



ALWAYS with the
oppressed

NEVER with the
oppressor

jvl.org.uk



JVL 2021 Annual Report

That was a year that was!!!

2021 has possibly been one of the most demanding so far for JVL and there seems to be no let up. This report starts with an overview of the political situation in which we have found ourselves and our responses, which are reported on more fully further on.

Since last year's AGM, the Report of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission into Labour Party's handling of antisemitism has been produced, leading to the removal of the whip from Jeremy Corbyn and, in late September, to a range of rule changes. These make the potential for debate on these issues even more difficult than before as well as concentrating more power in the hands of a General Secretary.

We have continued to fight back, to offer a lead, to speak up and to speak to different groups. While the pandemic has largely prevented meeting in real life, it has opened up opportunities for large virtual gatherings with activists in the UK and throughout the world.

Some organisations with which we work closely have been proscribed and there have been calls for JVL to also be banned, but even the Jewish Chronicle quoted advice that this might be considered discriminatory. Nonetheless, the Party is picking off JVL members and supporters, in particular Officers and Committee members, one by one and we need to consider how best to move forward in this worsening political climate.

At the last AGM, we created the new post of Antiracism Officer and Alison Harris was elected to the role. She is stepping down this year and we thank her for her

excellent work in creating a Steering Group and a growing network of allies from scratch.

As Co-Chairs, we want to thank all Officers, Committee members and members of our working groups who have worked extremely hard to respond to the many demands on our skills, knowledge and resource.

We have been fortunate to have and are grateful for the invaluable support of a part time Admin Officer; Chloe Schlosberg left us to head up Jeremy Corbyn's Peace and Justice Project and since February, Elek Urban has been supporting our work.

We would also like to thank all our members (Full and Solidarity) and the many supporters who send us encouraging messages, comment positively on our website and social media pages, share our posts widely and also respond so generously to our appeals for funds to help us continue and develop our work.

Political Overview and JVL responses

The last year has presented JVL with a number of political challenges:

□ Within the Labour Party the growing clampdown on free speech, the closure of CLPs, impositions of candidates, the removal of the parliamentary whip from our former leader, suspensions, notices of possible auto-exclusions and expulsions.

□ The 'antisemitism' witch-hunt did not end with the removal of Jeremy Corbyn as leader. It has become a war by the new leadership against the membership of the party - with left wing Jewish members disproportionately the victims - and JVL members in the front line.



□ The deafening silence of the Labour Party leadership in the face of a Tory government out of control and attempting to resolve the post-Covid crisis on the backs of the poorest and most vulnerable in society. There is growing resistance to the Tories in trade union struggles and in the campaigns of Black

Lives Matter and climate protesters. The tragedy has been that the party has failed to give leadership to these movements, failed to try to engage with them, connect them and to provide a political alternative to the policies of the government.

□ The developing attacks by the Israeli government on the Palestinian people, including attempted ethnic cleansing in Jerusalem and attacks on the population of Gaza. Palestine has become the key international issue of our generation - just as Vietnam, the American civil rights struggle and the fight against apartheid in South Africa were for previous generations. The demonstrations throughout the world - and throughout the UK - were a

BREAKING:

**HISTORIC MOTION ON PALESTINE PASSES
AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2021
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ISRAEL IS
PRACTICING APARTHEID AND CALLING
FOR STRONG SANCTIONS**



magnificent expression of solidarity with and support for the continuing resistance of the Palestinian people. And the 2021 Labour conference resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state was an historic moment, even though it was immediately disavowed by Labour's leaders.

□ The publication of the flawed EHRC report, the failure to produce the report of the Forde Inquiry into the leaked report, and the growing clampdown on free speech in universities and beyond, culminating in the recent dismissal of Professor David Miller.

□ And all this in the context of a Covid crisis that claimed the lives of nearly 140,000 people and a climate crisis growing more and more out of control.

JVL has had a great deal to address and the officers have needed to meet on a more frequent basis than ever before and were often working many hours every day to meet these challenges.

What have we achieved in this period?

1. We have taken a principled and consistent stand in support of free speech and against the witch-hunt and gained a great deal of respect.
2. We have attempted to help build a resistance within the party, although striving for left unity has not been as successful as we hoped; nonetheless JVL has emerged by default as the left group with integrity, calling out the Party leadership's destruction of free speech and party democracy in its rampant shift to the right.

