

## SCHOOLS – CASE STUDY – LITTLEOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**Important note: As this section references activity inside a school, and school children are involved in the activity – all identifying elements have been removed or blurred. Only the name of the school remains. Even in situations where a parent has commented, the name has been blacked-out to protect the identity of the child.**

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At a Jackie Walker event in November 2016 in Norwich, a schoolteacher from Dereham Neatherd High School read out poems his 13-year-old students had written. The poems were about what it must be like to be a child in Gaza. The teacher is a prominent anti-Israel activist in the area.<sup>1</sup>

Teachers who are also politically active have many opportunities to introduce their ‘cause’ to young children. The Education Act of 1996 addresses this type of teacher-student influence but is almost impossible to police.<sup>2</sup> Further, it is designed with local political struggles in mind. A teacher who wants pupils to turn against Israel can have many opportunities to introduce the subject to the school. The Education Authority may have some say in the actual material used, but not in the decision-making process that introduced the subject to the child. Why Gaza? Why not somewhere else?

An example - At Birkbeck whilst I was studying Law, the lecturer chose a case related to anti-Israel protest to discuss an element of constitutional and administrative law. To study, students needed to read the case. The lecturer is an anti-Israel activist. There may have been more relevant or suitable cases to cover the topic, but the lecturer chooses the material. The subject is therefore introduced inside an ‘Israel-hostile’ environment for further discussion. This type of subtle influence is a recruitment tool for the Palestinian cause that is difficult to oppose.

Littleover Community School is a mainstream 11-18 comprehensive school situated in the south west of the City of Derby.<sup>3</sup> It is in the Derby North constituency, which means Chris Williamson is the sitting MP.<sup>4</sup>

On 12 July 2019, students at Littleover Community School in Derby organised a petition.<sup>5</sup> It was run by the ‘Amnesty International group’ at the school. It was calling for Airbnb to “remove all properties that are within Occupied Palestinian Territory”. They clearly mean only the Jewish owned properties in line with Amnesty’s earlier campaign but do not state this.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://david-collier.com/norwich-psc-jackie-walker-fundraising-hatefest/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfe-warns-school-staff-over-expression-of-political-views/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.littleover.derby.sch.uk/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/constituency/derby-north>

<sup>5</sup> The School published this information on their Facebook page.

<sup>6</sup> Amnesty launched the campaign in January 2019. See <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/01/destination-occupation-digital-tourism-israel-illegal-settlements/> Airbnb did originally agree to remove the listings see <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/airbnb-israel-west-bank-palestine-remove-listings-a8642216.html> but then reversed the decision see <https://press.airbnb.com/update-listings-disputed-regions/> Amnesty have recently turned their attention to TripAdvisor see <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/tripadvisor-staff-urged-speak-out-over-israel-settlements-open-letter> Because of the failure of the

The petition table was situated directly in front of what seems to be one of the key entrances to the school. From other images in the set, it seems to be the entrance near parking and bicycle holding facilities.<sup>7</sup>



According to the Facebook statement by the school the petition received almost 500 signatures. There are approximately 1500 pupils at the school.<sup>8</sup>

It is impossible to know what was said to the pupils or exactly what disinformation was spread. However, one of the images catches a glimpse of the main material on the table:



Stickers, petition and pens aside, there is a one-page information sheet visible. Whilst the writing cannot be seen, it contains both the amnesty logo and the 'disappearing Palestine' maps. These maps are not just inaccurate or distorted but carry highly racist messaging. Putting aside political distortion, in the maps prior to 1948, all Jewish families, regardless of how long they have lived in the region are excluded from being part of the state.<sup>9</sup> Imagine a map of the UK split into 'Black

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Airbnb campaign, this time Amnesty have launched a bullying campaign that targets individuals who work at TripAdvisor rather than the organisation itself.

<sup>7</sup> The School published on their Facebook page

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Littleover\\_Community\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Littleover_Community_School)

<sup>9</sup> For more information about the racist messages in these maps, see <http://david-collier.com/nazi-arguments-anti-israel/> For general information about the distortion contained in the maps see <http://www.thetower.org/article/the-mendacious-maps-of-palestinian-loss/>

People's land' and 'white people's land', in which black people were only allotted the land they privately owned and denied any share of ownership in all the public land. It is pure Nazi messaging.

Situations such as these normally occur when a teacher is politically active and either suggests topics or steers education in a particular way. It can also come through one of the students, although it is highly doubtful such an effort would have passed without official support from those who work within the school governance structure.

It is therefore unsurprising to have discovered that Jeremy Corbyn and Chris Williamson were both at the school just 15 months ago.



