

## Annex 4

### Proscription in Starmer's Labour Party

At its meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party (LP) proscribed four organisations, Socialist Appeal, Labour in Exile Network (LIEN), Labour Against the Witchhunt (LAW) and Resist.

Proscription will mean that members and supporters of these organisations are 'auto-excluded' from the Party. Although the details of what 'support' means for all the organisations has not been made public, according to Labour List, 'support' for LAW includes participation in events they have organised.

Many Jews will be caught up in this extraordinary definition of 'support' and will therefore be unfairly and unjustly labelled as antisemitic, without any prospect of appeal.

LAW was formed in the face of a wave of LP members being *wrongly* accused of antisemitism. LAW (like all the proscribed organisations) abhors antisemitism, drawing on the respected Jewish scholar, Brian Klug's definition. Amongst the half dozen sponsors of LAW are three prominent Jews, Alexei Sayle, Professor Moshe Machover and Noam Chomsky. Machover, an Israeli Jew and scholar, is one of many Jewish people who have been accused of antisemitism.

Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) has not (yet) been put forward for proscription. The MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Neil Coyle, tweeted that JVL should also 'be gone too' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Many complaints were made to Twitter, Facebook and to the Party. Coyle removed that tweet from his Twitter feed later on the next day, although it can still be found elsewhere on the internet.

The complaints identify Coyle's comment as antisemitic in his call for hundreds of Jews to be expelled from the Party. Those with an authoritative knowledge of Jewish political history, such as David Rosenberg, trace the origins of prejudice against Jewish revolutionaries and socialists to the early twentieth century. They point out how this prejudice, common amongst political conservatives, even infected the Labour movement in the 1930s and 1940s. Rob Ferguson comments "A vile undercurrent of animosity towards left-wing, internationalist Jews is now re-emerging on the Labour right. Coyle's call to expel Jewish members who criticise or oppose Israel is simply an explicit reflection of a deeper phenomenon." As JVL puts it <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/a-call-for-jvls-expulsion/>

We in JVL have little doubt that it is our Jewishness as well as our left-wing politics that is increasingly coming under fire. Our Jewishness does not fit