

Hospital staff 'wore Palestinian badges'

BY DOREEN WACHMANN

MANCHESTER University NHS Foundation Trust is investigating the case of a nine-year-old recognisably-Jewish boy allegedly being badly treated by staff wearing pro-Palestinian badges at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Elliot Smus wrote on LinkedIn this week: "One of my nephews is nine years old, living in Manchester.

"He has a rare blood disorder which he has been dealing with most of his life. This illness means that he needs to have a blood transfusion every month or two and he spends many days and hours in hospital.

"Today he is at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. As a religious Jewish family, my nephew wears his black kippa and his tzitzit proudly. Not today. The nurses are all walking around wearing 'Free Palestine' pins and he was scared.

"This culminated the last time he went when my visibly Jewish nine-year old nephew with an autoimmune blood disease was kicked out of his bay by one of the nurses who was covered in Pro-Palestinian badges and stickers and due to that had to lie on the floor with a cannula in.

"Now the damage is done and my proudly Jewish nephew and his parents are scared to not get treatment if he wears his kippa and tzitzit. Today, when not visibly Jewish, he received quick care. Prior to the conflict he received excellent care."

A spokesman for the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are aware of the images and very serious claims which are circulating on social media.

"We are rapidly investigating these to establish the situation and are discussing them with the family involved. Royal Manchester Children's Hospital is committed to providing high quality care to all their patients."

Dr Ilan Lieberman wrote on LinkedIn: "I am a senior clinician in this hospital. The senior man-

agement team are dealing with this with the utmost urgency and seriousness. They will need time to investigate, collate the facts and then, I have no doubt, act accordingly. They have been doing this since the story broke.

"I am setting up the Jewish Staff Network at MFT, which is one of the most supportive of Jewish staff in the country, in my opinion. What has been described is utterly out of keeping with the culture of the organisation."

The Manchester Jewish Representative has written to RMCH chief executives to voice their "grave concern and demand action is taken immediately".

It has also asked for clarification regarding the trust's policy of staff wearing political statements on their uniforms.

It said it was "very concerned about Jewish patients feeling intimidated while accessing care".

Television presenter and campaigner against antisemitism Rachel Riley described the account as one of "horrendous discriminatory experiences".

Five per cent of Britons wants Jews expelled from Middle East

A SURVEY has revealed that one in 20 British people support expelling Jews from the Middle East.

The YouGov poll also found that among Brits who sympathise with the Palestinians, 11 per cent supported expelling Jews from the region.

Conducted between March 15 and March 19, it questioned a sample of more than 4,000 UK adults – and found that 15 per cent of Britons sympathised more with the Israeli side than the Palestinian, while 29 per cent sympathised more with the Palestinian side.

The poll indicated, too, that the majority of British people favour a two-state solution, but harbour mixed sympathies towards both sides.

It revealed that one in 20 Britons thought that Hamas' attack on October 7 was justified – and this went up to 14 per cent when the pro-Palestinian side was isolated.

We Believe in Israel director Luke Akehurst told the Jewish Telegraph: "We have a lot to do to educate people out of tropes about Israel being an illegitimate or settler colonial presence in the region.

"A foundation for peace is a recognition that neither people, Jews nor Palestinians, is leaving the region."

A quarter said that Israel's attack on Gaza was justified, but nearly double – 46 per cent – claimed it was not justified.

And 11 per cent of Brits who support the Palestinian side had a favourable view of Hamas and three per cent had a "very" favourable view.

In contrast, 77 per cent of the pro-Palestinian side said they had an unfavourable view of the terrorists, compared with 70 per cent of all British people, while four per cent of all Brits said they felt favourably towards the Islamists.

A quarter of the pro-Israel people surveyed supported expelling the Palestinians from the region as a way of resolving the conflict – compared with five per cent of all Brits.



