

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

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

For the attention of Marie van der Zyl, Deputies President

Dear Marie,

This week's Jewish newspapers report on how a Uber taxi driver declined to carry two passengers because he did not "take Jews". The driver was reported to the police by the firm and one of the men said he was in touch with a solicitor regarding compensation.

I can understand how the two business men felt, as the driver's offensive attitude reflects the same sort of enmity as when your father Barry Kaye wrote to me saying that "As you are a non-Jew of no standing in the Jewish community, you are not welcome." Both episodes show the universality of prejudice.

Its a good job your father didn't drive a cab, because his racism would have been quickly uncovered. For my part I did not respond by complaining to the police or seek advice from a solicitor. If I had done so it would have exposed him and his family to unwanted publicity, but on the other hand it might have led to resolving the inflamed family discord.

In the same week Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild, writing in the Jewish News, discusses *lashon hara* (evil speech) and says that in rabbinic tradition it is worse than idolatry, murder and incest combined. She says there is an expectation one does not speak to cause pain, nor inflict harm and reminds her readers of the requirement to "monitor ourselves to behave as a holy people".

Well your father, who identified himself as a "member of the Orthodox community" and claimed to be "mentor, teacher and guide to the children, of the Holy Law of the Torah" did not feel the need to restrain himself. The extreme depth of his hatred was revealed when he went on to threaten me with actual bodily harm which could easily have ended up as murder. His language was very clear:

[We] "... would have sorted this matter out in the good old fashioned East End Yiddshe way, blood on the floor etc, as indeed my father and his brothers who fought Mosely [sic] in 1936 would have done so too ..."

Dr. Tarra Bates-Duford, author of *Teaching a Child to Hate: 10 Consequences of Hate* has a PhD in forensic Psychology specializing in familial dysfunctions and traumatic experience. She says uncorrected hostility builds and intensifies with time and it is easy for a controlling adult to corrupt the views and beliefs of children. If the venomous intimidation of me by Zeida Barry (as he described himself) was because I was a 'non-Jew', what sort of harmful

brainwashing could have been instilled into his grandchildren in the guise of religious teaching?

Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, speaks about the need to hold people accountable for their hatred. Didn't you, if not as a daughter or mother, or even as my daughter-in-law, but as a solicitor, have a duty to report your father's abusive conduct?

A two-day conference to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport is being held by the Association of Jewish Refugees on April 15 and 16. Your husband Darrell can be rightly proud of the part his grandfather Rabbi Dr. Werner van der Zyl played in the rescue of children from Nazi Germany. It is a great story to tell his own daughters and kindle their interest in Holocaust history - especially as their paternal grandmother Nikki and her parents were survivors.

Yours sincerely,

George Rooker,  
Historian