti-Semitic.<

"Yes, well just to correct firstly your introduction, the actual definition has been adopted in full. What is the issue, and this is important to be very clear, is with regard to the examples that's given, by the IHRA to that definition, many of which are adopted word for word in our Code of Conduct, but others in which the ground is covered in respect of what is said in that list of examples and listening to Margaret earlier and I have to say I understand completely the anger she was expressing, she gave four examples of quite vile anti-Semitic abuse that she'd been subjected to, but where I would just respectfully disagree, is to say that I think all of those examples are covered under the Code of Conduct. I refer specifically to paragraphs 12 to 16 of the Code of Conduct that cover those issues and look, I'm here in my role as Shadow law officer I have a legal background I'm very happy to do anything to assist in this situation, indeed to speak to Margaret for whom I've got a great deal of respect, and to others, I do think the examples she gave are covered by the Code of Conduct."

>Now, I understand the distinction you are making between the Code and the examples, which are used but wouldn't you have saved yourself a lot of controversy simply by including those examples rather than leaving open the suspicion that you were somehow softening what the IHRA had to say?<

"It's not the distinction between Code and the examples, I mean there are a series of examples given in paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct and then additionally others are expanded upon, but I would just make a couple of points really in relation to that. The first is that I think we should be going further than the IHRA definition frankly, and the language of the Code is at times much stronger we"

>(talking over) but you can go stronger can't you as well as including the examples?<

"can I just finish the point though, being stronger first though and having things in here that are actually said to be wrong, rather than saying things may serve as illustration, I think is helpful. Secondly we need to expand on a lot of the examples to ensure that we have a legally enforceable Code so we can enforce discipline as everybody wants to, but that all said, I totally understand as well, there have been concerns expressed by my Parliamentary colleagues, and concerns expressed by Jewish community leaders. We obviously take those very seriously indeed and so we should, and that's why the NEC was also right while adopting this Code to say we will now have a further consultation, and take those into account because what we really need to do is to have something that we can all be comfortable with going forward right across the Parliamentary .."

>So does that mean you are leaving open the possibility of including the examples after this consultation?<

"I just don't accept the premise of the question, because what the Code does as it stands is to expand upon the examples, it covers the ground of the examples and that's what we have to do, we have to be taking the definition, obviously the IHRA definition, which is adopted in full, we then have to have a workable way to take the examples forward to ensure not only by the way they can be applied in our own disciplinary processes, but people who are subject to disciplinary action always have the right to go to a court as well so we need to have a position where we can have a further disciplinary procedure we can all rely and can stand up later in court."

>But from Dame Margaret Hodge's perspective and many Jewish groups and other organisations, they believe you should adopt absolutely everything that was set out by the IHRA.<

"Yes of course and I hear that very clearly but what I am saying to you as well it's important to be precise about this debate. Important first of all to say we've adopted the actual definition in full, important to say as well we've adopted word for word a lot of the examples but we've put strengthening language in to ensure things are actually wrong not simply saying as the IHRA examples interdiction things may serve as examples or manifestations might include, we've gone stronger on this, so but and this is the absolutely crucial point, if there are still I urge everybody to come forward now with those concerns and to make sure they are taken into account going forward."

>Now there has been reported in the Jewish Chronicle a suspicion about why Labour has taken this approach and they say it's because some key allies of Mr Corbyn have made comments in the past which could amount to anti-semitism according to the IHRA definition.<

Well I don't know anything about that or see that as any particular motive in this situation what I see is the NEC sub-committee has put a lot of work into this and has tried to come up with something that provides the detail, the contextualisation, something comprehensive that we need to go forward to start looking at individual cases. Jenny Formby our new General Secretary has made tackling anti-semitism our top priority and she brought in Gordon Nardell QC as well who is advising on this. What I would say simply to everybody is to put

forward their views, the NEC is absolutely right to acknowledge that concerns still do exist and to now in the summer put their views forward. We have to reach a stage where we have something we can all agree on going forward that my MP colleagues have confidence in and the Jewish community has confidence in.

