



ALWAYS with the
oppressed

NEVER with the
oppressor

jvl.org.uk



AFFILIATION PACK

This pack contains information about

1. JVL's Statement of Principles
2. JVL's Constitution
3. Affiliation to JVL
4. Scale of fees for affiliation
5. A note on JVL's origins
6. List of JVL's officers

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 Jewish-led organisation for members of the labour, trade union, socialist and progressive movements.

We are internationalist and anti-racist. We stand for rights and justice for Jewish people everywhere, and against wrongs and injustice to Palestinians and oppressed peoples anywhere. Our political priorities are universal human rights and dignity, justice for all, and freedom of expression.

We call out and fight all forms of racism including antisemitism, and oppose any hierarchy of racism including notions of Jewish exceptionalism.

We take inspiration from the long history of Jewish involvement in the socialist and trade union movements and in the anti-apartheid and civil rights movements.

We support the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and oppose the oppression of the Palestinian people by the apartheid state of Israel. This is not done in our name.

We oppose attempts to widen the definition of antisemitism beyond its meaning of hostility towards or discrimination against Jews as Jews. We take action against the weaponisation of antisemitism and its use to prevent criticism of Israel and support for Palestinian rights.

"Always with the oppressed, never with the oppressor."

Adopted on 18th June 2023

Current activities

We support the right to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel as advocated by the BDS movement.

We provide a growing educational programme for our members and more widely, focusing particularly on issues of fighting racism, antisemitism and discrimination and other issues identified as our priorities.

We work with other progressive groups to forge a more coherent socialist movement.

We are involved in a variety of campaigns and activities – both inside and outside the Labour Party – that aim to:

- Fight racism and all forms of discrimination and promote internationalism
- Work with British Palestine support organisations and international Jewish Organisations in support of Palestinian rights
- Oppose the increasing authoritarianism of the state and its attacks on civil liberties and human rights
- Welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees
- Combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution of land, rivers and seas
- Fight against poverty and for the redistribution of wealth
- Defend free speech and democracy, particularly in the labour and trade union movements.

2. JVL Constitution

1. Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) is a Jewish-led organisation for members of the labour, trade union, socialist and progressive movements.
2. **Statement of Principles:** This is the revised [Statement of Principles](#) as adopted on 18th June 2023.
3. **Full Membership:** Full Membership is open to anyone who is Jewish and accepts the JVL Statement of Principles, and who agrees to act within its spirit and to pay any membership fee that may be set by the Executive Committee.
4. **Solidarity Membership:** Solidarity membership is open to anyone who is not Jewish and accepts the JVL Statement of Principles, and who agrees to act within its spirit and to pay any membership fee that may be set by the Executive Committee.
5. **Participation at meetings:** All members shall be entitled to attend and speak at AGMs, OGMs and SGMs. Only full members shall be entitled to propose motions for discussion and to vote.
6. **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.
7. **Election of Executive Committee and Officers:** The Annual General Meeting shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of Chair and Vice-Chair or two Co-Chairs; Treasurer; Secretary and such other officers as it may decide are necessary. Proxy voting is not allowed. The Executive Committee is responsible for the conduct of JVL between General Meetings. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be five. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall include a request for nominations to the Executive Committee positions and shall be sent to members no less than 2 weeks in advance. The Executive Committee may replace by cooption any Officers who resign between AGMs, and co-opt up to 2 members to fill new officer posts that are deemed necessary.
8. **JVL Council:** There shall be a JVL Council whose role shall be advisory and whose purposes shall be to provide a representative forum for the discussion of issues relevant to JVL; to reflect on strategy and on political conditions and offer inputs to the Executive Committee arising from such discussions; and to generate possible initiatives for consideration by JVL. The Council shall meet at least twice between Annual General Meetings. The mode of election and/or appointment to the Council shall be determined from time to time at General Meetings.
9. **Local Groups:** Local JVL groups may be formally recognised by the JVL Executive Committee. Such local groups will have rights and responsibilities as specified in their agreement document.

10. **Ordinary General Meetings:** JVL members meetings shall be held at least once between AGMs. 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 2 weeks in advance.
11. **Special General Meetings:** A special general members meeting shall be held at the request of the Executive Committee or of one-quarter of the full members of JVL. Motions for decision at an SGM may be proposed either by the Executive Committee 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.
12. **Quorums:** The quorum for all General Meetings shall be 20% of the full membership or 30 full members, whichever is the smaller.
13. **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.
14. **Bank Accounts:** The Executive Committee 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.
15. **Auditors:** Auditors must be appointed by a resolution at a General Meeting of JVL. Executive Committee members are not eligible for appointment as auditors.
16. **Inappropriate Conduct:** If the Executive Committee consider there are grounds for believing that a JVL member has engaged in conduct that is disruptive of the work of JVL; or has expressed opinions that conflict fundamentally with JVL's statement of principles; or has behaved in such a way as to bring JVL into disrepute they may suspend the individual from membership. Further action will be taken in accordance with a procedure to be established by the Executive Committee and regularly reviewed and updated.
17. **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.

As amended at the AGM on 3 December 2023

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

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.

Our membership year is 1 October to 30 September.

Renewal fees will be due each 1 October.

The fee for any body affiliating after 1 July will cover affiliation up to 30 September in the following year.

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:

FSOI: Free Speech on Israel

JJP: Jews for Justice for Palestinians

JSG: Jewish Socialists' Group

IJV: Independent Jewish Voices

BRICUP: British Committee for the Universities of Palestine

Jews for Jeremy

PSC: Palestine Solidarity Campaign

JVL' public launch was at the Labour Party Conference in September 2017 in Brighton.

6. JVL Officers (Executive Committee)

[Co-Chairs](#) Jenny Manson and Leah Levane

[Secretary](#) Glyn Secker

[Treasurer](#) Angie Mindel

[Membership](#) Mike Cushman

[Media](#) Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi

[Strategy Officer](#) Jonathan Rosenhead

[Advice and support](#) Murray Glickman

[Political Officer](#) Graham Bash

[Labour Party Liaison Officer](#) Marion Roberts

[Web Editor](#) Richard Kuper

[Environment](#) Tony Booth