There is even an online video with students surrounding Corbyn singing the 'oh Jeremy Corbyn' chant.<sup>10</sup>

The timing of this visit is important. These children were singing Corbyn's praises just two weeks after the #enoughisenough mass protest by the Jewish Community in Parliament Square.<sup>11</sup> Given the transgressions here are not about what specific disinformation was spread but rather the fact it was spread at all only other example of distortion will be presented: The petition began<sup>12</sup>:

To Airbnb, remove all properties that are within Occupied Palestinian Territory  
We believe... That Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is unlawful under United Nations law, specifically the 1949 Armistice Agreement.

*"We believe...That Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is unlawful under United Nations law, specifically the 1949 Armistice Agreement."*

Except it isn't illegal. The United Nations explicitly relies on a land for peace formula in all resolutions.<sup>13</sup> At no point has the United Nations referred to Israeli presence in these territories as 'illegal'. The opening phrase negates Israel's legitimacy entirely. From the point Israel is presented as illegally inside the land, all action it takes, even defending itself from attack, appears illegitimate.

This is cheap pro-Palestinian activism at work, brainwashing schoolchildren inside a school, presenting fictions as facts and demonising both Jews and Israel.

I only discovered this event by accident because one of the parents is a member of the Facebook Group Palestine Live and had posted about it within the group:

<sup>10</sup> See this tweet by David Prescott, Press and Events Manager for Jeremy Corbyn  
<https://twitter.com/DavidPrescott/status/984692119821578240>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/jewish-community-protests-in-parliament-square-against-labour-antisemitism-enough-is-enough-1.461420>

<sup>12</sup> From school Facebook page

<sup>13</sup> See especially [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Security\\_Council\\_Resolution\\_242](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_242)



How many propaganda exercises are going on unrecorded in our schools? When the Palestinian flag waves during the Labour Party conference, how many of those people were taught a one-sided and Israel-demonising position by teachers at school feeding false information? If the Palestinian flag is seen as a sign of loyalty to Jeremy Corbyn, then promoting the cause, even on school grounds, would become an act of resistance. The more powerful 'the lobby' is seen by the loyalist, the greater the need to resist and 'open the eyes' of others.

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From section 407 of the Education Act 1996:<sup>14</sup> *Duty to secure balanced treatment of political issues.*

- (1) *The local authority, governing body and head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils while they are—*
- (a) *in attendance at a maintained school, or*
  - (b) *taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised for registered pupils at the school by or on behalf of the school,*
- they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.*
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The Amnesty petition took place two weeks before the school year ends. There is no way to correct the damage done. UK Lawyers for Israel and the school were contacted for comment:<sup>15 16</sup>

*“The claims in the letter are completely erroneous. Israel’s occupation of the West Bank is lawful in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the Oslo Accords pending the settlement of its status by negotiations. There are rival claims to the land which must be resolved by negotiation, so it is wrong to suggest that the land belongs to Palestinians. The 1949 Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan is irrelevant, especially as Jordan has disclaimed any entitlement to the West Bank and Israel acquired the territory following Jordan’s flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement in 1967. Properties owned by both Arabs and Jews in the West Bank are listed by Airbnb, so the removal of all West Bank listings requested by the letter would harm Arabs as well as Jews.*

***The school now has a legal and moral obligation to rectify this misinformation and indoctrination by a balanced explanation of the position in accordance with section 407 of the Education Act 1996.”***

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/407>

<sup>15</sup> Received by email 13 July 2019

<sup>16</sup> The school did not respond to an email requesting further information

## THE JEWISH BUBBLE ILLUSION

Littleover Community School is in Derby. The last formal Jewish service inside a Synagogue in the city took place in 1986.<sup>17</sup> There are approximately 17 mosques and 22 churches in the city.<sup>18</sup> Jews are a non-present UK minority group in Derby. They are not there to give themselves a voice. They need others to safeguard their rights.

A simple question. Would the city of Sheffield be discussing raising a Palestinian flag if 'Golders Green' was one of the constituencies? Of course not. Another simple question. Would Derby council sit to condemn a Pakistani government which is far more brutal to gays and Journalists than Israel would ever want or dare to be?<sup>19</sup> Again, the answer is no.

Which immediately highlights an issue.

There are several groups monitoring antisemitism or anti-Zionist activity in the UK, especially when, like in the case of Littleover, it seems to stray over the line of acceptability.<sup>20</sup> These organisations can only respond to complaints when others have brought them to their attention.

Similarly, anti-Zionist activity on campus, in church groups, in unions or in the local political sphere are often met with opposition, but mainly when Jewish people are aware, or have access to them.<sup>21</sup>

When I present lists of anti-Zionist groups, there is often shock at the quantity of pro-Palestinian groups across the country.<sup>22</sup> Those who engage in monitoring or countering such behaviour are only aware of the key movements and even then, only when the activity occurs within their locality.