[20.41.11 – 2.27.18]

23.07.18

BBC 2Newsroom Live 11.00

[09.49]

>Labour MPs will tonight debate whether the Party's new Code of Conduct goes far enough to tackle anti-Semitism. The new guidelines which were adopted last week have been criticised by some Jewish organisations and Labour members. The Party says it has reopened a consultation on the Code which is robust and internationally recognised. [Background image of March demonstration with chant of Oh Jeremy's a racist] Norman Smith...joins us now

>Norman why is this a row that won't go away?<

Because so far it's been impossible for Jeremy Corbyn to draw a line under a controversy that's been raging for months and months now. And at its heart is the issue of how free people should be to criticise Israel and Israeli policies amid fears of some of the Jewish community that too often that slips into anti-semitism. But tonight we are facing a potentially bruising meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party where they are arguing to be allowed to adopt in full the international code on anti-semitism and all the examples it contains rather than one put together by Labour's own National Executive Committee. At the same time, of course, we know the veteran Labour MP Margaret Hodge is facing potential disciplinary action after she publicly accused Mr Corbyn of being an anti—Semite and a racist. This morning, she was standing by those remarks<

Clip from Dame Margaret Hodge's interview on R4 Today

"it's by his actions he has to be judged. And by refusing to adopt the definition in full of what anti-semitism is, he's put himself in a position that he's perceived by many to be anti-Semitic."

[10.02-10.22]

>We are joined now by Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi who is a member of the Jewish Voice for Labour. Why not resolve this whole controversy over the Code and do what so many other organisations have done and adopt the international version of the code?<

"OK, let's be very clear about what that Code is. There is no such thing as an agreed international code, there's a document that has been pushed for many years now, by pro-Israel organisations. And the problem with it is that it includes within its provisions elements that are designed to prevent certain kinds of criticisms of Israel and of Zionism. It is designed to do that and the danger this presents has been identified by many Jewish commentators. We in Jewish Voice for Labour and many of our friends really resent the fact that it's presented as if there is one internationally recognised definition and all Jews want it. We don't. The harshest critics have been leading Jewish intellectuals such as Anthony Lerman, former Head of the Institute of Jewish Policy Research, Brian Klug, a leading expert on anti-semitism and even Kenneth Stern, an American academic, who drafted the original document which has morphed into this IHRA thing because it represses freedom of speech and why do people adopt it with such alacrity, well let's face it, if you go to a local authority or a government body and you say I've got this thing which is going to get rid of anti-Semitism, people will go Oh my God we all hate anti-semitism, tick. I have been at council meetings, I have been in council chambers where the document is presented, no discussion, no debate, everybody just puts their hands up."

>Is the bottom..<

"It's a fake, Norman, it's a fake and we are being snowed with this thing. What Labour has done, is really coherently take on board everything that's good about it, I mean everything. You can look at it line by line. What they've done where it's dubious, where it endangers freedom of speech, they have expanded it, they have discussed it. Is it anti-Semitic to say Israel is a racist state? Maybe it is sometimes, often it is not and we have to be free to say that when it is not anti-Semitic."

>Most Jewish organisations, pretty much every strand of religious opinion, in the Jewish community has been critical of Labour for not adopting wholesale<

"They've been told Labour is an anti-Semitic organisation"

>But is the point not this, if someone see something as racist, they feel it as racist, you should give regard to them, rather than assuming you know better?<

"OK, of course you should give regard to them and that's what Lord MacPherson said in his enquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. You should have regard to the perception of the victim. He did not say, this is absolutely critical, he did not say that the alleged victim has the absolute right to decide and pass judgement on the person they allege is guilty of race hate. That's a completely different thing and these people from the Jewish community I'm afraid are doing all of us a terrible disservice by saying only Jews may say they are victims of anti-Semitism. If somebody says to me I don't like what Israel's doing, I don't like the Jewish nation"

state bill that's just come out that is deeply racist, if I say that person's an anti-semiter I don't expect the law to believe me. I expect the law to look into it and that's what the Labour Party's trying to juggle."

>Politically, you know this row has been going on for months and months in different guises. Can Jeremy Corbyn actually draw a line under it?<

"This is very difficult and I know it's controversial to say this, the reason for the row is not genuine concern for real anti-semitism, there's lots of that around in Poland, on the streets of Westminster, it's becoming terrifying. We really are facing the rise of the Right, the white supremacist right. But what Jeremy Corbyn can do to satisfy his critics to be absolutely honest Norman? It would be to resign and then it would all stop

>Is this all a proxy for attacking Mr Corbyn's leadership?<

"The way it's been manipulated, I mean look at where we are now, Tory government's in meltdown, Brexit's chaos, what's the Parliamentary Labour Party doing, instead of sitting down in a collegiate fashion, discussing strategy for how to deal with the situation in Parliament, they are attacking Labour as the greatest threat to Jews in this country. The trouble is nobody out there believes them. Your viewers are going to be thinking what is all this about? Are Jews really concerned to shut us up about Palestine and nothing else matters. It's dangerous for us.

