

MY GMB GRIEF: RHEA WOLFSON

SUMMARY

On the 9th Nov, the National newspaper published the story “Labour activist faces union action over anti-Semitism row”. Read it at <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17211721.labour-activist-faces-union-action-over-anti-semitism-row/>

The day before, Gregson learnt from sources within the GMB that Rhea Wolfson, GMB Organiser for Glasgow and Chair of Almond Valley CLP, had persuaded the GMB to act against him. (See [the GMB charge sheet here](#)).

Wolfson was selected as Labour’s Westminster candidate in June. Her CV records she was until 2015 manager at **New Israel Fund** and is former president of the **Oxford University Jewish Society**. Just 10 days ago the BBC reported she had been behind their story “[SNP suspends blogger in anti-Semitism row](#)” She opposes sanctions against Israel and is doing her best to use the IHRA to prevent a Corbyn-led Government from ever imposing them. She and Jon Lansman together, within Momentum and the Labour Party, have set themselves this task. Their double act at the NEC forced Labour to adopt the full IHRA on 4th Sept. They brand all who oppose the racist nature of Israel as anti-Semites and thus far have been successful in getting Labour and the unions to do as they wish. They work alongside “[Friends of Israel](#)” and the Zionist group “[The Jewish Labour Movement](#)” to undermine democracy in the UK (see [The Lobby](#) TV item for proof that the Israeli Government is behind all this). In doing so they have probably made UK Jews more vulnerable to attack (see “[Does the IHRA help Jews?](#)”). In Israel, it means settlers can pump shit into an Arab school without fear of redress – which they did a few days ago – as they pursue their ethnic cleansing operations ([See here](#)).

That Wolfson, an avowed Zionist, was allowed to chair the recent Labour Conference session debating the oppression of Palestinians shows how strong a grip the Zionists have on Labour. She did her best on the day to silence those speaking about Labour’s witch-hunt (see “[Zionist Chair](#)” [here](#)). She even tried to interrupt Palestinian campaigner’s Colin Monehen barn-storming [speech to Conference](#).

More on the emails between Lansman (as NEC rep) and Gregson [here](#), where Lansman shows his true colours “[Letter from Lansman to little me](#)”.

THE DETAIL – by Pete Gregson

Just found out who’s behind my problems. It’s Rhea Wolfson, Regional Organiser for the GMB (Responsible for Glasgow 28 Branch- Cordia Facilities Management. Working in recruitment, campaigns and member representation.) (Barry Fletcher does East, which covers my patch).

From 2013 for two years she was “Community & Outreach Manager” of this organisation, as she says in Linked In:

“ **New Israel Fund** is a charity that works for human rights and social justice in Israel and the Occupied Territories by supporting organisations including grassroots movements through to think tanks.

In my time with the charity I:

- Created and implemented new online communications strategy
- Developed and executed young adult outreach programme
- Project managed build of new website
- Managed all social media
- Created biannual fundraising appeals
- Produced annual report
- Planned wide variety of events and produced and delivered educational resources and training”

She is the recently selected Westminster candidate for Livingston. She is the Chair of Almond Valley CLP. She’s high up in the GMB – helped organise the strike in Glasgow Council for Equal Pay last week (the joke being that Labour was in power for years there and ignored the problem). Facebook address is <https://www.facebook.com/rheawolfsonlabour/> and <https://www.facebook.com/rhea.wolfson>

In 2016, she was the 25-year old GMB union Glasgow branch secretary Wolfson

“[Rhea Wolfson: The hate beat me down but the haters will not crush me](#)” where she complained about the abuse she’d suffered for taking Ken Livingston’s place as Momentum candidate on the NEC. She is, I think from London; she was a former president of the Oxford University Jewish Society.

