

Community Briefing

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Nov/2009

Keeping you informed...

Cheshvan/5770



JFS Case Heard at the Supreme Court - The Board made its submission on behalf of all parts of the community to the Supreme Court at the end of October. The submission largely focused on the negative impact that the case has already had on Jewish life in the UK as well as providing the nine judges with information on Jewish practice and status across all religious denominations in the community. A decision is expected by the end of the year.

Board's BUYcott Counters Boycott - During the week of 7-14 November, the Board, together with the Fair Play Campaign Group (FPCG), is promoting a **BUYcott** of Israeli goods as part of an overall campaign to encourage members of the community to help counter a boycott of Israeli products by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC). The PSC is targeting supermarkets Waitrose and Morrisons which, like most major supermarkets, have refused to bow to pressure and intimidation from the boycotters, and continue to stock Israeli products. During this week, the Board and FPCG call on as many people as possible to do their bit by buying Israeli goods and notifying the supermarkets of their support - as well as joining us at Brent Cross Waitrose on Sunday, 8 November between 3-4pm.

Rejection of the Goldstone Report - Both before and after the UN General Assembly vote on the Goldstone Report, the Board and the JLC have been involved in intensive efforts to impress upon the UK government the community's profound concerns about the Report and the biased UN resolutions which have followed and which amount to a sustained political attack upon Israel. In a series of conversations with senior Foreign Office officials, it has been made clear that nothing less than a principled vote 'no' against the resolutions would be acceptable to the community.



Meeting with the Shadow Foreign Minister - Board President, Vivian Wine-man, met with the Shadow Foreign Minister, Mark Francois (left), to discuss concerns within the community regarding some of the Conservative Party's allies in Europe. Mr Francois gave assurances and the Board is now closely examining the information provided.

BBC Challenged over 'inappropriate' Pictures - As reported in the Jewish Press recently, Chief Executive Jon Benjamin wrote to the Head of News at the BBC to question the broadcaster's inappropriate use of pictures of ultra-Orthodox/ultra-Conservative Jews used to depict mainstream Judaism. In the most recent error this picture was used to illustrate a Jewish cultural event in Belfast.



Relations with Eastern European Countries - The Board held constructive, valuable meetings at the Romanian and Polish Embassies this week, where several crucial issues were discussed including Holocaust restitution and antisemitic incidents. The Board delegation also examined the threat of Iran, and the antisemitic Polish radio station Radio Maryja.

Mitzvah Day 15 November - This national, interfaith, and intergenerational event is running across the whole community with thousands taking part. The Board of Deputies is just one of many communal organisations supporting this significant community-wide event. On Sunday 15 November there will be organised collections of batteries for asylum seekers, which have been organised in conjunction with Jewish human rights group, RenéCassin, and of second hand clothes for World Jewish Relief. Mitzvah Day encourages the giving of time and not money to support existing charities as well as working to reduce poverty, help the environment and to bring a little joy where it is needed. For full details see website: www.mitzvahday.org.uk or phone 020 7443 5160.

National Interfaith Week - The Board has ensured that the Jewish community will be heavily involved in the imminent 'National Interfaith Week' which runs from 15-21 November. Apart from the numerous localised interfaith events, the Board will be represented at several national events which seek to build bridges between those of all faiths and none. If you have organised or taken part in an event as part of National Interfaith Week, don't forget to call the office and let us know how successful it was.



If you have any questions about this briefing or you'd like to know more about the work of The Board, contact us at the office...

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