3. We have produced a convincing response to the EHRC report.
4. We have produced submissions to the EHRC and the Forde Inquiry demonstrating that left wing Jews have been disproportionately targeted by the Labour Party.
5. We have pursued a complaint to the Charity Commission about the charitable status of the Campaign Against Antisemitism that was the main instigator of complaints to the Labour Party and in referring the Party to the EHRC.
6. We have challenged the Labour Party's actions in disciplining its members in court; and although the main (LA4J) action was not successful, we exposed the injustice and won members the right to speak more openly about their own cases; and we continue in other legal actions to defend the principles of free speech. (See below)
7. We have begun to forge alliances with Black and Asian comrades and with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to develop an anti-racist network.
8. We have continued to provide education sessions on antisemitism in the wider context of antiracism
9. We have challenged the narrative that British Jews speak with one voice in support of Israel as well as the view that the Labour Party is and was "antisemitic".
10. We have upheld many of the best traditions of Jewish socialism, internationalism and universalism.



And yet ... for all the effort, there is so much more to do. And we must face some difficult truths.

We are not engaging sufficiently with young people. Like much, though not all, of the organised left, we remain a group of predominantly older comrades. Though our work has often been invaluable, we have found it difficult to break through to new audiences.

How do we do this while at the same time maintaining our intransigent message of resistance? That is the conundrum for the whole of the left - and it is a challenge which we need to confront urgently.

Working with others and being visible

In the UK:

A great deal of energy has gone into attempting to create a unified left in the Labour Party initially through "Don't Leave, Organise" which JVL was instrumental in setting up, and more recently through a wider range of organisations to seek unity amongst the left in Labour.

In addition to playing an active role in attempts to generate effective new organisations that can build an effective opposition to the anti-democratic and right-wing direction of the Party leadership and machine, JVL has been constructively engaged with two longer established coordinative bodies, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the Centre Left Grassroots Alliance. These are mainly involved, respectively, in devising and promoting motions for Labour Conference that will enhance internal democracy; and in attempting to generate slates of candidates for internal party elections. A key focus for our representatives is working to make CLGA more open and democratic.

JVL is also part of a Consortium of other UK organisations (notably Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Jews for Justice for Palestinians and British Committee for Universities in Palestine.) that has been heavily involved in attempts to deter and roll-back the spread of the IHRA definition in UK universities, and to give support to academics who are subjected to disciplinary processes. Working with local activists we have achieved some successes.

Most of JVL's Officers and other activists in our organisation have represented JVL at demonstrations, including speaking from platforms on Palestine and against racism as well as on Jewish history of resistance. We have spoken at many meetings across the Labour Movement and to groups and organisations committed to justice for Palestinians about the range of Jewish voices. JVL has been present as often as possible at demonstrations and other actions in support of Refugees and Asylum seekers and against racist attacks. Our banner and our speakers are always warmly welcomed.





Naomi Wimborne Idrissi and Glyn Secker at a demonstration for Palestine

International Groupings:

JVL has been participating in two international groups that have come into being and developed over the past year

i) No-to IHRA Working Group

This group exists to coordinate activity aimed at limiting the spread of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and rolling it back where possible. It convenes representatives of groups (as well as some individuals) in the USA, Canada and Palestine, who are the most active as well as groups with a remit across Europe and including participation from Israel, Ireland, some Latin American countries, and several UK organisations. It has coordinated action targeting Facebook, and generated responses to the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism

ii) Global Jews for Palestinian Rights

This originated from an initiative of Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) Canada to call an international meeting, that was prevented by the outbreak of the pandemic. Meeting over zoom has, however, enabled regular meetings, uniting Jewish groups around the world for the exchange of information and, on occasions for joint statements, most recently on the treatment of Palestinian prisoners. Groups that take part come from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and several countries in Europe and in Latin America. Typically two people per organisation take part. It is principally for information sharing, with at each meeting a review of the state of organising in support of Palestine in a

particular country. At the beginning of October, the focus was on the UK and we have been requested to produce something in writing on the pitfalls of having a pro-Palestinian political leader and how to avoid the backlash that was faced by Corbyn and the left in the Labour Party.

