Motion: Objection to the Labour Party's adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.

The branch/CLP notes that:

- Prior to July 2018, the Party Rulebook did not specify any particular definition of anti-Semitism [1].
- On 4 September 2018, the NEC adopted all 11 examples associated with the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism [2]. Of these, 7 claim criticism of Israel to be anti-Semitic, eg saying Israel is a racist endeavour
- At the September NEC meeting Jeremy Corbyn sought to add the rider to the IHRA, which the NEC rejected – "It should not be regarded as anti-Semitic to describe Israel, its policies or the circumstances around its foundation as racist because of their discriminatory impact, or to support another settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict." [3]
- Trade unionists, public sector workers and Labour Party members are now being disciplined for speaking out on Israel [4] and breaching the IHRA.
- Many activists and legal experts – and many Jews - have condemned the IHRA. Even the principal author, Kenneth Stern, acknowledged that it was being used in ways it was never intended, as a means of chilling free speech. [5]

This branch/CLP believes the IHRA definition to be, as 24 Palestinian trade unions pointed out in August 2018, a "politicised and fraudulent definition of anti-Semitism" [6]. We therefore call upon the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to rescind the Party's adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and replace it with the Oxford English Dictionary definition that states anti-Semitism is simply "hostility and prejudice direction against Jewish people" [7].

In addition, we call for a re-evaluation of disciplinary actions against any affected member accused of anti-Semitism under the IHRA definition.

References:

[1] http://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-RULE-BOOK.pdf (page 99)
[2] https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism
[3] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45414656
[4] https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/dudley/2018/10/30/dudley-council-officer-suspended-in-anti-semitism-row/
[5] https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU00/20171107/106610/HHRG-115-JU00-Wstate-SternK-20171107.pdf (page 7)
[6] https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/palestinian-civil-society-groups/labour-must-reject-biased-ihra-definition-that-stifles-advocacy-
[7] http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/8854

Proposed by: ; Seconded by: