

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Church of England Inter Faith Advisers warn of rising antisemitism following Green Party vote

Advisers call on political leaders, churches and citizens to resist an increasingly antisemitic culture and to uphold both Jewish safety.

7 October 2026 — Church of England Diocesan Inter Faith Advisers have issued a statement expressing grave concern about the recent Green Party vote on Zionism and the rhetoric surrounding it. They warn that the vote has deepened the sense of vulnerability felt by many Jewish communities in England and risks damaging relationships of trust built over many years.

The advisers place the vote within a wider pattern: the minimisation of the Hamas-led attacks of 7 October 2023; rhetoric experienced by many Jewish people as erasing their history and identity; controversy surrounding the Kairos II debate at the Church of England's General Synod; demonstrations that have left Jewish Londoners feeling unsafe; and attacks and alleged plots directed at Jewish communities in Manchester and London.

“The Green Party vote is part of a wider and deeply concerning drift towards an increasingly antisemitic culture in our country. The Church of England and other churches and religious communities must become a bulwark against that drift, repenting where we have played our part and ensuring that debate on Israel and Palestine is conducted with theological integrity, historical awareness and pastoral responsibility.”

The statement supports the condemnations issued by the Movement for Progressive Judaism and jointly by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council. It argues that treating Zionism as inherently racist dismisses the varied ways in which Zionism is understood within Jewish communities and disregards the place of Zion and Israel in Jewish history, prayer, ritual and communal life.

“Legitimate advocacy for Palestinian dignity, legitimacy and self-determination, which we affirm, must be held alongside an equally robust commitment to Jewish safety, Jewish self-identity and Jewish flourishing in all its diversity.”

Calls for action

- Stand in solidarity with Jewish communities in England and reject language that erases Jewish peoplehood or denies Jewish trauma.
- Ask Christians in the Green Party to stand with Jewish Greens and work to change the party's policy, or reconsider their membership.
- Encourage the Church of England to deepen study of Jewish–Christian relations through the Faith and Order Commission's *God's Unfailing Word*, particularly its treatment of Zionism and Jewish relationships to the land of Israel.
- Urge political parties and churches to support approaches to Israel and Palestine that hold Israeli security together with Palestinian freedom, dignity and self-determination, and to give practical support to civil-society dialogue and peacebuilding.

The advisers conclude by calling on political leaders, Church institutions and citizens across England to resist the drift towards increasing antisemitism and to exercise moral responsibility in public debate.

Endorsements

The statement has been endorsed by the Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, and the Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham and Rt Revd Esther Tamisa Prior Bishop of Aston. It is also endorsed by Diocesan Inter Faith Advisers serving in London, Manchester, Birmingham, St Albans, Bristol, Lichfield, Hereford, Oxford, Southwark, Winchester and Ely.

Notes to editors

Signatories: Canon Mark Poulson (London); Canon Steve Williams (Manchester); Canon Dr Andrew Smith (Birmingham); the Revd Alec Corio (St Albans); Canon Guy Wilkinson CBE (Bristol); the Revd Ray Gaston (Lichfield); the Revd Dr David Gifford (Hereford); Dr Jane Clements MBE (Oxford); the Ven Jonathan Sedgwick (Southwark); the Revd Katie Hodgkinson (Winchester); and the Revd Devin McLachlan (Ely).

Notes for editors

1. The full statement, [*Rising antisemitism, Zionism and the Green Party*](#), is issued by Church of England Diocesan Inter Faith Advisers.
2. The statement affirms Palestinian dignity, legitimacy and self-determination alongside Jewish safety, self-identity and flourishing.
3. It commends sustained Israeli–Palestinian civil-society dialogue, grassroots peacebuilding and proposals for an International Fund for Israeli–Palestinian Peace.

Issued by: Church of England Diocesan Inter Faith Advisers who have signed the statement.

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