Legal and related issues



JVL has sometimes pursued, sometimes explored the potential for and sometimes been forced into legal action and have also sought an investigation by the Charity Commission in relation to the charitable status of the Campaign Against Antisemitism and have issued our own complaints to EHRC about the treatment by the Labour Party of left-wing Jews who support justice for Palestinians. In

particular:

The libel claim by John Ware in relation to the July 2019 Panorama programme "Is Labour Antisemitic" against Naomi Wimborne Idrissi, Richard Kuper and JVL (as author, web editor and publisher) has reached the stage of our side putting in our defence. After what is known as a 'Ruling on Meaning' this has to be largely what is known as a Truth Defence which sets a high bar. We will keep donors and supporters in touch via the Crowd justice (CJ) site¹.

Labour Activists for Justice (LA4J) After a long struggle, the decision of the High Court judge in July 2021 was a disappointment. There was a limited upside to the judgement, including several 'old' cases suddenly settled and a ruling on confidentiality that gives scope for more openness about our cases. Long-term the significant gain is the publication of the NEC Code of Conduct on Antisemitism. This includes some very useful reasoning about what is/is not antisemitism and is relevant to two of the LA4J participants who have ongoing cases.

The 'Freedom case': two of our members who were suspended for chairing meetings where discussion of David Evans's forbidden topics happened took legal advice.

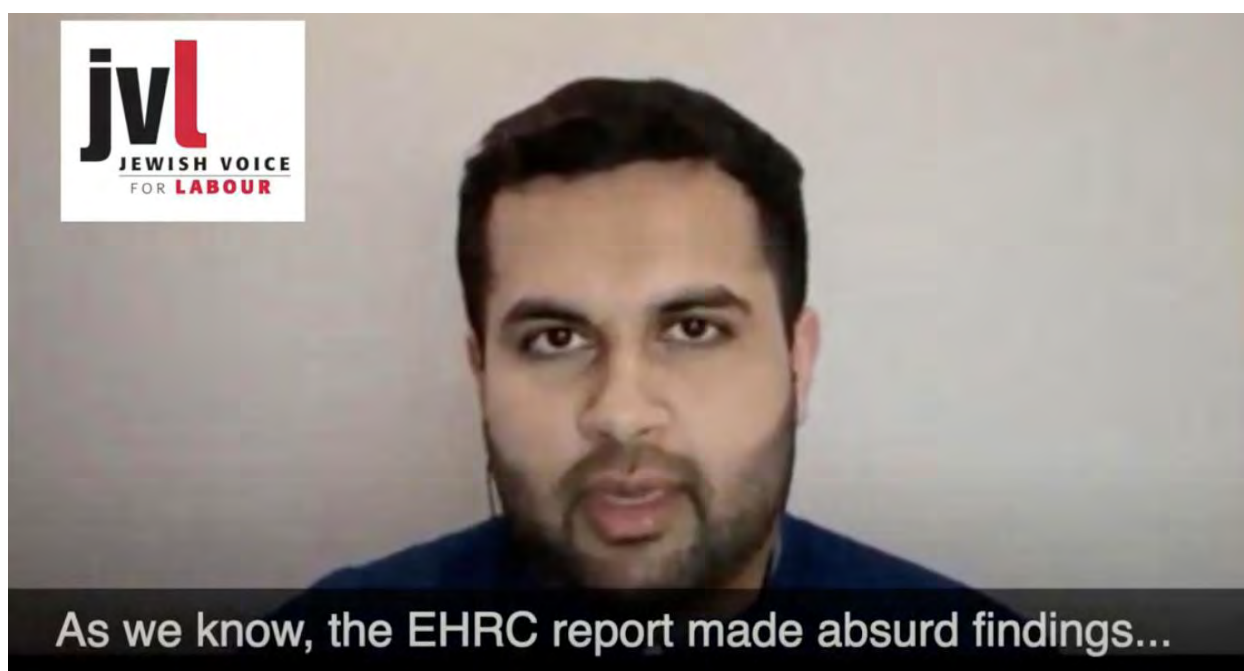
¹ [Libel Case Against Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi and Jewish Voice for Labour \(crowdjustice.com\)](https://crowdjustice.com/cases/libel-case-against-naomi-wimborne-idrissi-and-jewish-voice-for-labour)

Proscription of Organisations: JVL has received advice on the retrospective application of bans and proscriptions and are happy to pass this on to those affected.