Keegan's Auschwitz tears

EDUCATION Secretary Gillian Keegan admitted to the Jewish Telegraph last night that she wept on a visit to Auschwitz on Wednesday, pictured above.

She recalled her "shock", too, on visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, when she realised that it could happen again.

She said there was always a risk

of intolerance and hatred being normalised.

Ms Keegan said she had been struck particularly by the fact that in Krakow there was no need for much security at the Jewish community centre.

"It's good for them, but not so good for us," she said.

Full story, next week.



INFLAMMATORY: Councillor Susan Rae and the offending poster she tweeted

Green councillor shared poster calling for Leith to be 'a Zionist free zone'

AN Edinburgh Green councillor has been reported to the ethics watchdog over an alleged "antisemitic" tweet.

Susan Rae shared a graphic on X that called for the Edinburgh district of Leith to be declared a "Zionist free zone".

Former Leith Tory candidate Iain McGill has lodged a complaint with the Ethical Standards Commissioner and called on the city council to stop a meeting about Gaza going ahead at the library.

"Libraries should be a safe space for everybody," he said. "Having meetings for a Zionist-free Leith is just beyond the pale.

I don't have high expectations for Green councillors, but I have high expectations for the city council and I would have hoped for clearer leadership."

The image is from the Industrial Workers of the World, whose website states: "Trade unions and resistance factions from Palestine have called on the workers of the world to rally to its support and boycott companies and brands involved in the Zionist occupation.

"To mark day 150 of the genocide in Palestine, and in collaboration with other local organisations, the Edinburgh branch of the IWW is launching a campaign to turn Leith into a 'Zionist Free Zone.'"

It adds that "the boycotting campaign will not be passive, but will be accompanied by various forms of actions".

Ms Rae, who represents Leith Walk, said: "Zionism and Judaism are two very different things. Being a Jew is not the same as being a Zionist at all."

She subsequently deleted the tweet, but not before several people had complained about it.

Campaign against Antisemitism tweeted: "To call for a 'Zionist Free Zone' is simply a politically-correct way of calling for a 'Jew-free zone'. Such inflammatory rhetoric has no place in our politics..

"@ScottishGreens must also immediately investigate and take action against this councillor and any other office holders who express similarly repugnant extremist views."

Share stories of Jewish life

AN initiative to collect autobiographies of young Jews living in Europe has launched with the publication of seven stories online, including one from the UK.

Kaleidoscope invites European Jews, aged between 17 and 24, to write their personal stories.

Kaleidoscope is inspired by a collection of stories submitted by young Polish Jews in the 1930s.

The YIVO institute in Vilnius launched a competition in 1934 to collect autobiographies from young Jewish people.

It gathered 627 entries in Yiddish, Polish and Hebrew and the winners were due to be announced on September 1, 1939, when the Second World War broke out.

Many of the stories survived the war, and were eventually digitised and made available online.

Stories can be submitted under the author's name, or anonymously, and should be between 750 and 7,500 words by May 15.

All the stories submitted will be published on the Kaleidoscope website at Kaleidoscope-lives.eu

Israeli minister slams English capital as 'most antisemitic'

ISRAEL'S diaspora minister believes that London is the most "antisemitic place in the west".

Amichai Chikli, 43, told a press conference in Jerusalem that a toxic mix of far-left "wokeism" and Islamic extremism meant England's capital was no longer safe for Jews.

He added that freedom of speech no longer exists in the UK.

"Today in the UK, Jews are hiding their yarmulkes and their Magen Davids," Mr Chikli said. "They know that if they speak Hebrew on the subway they might get hit. And this is the reality for Jews in Europe."

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"When the child did not wish to take part on a more recent occasion, this was respected and she did not take part.

"Our schools are welcoming and inclusive environments which celebrate and respect all faiths and

beliefs. They do not tolerate bullying and take the welfare of pupils seriously.

"Where incidents were reported, they were not reported as described here.

"However, they have been investigated and bullying policies applied."