Most of the friction occurs in a bubble. The Jewish population in the UK is highly concentrated.<sup>23</sup> This gives many in the community the false impression that when action occurs much of it is countered, but even then, they are vastly outnumbered.

In addition, allies of the Jewish community are strongest where the Jews are concentrated and weakest where there are no Jews. This creates a bubble, an illusion that 'Jews and their allies' have a safe space in the UK together. The hostility isn't real because nobody is burning an Israeli flag on their street. This over-confidence is woefully misplaced and entirely ignorant of historical precedent.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://jscn.org.uk/small-communities/derby/>

<sup>18</sup> For mosques see <https://mosques.muslimsinbritain.org/maps.php#/town/Derby> for churches [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Churches\\_in\\_Derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Churches_in_Derby)

<sup>19</sup> See <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/pakistan> and <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/israel>

<sup>20</sup> For example, see UK Lawyers for Israel <http://www.uklfi.com/>

<sup>21</sup> See Al Quds 2019 counter-protest as an example <http://david-collier.com/al-quds-london-2019/>

<sup>22</sup> There are hundreds of active anti-Israel groups in the UK. In a single month, over 176 events were held <http://david-collier.com/obsessive-anti-israel-antisemitism/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/60-of-u-k-jews-live-in-london-says-survey-1.5231434>

<sup>24</sup> There is no intention to compare the UK to 1930s Nazi Germany, but it provides an example of how an over-confident population can lose itself in an environment that becomes unrecognisable and quickly deteriorates. Russia following the 1917 revolutions is another example. Many of the most hostile anti-Jewish environments have been created through changing no more than a leader, a political party, a king.

In areas where there are few or no Jews, their allies become almost impotent, unable to counter the carefully selected 'anti-Zionist Jew' who has been especially brought up to speak. How dare they attack this person's 'Jewish identity', what are they - antisemitic?<sup>25</sup>

There are cities across the UK with a negligible Jewish population which seem 'frictionless', not because there is no hostility, but because there is no counter to it. There is no news coming from those cities because nobody is protesting the rise of Antisemitism there.

This is why Jewish students are often those who feel it the most. They leave the bubble for a short time and immerse themselves in an environment that more closely resembles the real world.<sup>26</sup> Even this is a partially protected environment.<sup>27</sup> Even they don't see the full hostility that exists in places outside of Government regulation and where there aren't enough of them to complain.

The antisemitism crisis is the result of a few Jewish people standing up for themselves.<sup>28</sup> It has needed Jews (with some brave allies) to mobilise to offset it. Yet the Jewish response is also split. Jewish people living in this bubble have a natural urge to believe things are less dangerous than they are. They argue over the merits of a semi-decent Momentum video about antisemitism.<sup>29</sup>

Jewish people fighting against Antisemitism are often attacked by allies who want to be more accommodating and forgiving.<sup>30</sup> Antisemitism mostly occurs when persistent and unbridled hostility crosses a line that no longer allows the man accused to hide behind the 'anti-Zionist' defence. There are those who naively believe an apology for 'crossing the line' is enough without addressing the person's retention of the persistent hostility that led to it.

Because they believe, in their Jewish area, surrounded by a few allies, that if there is just a slight change of direction, if Corbyn will only say a few nice words, if Momentum produce a better video, then everything will 'work-out' and we can band together to get a 'cleansed' Labour Party elected.

They see Palestinian flag wavers in Conference and just want it to stop.<sup>31</sup> If it stops, they can pretend those people holding the flags haven't got homes, don't influence others, don't leave conference and are not taking their new-found anti-Zionist demonisation elsewhere. The cities outside of this Jewish bubble don't exist.

Except they do.

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<sup>25</sup> I am often told by non-Jews who attend anti-Israel events outside of the bubble, that when they question the anti-Zionist Jew, the accusation of antisemitism is made against them.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/12/22/britains-top-universities-becoming-no-go-zones-jews-baroness/>

<sup>27</sup> University campus space is monitored by authorities seeking to ensure radicalisation is not taking place <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> It is also an environment under UK Government guidance see letter to University heads sent by Jo Johnson <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/02/24/universities-warned-anti-semitism-ahead-israel-apartheid-week/>

<sup>28</sup> See Twitter accounts such as gnasher Jew, Labour Against antisemitism

<sup>29</sup> Momentum have produced several videos on antisemitism.

<https://www.thejc.com/comment/comment/momentum-glitzzy-videos-cannot-hide-the-far-left-organisation-s-attitude-towards-antisemitism-1.480875>

<sup>30</sup> See the Ali Milani example <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/labour-moderate-explodes-in-row-over-mp-hopeful-s-apology-for-antisemitism-1.486859>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45634379>