Taking on Public Bodies

Critique of the EHRC Report into the handling of antisemitism complaints by the Labour Party:

The Verso publication in May 2021 and the Webinar run in conjunction with the Haldane Society were the achievement of many people. Our special thanks go to Jamie Stern Weiner who pulled together the strands of our work on the Report to turn it into a cohesive and compelling whole. Both the book² and the webinar³ that marked its publication are available online.



Ammar Kazmi speaking at JVL's webinar

JVL's own Complaints to the EHRC

Renowned human rights law firm, Bindmans is now acting to follow up our two complaints to the EHRC. This follows the EHRC informing us in effect that everything will be fine because there is now an Action Plan in place. JVL critiques the Action Plan and are challenging the makeup of the Advisory Board, which has a limited range of Jewish organisations represented in addition to being chaired by the Party's General Secretary, the very person who would, surely, be on the receiving end of the advice. ⁴ One of our strongest arguments

² *How The EHRC Got It So Wrong*, available as a free download via [Verso \(versobooks.com\)](https://verso.versobooks.com)

³ [How the EHRC got it so wrong – video of the webinar launch | Jewish Voice for Labour](#)

⁴ [We tell EHRC: LP targeting left wing Jews, needs new investigation | Jewish Voice for Labour](#)

about discrimination is that there was no transparency or wide consultation on representation on that board.

Most arresting is the dramatically disproportionate targeting of Jewish Labour Party members being accused of antisemitism. Our appreciation to Alan Maddison for his help with the statistics. This has (finally) attracted some interest from the mainstream media as well as Middle East Eye, Skwawkbox and the Morning Star. John McDonnell and Ken Loach have both referred to our research in interviews that they have done.

Media Issues

The last turbulent year has witnessed a shift in JVL's media role. When Jeremy Corbyn was party leader, it was convenient for hostile media to call upon us when they wanted to give an impression of "balance" while uncritically propagating the establishment narrative about antisemitism on the left. We were available to put up a reasoned, anti-racist, socialist defence of the Corbyn project and were on occasions called upon to do so by BBC, LBC and other outlets. Our co-chair Jenny Manson – plausible, calm and coherent – often bore the brunt of the resulting vilification.



There were some rare occasions, mainly on regional or less high-profile radio or TV programmes, when one of our spokespeople was not grilled in a hostile manner by the programme host. These opportunities remain valuable, and we should make more of them.

Access to print media was never easy, to the point where the Guardian even ceased to publish letters initiated

by us. Since Labour's defeat at the December 2019 general election and Keir Starmer became Leader, mainstream media interest in Jewish Voice for Labour has reduced further. There were often hostile references about us in journals such as Jewish News and we came to rely almost entirely on left-wing outlets,

such as Skwawkbox, the Morning Star, Canary, Double Down News and also Middle East Eye, for a fair hearing.

The intensification of the internal purge of left wingers and the dramatic restrictions on democracy in the Labour Party has attracted little, if any interest from mainstream media. Weaponisation of antisemitism charges to gag pro-Palestinian academics is ignored, while defamatory allegations against principled individuals such as Ken Loach and Jeremy Corbyn are routinely given airtime and online and print space.

Our own website has built up a formidable reputation on the left for the quality of its output and the political acuity of its commentary. We also have a significant following on Facebook and Twitter.

JVL has also moved towards more graphic modes of presentation with the production of 2-minute videos taken from the EHRC webinar⁵



A placard and poster illustrating the committee members who have been subjected to disciplinary action from the Labour Party was produced for first use at the 2021 Party conference; It was much appreciated by grassroots Labour members there and we approached journalists in the mainstream and alternative media.

JVL has vitally important stories to tell and we tell them well. We will continue to use social media and work with and encourage

sympathetic alternative platforms to bring more of our knowledge, understanding and activism to a wider audience. We will also continue to try to break through to the mainstream media and are pleased that there is a glimmer of interest in our story about the disproportionate targeting of Jewish Party members (and JVL members in particular) on allegations of antisemitism. We welcome active engagement from our members and supporters in doing this work.

⁵ https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/ehrcwrong_clips/.