>OK...<

[10.23-14.53]

23.07.18 | TV BBC1 News at One

07.38

>Labour are facing calls from some of their own MPs to strengthen the Party's rules on anti-semitism. Jewish groups say a new Code adopted by the Party's National Executive Committee is not tough enough. Here's Jonathan Blake

Shot of Shadow Cabinet

>They were here to talk about preparing for Government but Labour's Shadow Cabinet are having to face questions they'd rather not have to answer about the Party's stance about prejudice against Jews. One senior Labour MP is sticking by her criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, despite his repeated condemnation of anti-semitism.

Clip from Radio 4 interview with Hodge

"it's by his actions he has to be judged. And by refusing to adopt the definition in full of what anti-semitism is, he's put himself in a position that he's perceived by many to be anti-semitic"

>She confronted Jeremy Corbyn and called him an anti-Semite after Labour adopted a new Code of Conduct including the internationally recognised definition of anti-semitism but not word for word some of the examples given. For some it's an attempt to re-write the rules<

one clip from Corbyn from the weekend

"It wasn't trying to rewrite it, it accepted almost all of it, what it's done is put alongside it a Code of Conduct for members of the Party because we will not tolerate in any form whatsoever in the Party."

>He still has a lot of support. But there are a lot of Labour MPs furious at what they see as the Party's failure to tackle this issue head on<

Clip of Luciana Berger MP

"I don't see, what we've heard from him in the past week, the Chief Rabbi saying you know if the Party doesn't adopt it then it's showing an unprecedented level of contempt for the British Jewish community. The idea that it should be the Labour Party defining what anti-semitism is is frankly unfathomable."

>Tonight Labour MPs will meet again to urge their own Party's ruling body to change their own code of conduct. Jeremy Corbyn has said they should wait, with many members of Parliament having already left for the summer. But as one MP put it, they feel they have waited long enough for Labour to get its act together on antisemitism.<

23.07.18 | BBC1 News 6.00

[19.05] [19.53]

>Labour MPs are currently meeting to debate whether to adopt an internationally recognised definition of anti-semitism. The Party's ruling committee has been criticised for approving a definition which omits several examples of anti-semitic behaviour. Supporters of the Leader Jeremy Corbyn accuse his opponents of creating a row in order to discredit him. From Westminster Ian Watson reports<

>Jeremy Corbyn and his top team have been meeting to discuss preparations for government. But another row about anti-semitism won't make that task any easier. Tonight in defiance of his wishes, MPs are meeting to debate the issue. And a veteran Labour MP is facing disciplinary action for telling Jeremy Corbyn to his face that he was seen as anti—Semitic. (Shot of woman holding placard 'Me too Margaret Hodge')<

[19.54-20.10]

Clip of Margaret Hodge

"So I did confront him and I told him that you can only be judged by what you do do and not what you say. It's actions not words that are really important. He was perceived as being anti-Semitic and a racist."

[20.10-21.05]

>At the core of this dispute is a war of words in Labour's ranks. The Party's ruling executive, backed by Jeremy Corbyn, adopted a code of conduct which includes an internationally accepted definition of anti-Semitism. But it excludes some specific examples of anti-Semitism which other bodies use. Labour's code for instance does not say it is antisemitic to draw comparisons between contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis, instead it tells Party members to resist using Nazi metaphors, but adds it is not antisemitic to criticise the conduct or policies by reference to such examples unless there is evidence of anti-Semitic intent. Labour officials say that this is simply turning loosely worded examples into a robust legally enforceable code. So why won't Margaret Hodge accept those reassurances?

Clip of Margaret Hodge

"The Jews have reached out to Jeremy Corbyn and reached out to the Labour Party. Right through the process they've been rejected. "

>Tonight Labour MPs are discussing adopting the internationally agreed examples of anti-semitism word for word but the Leader is defending his Party's Code of Conduct<

[21.05-21.07]

Clip of Jeremy Corbyn

"What's been done is an honest attempt to make it clear that we will not tolerate anti-semitism in any form and we will allow legitimate debate on issues facing Israel and Palestine but it cannot ever be conducted in any kind of anti-Semitic form."

>This whole row isn't just about words, it's about trust. Jeremy Corbyn's critics believe he's been too slow to act on anti-Semitism. But some of his supporters believe the issue's been used to undermine him. United parties tend to do better in the polls. So Labour's journey to power may have become bumpier.<

[21.23-21.39]