

The Board of Deputies of British Jews  
1 Torriano Mews  
Kentish Town  
London NW5 2RZ

29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

For the attention of Marie van der Zyl, Deputies President

Dear Marie,

Nikki and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last week and Darrell features in the photos of that memorable day in 1968. The pictures of your future husband with his sister Kerry both evidently enjoying the occasion would be, without doubt, of great interest to his children as he relates his own childhood to them.

The Jewish press reports your response to the rise in 'religious' hate crimes as serving 'as an urgent call to action'. That would be more convincing if you spoke out about the hate crime perpetrated by your father Barry Kaye when he sent me alarming letters. The reporting states that 'While in the majority of offences, the perceived and actual religion of the victim will be the same, in some cases this will differ.' Kayes' contemptuous castigation of me for being a 'non-Jew' emphasised his racist offence and his antipathy was made abundantly clear. What stirred his racist stereotyping?

If you are including yourself in the grouping of 'All of us - faith leaders, politicians and the media' then you are falling far short of the qualities expected of a 'leader'. There are plenty of examples to guide you on how to challenge hate crime. I recently referred you to the words of Rabbi Mark Goldsmith of Alyth Gardens, when he was adamant that staying *shtum* is not an option. He quoted the Leviticus "holiness code" which is "a mandate to every Jew to be a person who stands up and speaks out when they see injustice," And the Talmudic Dictum "Shtika Kehoda" translates as "Silence is complicity." You knew your father was sending your father-in-law hate mail with racist overtones, but you did nothing. The time for you to do the right thing is very long overdue.

With regard to the reports (22 Oct) of the 'divisive' Board motion brought due to Israel criticism, you said that the range of opinions in the community had to be 'represented and welcomed'. Historian Geoffrey Alderman noted on Twitter that 'This excuse sits uneasily with the Board's attitude to Deputy Mrs Roslyn Pine, doesn't it?' Mrs Pine's same-day comment was rightly critical of your hypocrisy in calling for deputies to learn to disagree with tolerance and respect, but failing to practice those 'lofty sentiments' yourself. Your action in ostracising her from the Board for expressing her legitimate views, without even the decency of discussing the suspension with her, does not surprise me. My personal experiences have given me insights which confirm your inability to engage in constructive discourse with those who may hold divergent opinions. Ostracisation, by which communication is terminated, shows a complete abandonment of tolerance and respect. It is a craven choice and destroys any basis for future relationships - inter-faith, familial or otherwise.

Your wild remarks in August, that Mr Corbyn had “declared war on the Jews” seem to have come home to haunt you. And you have now been severely criticised for your recent remarks which combined the words ‘Jewish community’ and ‘power’ in the same sentence. Your blundering inconsistency has resulted in another *faux pas*. How many are you allowed before **you** are ostracised’?

Yours sincerely,

George Rooker  
Historian