The Website

The daily and weekly mailings stand as a record of the work done on the website. About half of all posts in recent months have been on the Labour Party, most on the ongoing purge of socialists and the disproportionate way in which Jewish members are being targeted, but with a fair number on the general direction of the Labour Party and its many failures particularly on the issue of racism. Many more posts have been about antisemitism more generally, particularly related to the IHRA, the EHRC, antisemitism education and more; the issue of Israel-Palestine (which we generally leave to websites like Jews for Justice for Palestinians, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Middle East Eye, +972, Electronic Intifada etc to cover in detail) has seen a surprisingly large number of posts, particularly related to issues about apartheid, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), the nature and practice of Zionism and more. We have also carried a few articles relating to the Holocaust and resistance to fascism etc. The issue of free speech is starting to loom larger as well.

Most articles are reproduced from elsewhere, but we also carry our own official statements and other contributions from individuals.

We would welcome more such articles, even though they can be demanding in terms of editorial input, whereas other articles are generally reproduced as they are.

Cataloguing: We are planning to try to “catalogue” the now over two thousand items on the website, identifying some of the more relevant articles on particular themes and providing an overarching guide to them, something like the [Key debates section](#) on the Jews for Justice for Palestinians website.



Cable Street commemoration: JVL Committee & Education Group member Tony Booth was among the speakers

Can you help with the website?

We always need and welcome people who might help prepare posts for uploading once the editor has selected them.

What technical skills are required, can be learnt relatively easily and a willingness to get to grips, in a very minor way with html (hypertext mark-up language) would be useful to sort things out when they go wrong!

And if anyone has editorial ambitions, please do get in touch at web@jvl.org.uk

Javelin Media

In early 2020 a group of JVL members and supporters worked to create a new media platform that is at arm's length from JVL but supportive of it. The media platform may be found with the following link: <https://javelinmedia.org/>. Approximately 60 short videos are uploaded to the platform following categorised under nine topic headings. The site hosts the films made previously by various members of the group, the two Witch-hunt films, the "Just Jews" videos and a new video 'Antisemitism Weaponised against Universities'.

Members of the team helped the claimants in the LA4Justice case to produce individual videos supporting their crowdfunding. We would like to especially thank the non JVL team members for all their hard work, enthusiasm and know-how and we recognise them as equal partners in the project. The team would welcome input from other members and supporters too, especially if you know how to film and edit.

The platform extends into antiracism, migration and environmental issues. The Javelin team are currently considering the future for the platform, debating its future as a living resource.

Antiracist Work

As a result of creating the new Officer role at the 2020 AGM, JVL has been able to make significant progress in making real our commitment to antiracist work and building alliances. Within the first few months, the small, initial working group has laid the ground for some significant new areas of JVL's activism

Starting with an audit of members' experiences of antiracist activism, special expertise and current involvements, we have created a highly expert Antiracist Alliances Steering Group. This includes eminent antiracist activists and academics. This led to the creation of an **Antiracist Alliance Network (ARAN)**. The network includes JVL members and supporters from a range of

backgrounds. Communication is mainly via a WhatsApp Group which is buzzing with shared information and calls to action. The Steering Group acts as a conduit between the network and the Officers Group and Committee. We have forged new links and strengthened others with groups and organisations such as Labour Muslim Network, Migrants Organise, Friends of Al Aqsa, Labour Black Socialists, Bangladeshi Socialist Society and the Drive2Survive campaign led by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.⁶

At our bimonthly network meetings, we have invited and heard from several guest speakers such as Solma Ahmed, Sonali Bhattacharya and Jake Bowers (Drive2Survive). We have also shared experience and knowledge of holocaust and genocide memorial days, with a plan for a 2022 JVL Genocide Memorial event. There is now a programme of education exploring racism and a pilot event will take place shortly. Once this has taken place and evaluated, we will modify as needed and roll the programme out for our members and supporters.



Earlier this year, the Steering group prioritised fighting the government's Immigration and Borders Plan, (which is closely linked in people's minds to the Police, Courts and Sentencing Bill, and its impact on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people). We were visibly present (and had a JVL speaker) in support of the Drive2Survive demonstration in Manchester, protesting near Tory Party conference, on 2nd October, along with other relevant demonstrations there over the following days.

