



ALWAYS with the
oppressed

NEVER with the
oppressor

jvl.org.uk

AFFILIATION PACK

This pack contains information about

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- 2. JVL's Constitution**
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and, as separate documents,

- 7. Affiliation agreement between JVL and the affiliating organisation**
- 8. A standing order form**

1. JVL Statement of Principles

Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) is a network for Jewish members of the Labour Party.

Our political priorities are universal human rights and dignity; justice for all; freedom of expression; and democracy in the Labour Party.

Our mission is to contribute to making the Labour Party an open, democratic and inclusive party, encouraging all ethnic groups and cultures to join and participate freely. As such we aim to strengthen the party in its opposition to all forms of racism including antisemitism, broadening the party's appeal to all sections of British society. We take inspiration from the long history of Jewish involvement in the socialist and trade-union movements and in antiracist and antifascist struggles, including the anti-apartheid and civil-rights movements.

We stand for rights and justice for Jewish people everywhere, and against wrongs and injustice to Palestinians and other oppressed people anywhere. We uphold the right of supporters of justice for Palestinians to engage in solidarity activities, such as Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. We oppose attempts to widen the definition of antisemitism beyond its meaning of hostility towards or discrimination against Jews as Jews.

At a time of profound divisions in Jewish communities, JVL offers a space to explore and debate the many questions (personal, social, cultural, political) that are important to us as progressive Labour Jews.

We will work where appropriate with existing groups involved with issues of common concern from an internationalist and anti-racist perspective.

28 July 2017

2. JVL Constitution

1. Purpose: Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) is an organisation dedicated to representing Jewish members of the British Labour Party.

2. Statement of Principles: This is the [Statement of Principles](#) adopted on 28 July 2017 or as subsequently amended under the procedure outlined in Para 9 below.

3. Membership: Membership is open to Jewish members of the Labour Party who accept the JVL Statement of Principles, agree to act within its spirit, and pay any membership fee that may be set by the Steering Group.

4. Supporters' Network: The Steering Group is authorised to set up a network of non-Jewish Labour party members who support the statement of principles and wish to be associated with the work of JVL. They will be designated Associate Members, but will not have voting rights.

5. Annual General Meetings: An annual general members' meeting shall be held within 12 months of the inaugural meeting of JVL. Subsequent Annual General Meetings shall be held at intervals of not less than ten, and not more than fifteen months. The Annual General Meeting shall receive a report of the activities of JVL over the previous year, and a statement of its financial situation, to be presented by the Treasurer. The Annual General Meeting shall elect a Steering Group, consisting of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and other such officers as it may decide are necessary, as well as up to 5 general members. Proxy voting is not allowed. The Steering Group is responsible for the conduct of JVL between general meetings. The Steering Group may co-opt other such members as they deem appropriate. The quorum for meetings of the Steering Group shall be 3. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall include a request for nominations to the Steering Group positions and shall be sent to members no less than 2 weeks in advance.

6. Ordinary General Meetings: Members' meetings shall be held at least once between AGMs. All members of JVL shall be entitled to attend a members' meeting, to speak, to propose motions for discussion, and to vote. Proxy voting is not allowed. All decisions shall be by simple majority vote. Details of the meeting, including the text of any motion to be proposed, must be circulated to all members at least 1 week in advance.

7. Special General Meetings: A special general members' meeting shall be held at the request of the Steering Group, or of one-quarter of the members of JVL. Motions for decision at an SGM may be proposed either by the Steering Group or by two or more members. Motions must be circulated to all members 2 weeks ahead of the date of the meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed. The meeting will consider only the business specified in the notice.

8. Quorums: The quorum for all general meetings shall be 20% of the membership, or 15, whichever is the smaller.

9. Changes to this Constitution: Changes to this Constitution may be made at Annual General or Special General Meetings. Such proposed amendments must have been circulated to all members 2 weeks ahead of the meeting. To pass they must secure a 2/3 majority of those voting.

10. Bank Accounts: The officers shall be empowered to open and operate bank accounts on behalf of JVL and to set membership fees in consultation with the members. Such accounts may be operated by any single nominated officer

11. Auditors: Auditors must be appointed by a resolution at a General Meeting of JVL. Steering Group members are not eligible for appointment as auditors.

12. Exclusion from Membership: Any member whose conduct is disruptive of the work of JVL or who expresses views that conflict fundamentally with JVL's statement of principles, or who behaves in such a way as to bring JVL into disrepute, may be suspended from membership and recommended for exclusion by the Steering Group, this decision being subject to confirmation by majority vote at a General Meeting to be called in timely fashion.

13. Dissolution: The organisation may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote at a properly convened Special General Meeting, at which dissolution is the only item on the agenda. If, after three attempts, it remains impossible to call a quorate meeting, those remaining active members may dissolve the organisation by a majority vote. In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be transferred to another group or body whose purposes and activities are broadly congruent with those of JVL. A decision on the recipient shall be made by simple majority vote of members present at the meeting which decides on dissolution.

Finalised on 5 August 2017

3. AFFILIATION TO JVL

Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) is a network for Jewish members of the Labour party which prioritises universal human rights and dignity; justice for all; freedom of expression; and democracy in the Labour Party. JVL aims to strengthen the party in its opposition to all forms of racism including antisemitism. We take inspiration from the long history of Jewish involvement in the socialist and trade-union movements and in antiracist and antifascist struggles, including the anti-apartheid and civil-rights movements.

Membership of JVL is open to Jewish members of the Labour Party. Non-Jewish members of the Party may join as non-voting Associate Members.

JVL welcomes the affiliation of Trade Unions at national, regional and local levels; and of other organisations such as Labour Party branches and constituency parties. Affiliation requires the payment of the appropriate Affiliation Fee, which is non-refundable.

Affiliated organisations will not have voting rights in JVL. This is to preserve and demonstrate JVL's Jewish character. Trade Unions which affiliate will be invited to join and participate in JVL's Trade Union Advisory Group.

4. CURRENT AFFILIATION FEES, as at October 2017

A. Trade Unions: National Organisations

As trade unions differ greatly in size and resources, annual national affiliation rates to be agreed by discussion.

B. Regional Trade Unions, Political and Community Organisations

£50 - £100 per annum

C. Large Trade Union Branches (400+ members), Constituency Labour Parties and Regional Community Organisations

£25 per annum

D. Trade Union Branches, Labour Party Branches and Local Community Organisations

£5.00 per annum.

5. ORIGINS OF JVL

Jewish members of the following groups were all involved in the discussions that led to the formation of JVL, at an inaugural meeting in London on 19th July 2017. All of these groups have since welcomed our formation and we will work with them where possible and appropriate:

JJP (Jews for Justice for Palestinians)
Jewish Socialists' Group
Independent Jewish Voices
BRICUP (British Universities for Palestine)
FSOI (Free Speech On Israel)
Jews For Jeremy
Palestine Solidarity Campaign

6. JVL Officers

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Co-Chair

Leah Levane
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