She was elected to the NEC and instrumental with Lansman in getting the IHRA adopted by Labour; her work done, she moved to the National Policy Forum after the 4th September meeting, when the IHRA was adopted. She was in the BBC (and many other publications) on 30th October 2013:

“[SNP suspends blogger in anti-Semitism row](#)”

“[Blogger suspended by SNP over ‘vile, anti-semitic’ post aimed at Jewish GMB chief Rhea Wolfson](#)”

On 30th July she had written this piece for Common Space where it becomes clear how obsessed she is with rooting out supposed anti-Semites:

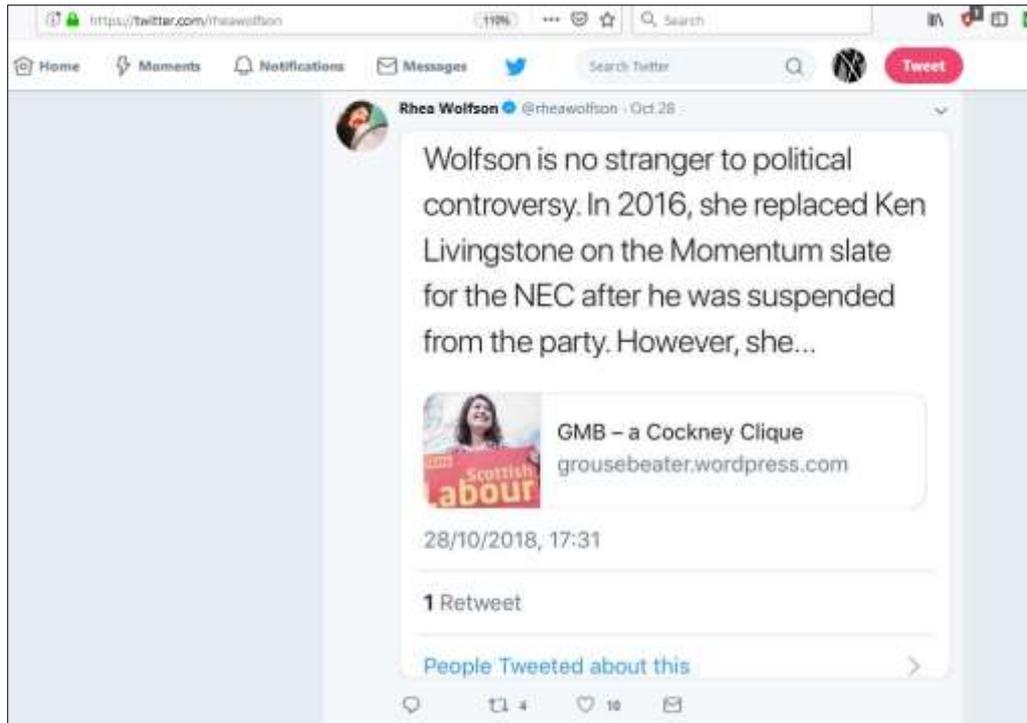
“[Rhea Wolfson: I've been a victim of anti-Semitism - Labour is doing the right things to stamp it out](#)” and the same in the Scotsman: “[Rhea Wolfson: I've been a victim of anti-semitism, but I trust Corbyn](#)”

There’s much more juicy stuff on her twitter feed <https://twitter.com/rheawolfson> which is littered with GMB stuff

And this very juicy one where she accuses an SNP guy of anti-Semitism

<https://twitter.com/LiviEastSNP/status/1056644334769049601>

and see this:



On the 1st September I sent this to her on FB:

Dear Rhea,

On Tuesday you will vote on whether or not to adopt the full IHRA. I beg you read this article first <https://mondoweiss.net/2018/08/candidates-definition-antisemitism/> where I asked those NEC candidates in favour of the full IHRA "If it's passed and I said Israel is a racist state, would I get expelled?"

I believe as many as one hundred thousand Party members fear expulsion if the IHRA is adopted.

Possibly the unions and politicians believe what I was told by one Labour MP: "Every other institution in the U.K. from the police and schools to universities and courts use the IHRA definition. For the Labour Party not to, sets us apart from the entire country and the stories that have come out since, show that the leadership has some anti-Semitism on them. That's not right for a party and persons that want to lead the country." But I feel that just because the schools and Unis were browbeaten into it by May's Government, it does not mean that Labour should be too..

I am a Labour activist of 30 years and like many others I've spoken to, fear expulsion. If the full IHRA is adopted, we'll see witch-hunts, purges and media delight. Israel will rejoice, for Labour will have been muzzled.

Yours fraternally,

Pete Gregson,
Edinburgh
Tel 0758 472 2191

PS Mondoweiss, who published my article yesterday, is a Jewish on-line news magazine based in Detroit."