⁶ (<https://www.drive2survive.org.uk>)

We were pleased that the topic chosen for the 2021 JVL Fringe meeting at Labour Party Conference was *Labour in Crisis: Tackling Racism in the Party* with Andrea Gilbert from Labour Black Socialists as the guest speaker along with Mike Cushman and Richard Kuper of JVL.



Education Work

The Education Group was established in November 2018 with the aim of enabling Labour Party and other left groups to explore and be informed about antisemitism within the context of the debates and allegations in the Party.

Since we last reported just over a year ago, members of the group have presented and facilitated 20 workshops. This is quite an achievement in a year of the most hostile political environment for left-wing Jews many of us have experienced. Three workshops were for union branches, eight for CLPs or branches, seven for a range of left or left alliance groups and two were 'open' workshops. Open workshops were a departure for us, the idea being that individuals from a variety of backgrounds could attend. This required us to develop security measures to make sure we were not inviting people hostile to JVL, but at the same time we wanted to be open to people who want to attend as individuals – either because their CLP or other group would not book us or because there aren't enough interested people in their group or organisation to form a workshop for just them. The two that have been run so far have been very successful.

As we reported last year, the LP regional offices have continued to try to prevent us from running the workshops for LP members, sometimes successfully. This year we have had to work around three actual cancellations and we have been told by numerous members that they are unable to even book us because of the conflict in their CLPs and branches over allegations of antisemitism.

Like most JVL activities, COVID has meant that all our workshops have been via Zoom. Most participants are non-Jewish and over the age of 40, although we have welcomed a good sprinkling of younger people, which has been

heartening. Pretty universally, they are asking us to help them to discuss issues of Palestine, Zionism and how to voice opinions and questions without being accused of antisemitism

Most have tales to tell about solid anti-racist colleagues who have been suspended, put on notice of investigation or silenced in more subtle ways.

In June, we watched with interest the two 'training' sessions on antisemitism run by the Jewish Labour Movement; the first for Party office holders and the second for ordinary members. The Group contributed to a robust report and several commentaries published on our website. They confirmed for us our strongly held conviction that education, in a confidential and mutually respectful environment, is what is needed to allow for participants' own reflections and for meaningful learning to take place. We were not impressed by the rapid-fire presentations provided by JLM as they could not provide the opportunity to explore deep-seated attitudes and beliefs.

In the coming year, we will be reaching out to the Labour movement more widely and to more mixed groups of left campaigners. We hope also to embark on a series of seminars for JVL members

Greater Manchester JVL



JVL GM in solidarity with Didsbury Mosque

Although there are many informal networks of members in different parts of the country, Manchester is currently the largest JVL branch. They have set a high and impressive benchmark for local activism as outlined here.

A delayed AGM was held virtually on February 8, 2021, with 20 members and supporters in attendance. It was noted that at that time JVL GM had 83 registered full and solidarity members and 5 supporters. At the meeting George Wilmers was re-elected as branch coordinator, Alison Harris as membership and communications officer, with Robert Lizar remaining as press officer. George Wilmers agreed to continue as acting treasurer.

Over the last year JVL GM has further strengthened their fruitful relationship with local activists from Labour Black Socialists which has recently developed into a more national collaboration.

During the year JVL GM participated in a number of campaigns and had speakers at several local demonstrations, including in particular the successful campaign against the attempted censorship of the [Forensic Architecture 'Cloud Studies'](https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/forensic-architecture-a-coda/) exhibition at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester. See <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/forensic-architecture-a-coda/> JVL GM also participated in the demonstration in solidarity with the Didsbury Mosque after an arson attack in September 2021 and in the Drive2Survive demonstration against the Police Bill which would criminalise the Roma and Traveller communities, and the People's Assembly march at the 2021 Tory party conference.



Drive2survive session at People's Assembly festival against the Tory Conference. Jake Bowers is speaking who also address JVL's Anti-Racist Alliance Network

Membership report 2021

2020/21 has been a period of marking time as far as JVL membership is concerned. Full membership declined by 10%. This fall was more than accounted for by Jewish members who felt that the Party was no longer an environment that they felt safe or welcome in. The clear evidence that Keir Starmer and David Evans have created a hostile environment for Jewish socialists has been largely ignored by the mainstream media. While some of those who have quit the Party were members who joined/re-joined because the election of Corbyn as leader meant they felt they had a political home in Labour, others had stayed in the Party throughout the Blair and Brown years but found Starmer's authoritarianism and Evans's anti-democratic manoeuvrings intolerable.

