

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

23th April 2019

For the attention of Marie van der Zyl, Deputies President

Dear Marie,

Your predecessor as President of the Board of Deputies, Jonathan Arkush, was an alumnus of the University of Oxford. Was the claim that you attended the 'University of Liverpool', as published in the TIMES May 19 2018 when it reported on your election success, an attempt to elevate yourself to equivalent educational status? You did not study at the 'University of Liverpool', nor 'Liverpool University' nor any variant of an educational institution name which includes the word 'university'. You studied at a polytechnic, the Liverpool Polytechnic which you left in 1988.

The TIMES is still regarded as the newspaper of record in Britain, therefore whatever it prints is invariably regarded as true. I do not know whether your interviewer Zaki Cooper was misinformed or misled by you, but it would be helpful for me to know whether a correction was subsequently printed.

Your husband lied on his 2015 LinkedIn page when he claimed to have attended the same superior place of learning - the University of Liverpool - for the three year period 1980 to 1983 and obtained a degree in Economics. What is it about the University of Liverpool that you both make false claims about studying there?

Melanie Phillips' article on Islamophobia and antisemitism (12 April) and Jemma Levene's response both omit the prejudice that dares not speak its name: goyphobia. Other responses emphasize that hatred festers in people who are often ill-informed and intolerant. Nothing exemplified this more than your father's letters to me and my Holocaust survivor wife which included sentiments like: "As you are a non-Jew of no standing in the Jewish community, you are not welcome."

Richard Burgon, Labour shadow justice secretary, has been criticised for making inappropriate remarks about Zionism (JNews 18 April). He was widely condemned and Amanda Bowman, vice-president of the Board of Deputies called the comments by Mr Burgon "shameful". The extreme views expressed by your father in his letters to me called for immediate denunciation, but you were silent. Deborah Lipstadt, the historian well known for her books including *Denying the Holocaust*, said that silence is an imprimatur for hate and prejudice. Any organisation - especially a registered charity - where members fail to recognise that their moral responsibility to consistently expose overtly extremist views should come before 'loyalty' to a family member who dispensed divisive rhetoric, may find that history will not be kind to them.

Yours sincerely,

George Rooker