On the 17th Sept I sent this on FB:

“Dear Rhea of the NEC,

I am lodging a petition with you from 200 Labour Party members which calls upon you to expel us for declaring Israel to be a racist endeavour. We also deny its claim to be democratic, since Palestinians are denied the vote. The petition is at tinyurl.com/israelihra

We challenge our National Executive Committee to expel us from the Party, if you believe that, according to the IHRA definition you adopted on the 4th Sept, we are anti-Semitic. If you will not, we expect you to return Labour to its previous position, which allowed full freedom of speech on Israel.

On the 6th Sept, John McDonnell stated in an interview with Jewish News “What we’re saying is it’s anti-Semitic to oppose a Jewish state”.

So, according to him, all 200 of us signatories are anti-Semites. We assume he speaks for the NEC, since you passed the full code.

Today, Skwawkbox published an orthodox activist’s statement to Jewish Chronicle, in which he attacks the ‘zionist agenda’ behind the ‘smear and witch-hunt’ against Jeremy Corbyn. The Chronicle has not published his letter, but Skwawkbox has; here it is. This activist, Shraga Stern is a prominent Charedi (Orthodox) Stamford Hill Jew and was one of the organisers of a letter from twenty-nine leading Orthodox rabbis in support of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. The Jewish Chronicle and other outlets immediately claimed the letter was a fake. The letter was authentic.

I thought I best write to you now, as you meet tomorrow. Also, last night I was reported to Brian Roy, General Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, on the grounds that my petition may bring Edinburgh Central CLP into disrepute (although it is mentioned nowhere). I thought I needed to act fast, before I was suspended.

We 200 members call upon Labour’s leaders to either expel us for stating the blindingly obvious on Israel or go back to Labour’s previous position on the IHRA, where Nakba deniers held no traction.

Best wishes

Pete Gregson

Edinburgh

(Member L1156630 - Labour activist of 30 years standing)

PS There are some Party members who’d like to think that Labour’s IHRA troubles are well and truly in the past and it’s time to move onto new territory, such as presenting the manifesto, deselecting their MP, etc - but they’d be wrong. By consigning those comrades who believe, like me, that Israel is a racist endeavour into the anti-Semitism bin, Labour risks giving the impression that any minority can bully them into changing their view, so long as enough crocodile tears can be shed. If Labour kow-tows so readily, what hope for the Party in office should it want to implement some really radical ideas in its manifesto such as ending zero hours contracts, renationalising the railways, taxing Amazon, etc? For as soon as the barking dogs of an angry demographic have had their voices amplified by the mainstream media, what are the chances that Labour will stick to its guns? Other reasons for turning back the clock on the IHRA might be 2. to assure the UK’s 2.8 million Muslims that their feelings about Palestinians matter as much as that of the country’s 370,000 Jews. 3. That allowing Labour to speak out about the racist and undemocratic nature of Israel may encourage some disaffected Muslim to adopt a more peaceful means of protest than reaching for the semtex. 4. That showing the world that freedom of speech and social justice mean as much to Labour as it did when it was founded, etc.”

And then the 25th Sept I sent her this:

“Dear Rhea,

I have been at Conference, as have you. I’ve been outside, you’ve been inside.

I wanted to draw your attention to the actions of the police, who have adopted the full IHRA. I managed to avoid getting arrested (just!).

Please reconsider as to whether the ACC Liverpool is the best venue for Conference, given the very real antagonism of the Merseyside constabulary – who claim to be acting on behalf of the landowners - in banishing free comment on Israel.

I’m sure you also know that Israeli soldiers stopped Muslim speaker Issa Amro from flying to Conference to address one of your Fringe Meetings about how best to secure peace in the Middle East. The event is still on

this Tuesday night, since his Jewish colleague, Miko Peled, has been able to get out of Israel for this. The Stamford Hill Rabbis opposed to the IHRA are coming too. As long as the Met don't interfere. The police questioned me about the rabbis outside conference on Sunday, believing them to be imposters. My account that you read here at www.kidsnotsuits.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Banner-Ban-at-Conference.pdf will either make you laugh or cry

Best wishes

Pete Gregson

Edinburgh"

In retrospect, these messages might not have been the cleverest thing I have ever done. I did not know then she was a raving Zionist.

Pete Gregson 8/11/18