Despite the loss of many solidarity members who quit the Party new recruits matched the losses and overall numbers remained stable, down just two.

Because of resignations from the Party the number of registered supporters more than doubled.

Almost 50% of members are now paying their subscriptions by Standing Order. We hope that those who have not set up an SO will consider assisting us by doing so to ease the burden of managing annual subscription renewals.

Our members show great loyalty to JVL and appreciation of our work. We receive many messages saying it is only the value that they give to their JVL membership and their wish to maintain it that stops them leaving the Labour Party. This loyalty is reflected in our relatively low level of membership churn.



70% of those who have joined JVL since we were established in 2017 remain as members or registered supporters.

Our affiliations continue to increase and now 39 CLPs and 30 Labour Party branches are affiliated. This evidence of grassroots support for JVL has rattled the Starmer/Evans leadership and one of the rule changes agreed at the recent conference is directly targeted at JVL. Up till now CLPs have been able to decide for themselves who to

affiliate to. This was too redolent of democracy so now local parties cannot affiliate with any group without the prior permission of the NEC.

This means there is a greater urgency in securing TU branch affiliations where we have been less successful in the past, we too few branch affiliations, mostly Unite community branches – we urge all members to try to secure affiliation by their branch.

We also have affiliations from a range of other bodies such as Momentum branches and labour left group. Again, we urge members to try to secure affiliations from other Labour movement bodies they are members of.

Treasurer's Report 01/04/20 to 31/03/21

The main feature of the year was the overwhelming support from members and supporters for our legal campaigns. Our only source of income is from member and affiliation fees and donations, so without our member support we could not carry out the bulk of our work. We thank all our members and donors who have given so generously and continue to do so.

Another feature of the year has, of course, been operating via online Zoom meetings. Whilst we would naturally much prefer to meet in person, financially it has meant savings from venue hire and from travel expenses. It may also have benefitted those from the 'provinces' who have had greater ease of attending meetings.

Our ongoing expenditure has included admin fees; we are fortunate to have the invaluable support of our hardworking admin assistant. Expenditure has also included, regular IT expenses for website and communication, printing and publicity, support for video production via Javelin media and live streaming of events as well as donations for those who take on large pieces of work for us such as the EHRC reporting.

Legal fees continue to be prominent in our expenses. We have been able to pay the majority from our

CrowdJustice appeals. For their case Labour Activists 4 Justice managed to raise a fantastic sum to date of over £100 000. However, we have still had to supplement substantial amounts from our own account. Thankfully, as mentioned, the generous donations from members and supporters in the last financial year had

exceeded our costs – leaving our account looking comfortable at the end of the financial year in March 2021. It should be noted, however, that in the period since the end of that financial year we have incurred far greater costs, including a large payout of £74 000 to support the LA4J group, funded by specified donations made direct to JVL. This was needed when LA4J sadly lost their case against the Labour Party when fighting for Justice for all members Nevertheless, we did have some positive developments arising out of the case and the huge support from our members demonstrates that the fight is worthwhile.



Our legal expenses continue. We have updated our CrowdJustice appeal regarding the appointment and work of the LP Advisory Board and extended it for complaints to the EHRC, calling on them to initiate a new investigation into the purging of left-wing Jewish members in particular.

Link here: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/fair-process-lp-advisory-antisemitism/> And we continue to fight and defend ourselves in the libel case against us from the BBC reporter John Ware. We were thrilled to exceed the initial target within a couple of days of opening that crowdfunder. It currently (October 2021) stands at £28 000, with a stretch target of £75 000. The need for boosting JVL funds has never been greater! Link here: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/defend-libel-ware-against-nwi-jvl/>

In the financial year 2020-21 our balance ended well above the starting balance, but this situation is no longer the case as we continue to pay out for legal advice for the Ware case. We are unable to say at this moment what our end costs will be on this, so please continue to give generously, either via the Crowdjustice appeal or directly into our bank account (which avoids the crowdfunder fees). Referencing the donations as 'legal' helps to track them in the account.

JVL Officers and Committee Members 2020- 2021

Co-Chairs Jenny Manson & Leah

Levane

Stephen Marks

Secretary Glyn Secker

Diana Neslen

Treasurer Angie Mindel

Membership Mike Cushman

Media Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi

Information Jonathan Rosenhead

Advice & support Murray Glickman

Political Officer Graham Bash

Labour Party Liason. Marion Roberts

Antiracism Officer Alison Harris

Web Richard Kuper

Tony Booth

Adam Hurst

Dorothy Macedo

Social Media

JVL has a substantial and growing presence on Social Media. We have over 14,000 followers on Facebook, up by 19% over the last 12 months and we have over 22,000 followers on Twitter.

Our Facebook posts usually have a reach of over 1000 and can on occasion exceed 20,000. Many of our posts attract dozens or even hundreds of comments. These are both supportive comments and highly critical ones from a determined band of Zionist trolls. It is a tribute to our impact that so many Zionists spend their time and effort monitoring our posts and responding to them. We maintain a liberal moderating regime, we only delete comments that are abusive or antisemitic and only ban people who are regularly abusive or consistently post information, not just comments we disagree with.

Our page is so busy that it is difficult to monitor all posts. If any member spots a comment they believe is antisemitic or otherwise harassing, please report it to us so we can take appropriate action, fortunately these are not common but they do happen.

Our twitter posts attract many likes and shares, often in the hundreds and sometimes in the thousands. Our twitter trolls are less polite than our Facebook ones and are frequently abusive and post many straight lies about us. Unlike Facebook, we cannot moderate our Twitter page and reporting abuse to Twitter has proved very ineffective.

We have a strict policy of never feeding trolls, although the temptation is often great. Regrettably too many of our followers allow themselves to get into lengthy and repetitive exchanges with our trolls. It would be better if they did not. Trolls desire attention, they are hurt not by being corrected but by being ignored. Also, our friends could use their energies better on productive political work.

We publish videos of our events on YouTube which gain views typically in the low hundreds but sometimes in excess of 1000.

We do not have a presence on Instagram or Tik-Tok, if any member would like to assist us in producing items for these sites, please contact members@jvl.org.uk

Support Work

As the witch-hunt has intensified over the past year, members of the Committee have put massive time and energy into offering support to victims of what it pleases the Party laughably to call its disciplinary process. I pay tribute to the work my colleagues have done. I have tried to support them as well as providing advice and support, myself, to victims that have contacted JVL.

The Party's disciplinary investigations have always inflicted procedural sensory deprivation on those it accuses. Techniques have become harsher still in the Evans era, as the last vestiges of democratic accountability have been stripped away. The situation can only worsen now that the process has become 'independent' — independent, that is, of any control other than that of the GS.

My starting point in advising individuals is to offer emotional support. Many are traumatised by the very idea that the Party they are committed to should have turned on them. Many come to us plagued with self-doubt — perhaps there is some truth in what the Party insinuates against me? Many seem desperate, above all, to persuade me that they are not really 'antisemitic'! The initial aim is to do something to rebuild victims' self-belief.

Many are fazed by the hostile, intimidatory character of the 'Notice of Investigation'. They sense that they will end up condemning themselves if they take the Party's 'questions' and 'draft charges' [*sic*] at face value. These are rarely other than formulaic — taken from the same template. They are designed to draw victims into making comments that will entrap and incriminate them. The need is to help them construct robust responses that consciously address the illegitimate nature of the questions and charges. To this end, I have put together a 'support pack' on the basis of which victims can start their -fight back. They can then hope to avoid the traps and emerge with their dignity intact. Against the odds, we have achieved some success.

The most bizarre development to report on is the the way the Party — a gentile organisation —now accuses its Jewish members of antisemitism with gay abandon and does so, they would have the world believe, in the a name of combating racism. I have tried to encourage Jewish victims to step out of heir state of incredulity and defend themselves by vigorously asserting their Jewishness and showing how their conduct draws on values that are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and experience. Tins is not straightforward. As Jewish socialists we side with the oppressed whoever they are. We see the fault lines in society as being economic and social (and certainly not ethnic). We are accustomed to emphasising the common ground that binds us to our comrades. Suddenly now having to highlight our *difference* doesn't come easily.