

The Labour Party

Head Office

Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E
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Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6PA
0345 092 2299 | labour.org.uk/contact

Mr Robert Pitt
24 Georgiana Street
London
NW1 0EA

BY EMAIL ONLY: pitt_bob@yahoo.co.uk

08 September 2021

Ref: A423795
Case No: CN-2514

Dear Mr Pitt,

Notice of investigation

Allegations that you may have been involved in a breach of Labour Party rules have been brought to the attention of national officers of the Party. These allegations relate to your conduct on social media which may be in breach of Chapter 2, Clause I.8 of the Labour Party Rule Book. It is important that these allegations are investigated, and the NEC will be asked to authorise a full report to be drawn up with recommendations for disciplinary action if appropriate.

We are currently at the investigatory stage of the disputes process and at no time during an investigation does the Labour Party confer an assumption of guilt on any party. You are not currently administratively suspended, and no restrictions have been placed on the rights associated with your membership at this time.

However, the Party reserves the right to invoke its powers under Chapter 6 Clause I.1.B and Chapter 1 Clause VIII.5 to impose an administrative suspension in the future should the alleged misconduct continue or additional allegations of misconduct come to the attention of the Party.

It has also been determined that this case may be suitable for the use of NEC disciplinary powers under Chapter 1 Clause VIII.3.A.iii* and Chapter 6 Clause I.1.B** because it involves an incident which may reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on race, religion and belief.

This means that, upon the conclusion of this investigation, the NEC may impose such disciplinary measures as it sees fit. These measures include suspension from membership of the Party or from holding office in the Party; withholding or withdrawing endorsement as a candidate; and expulsion from membership of the Party.

Attached to this letter is the draft charge(s), the evidence pertinent to the case, and a series of questions which require your response. Upon receipt of your response, and any evidence you intend to rely on in your defence, the Party will be able to conclude this matter as quickly as possible.

Please respond in writing to the London address at the top of this letter or by email to investigations@labour.org.uk quoting case number CN-2514 within 14 days of the date at the top of this letter.

The Party may consider an extension to this deadline if you are able to provide a clear and compelling reason to do so. The Party will also take reasonable steps to ensure that you have been given an opportunity to respond to these allegations. However, if you do not respond, the NEC is entitled to consider your case without a response.

You should take this letter and your response seriously. Possible outcomes of the NEC disciplinary process could include your expulsion or suspension from the Labour Party.

Pitt_bob@yahoo.co.uk is the email address that we will be corresponding with during the course of this investigation. If this email is incorrect please call 0345 092 2299 to update it.

The Labour Party's investigation process operates confidentially. That is vital to ensure fairness to you and the complainant, and to protect the rights of all concerned under the Data Protection Act 2018. We must therefore ask you to ensure that you keep all information and correspondence relating to this investigation private, and that do not share it with third parties or the media (including social media). That includes any information you receive from the Party identifying the name of the person who has made a complaint about you, any witnesses, the allegations against you, and the names of Party staff dealing with the matter. If you fail to do so, the Party reserves the right to take action to protect confidentiality, and you may be liable to disciplinary action for breach of the Party's rules. The Party will not share information about the case publicly unless, as a result of a breach of confidentiality, it becomes necessary to correct inaccurate reports. In that case we will only release the minimum information necessary to make the correction. **The Party may also disclose information in order to comply with its safeguarding obligations.**

The Party would like to make clear that there is support available to you while this matter is being investigated. There are a number of organisations available who can offer support for your wellbeing:

- You can contact your **GP** who can help you access support for your mental health and wellbeing.
- **The Samaritans** are available 24/7 – They offer a safe place for anyone to talk any time they like, in their own way – about whatever's getting to them. Telephone **116 123**.
- **Citizens Advice** - Provide free, confidential and impartial advice. Their goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face. People go to the Citizens Advice Bureau with all sorts of issues. They may have money, benefit, housing or employment problems. They may be facing a crisis, or just considering their options.
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
- If you have questions about the investigation process please contact the **Complaints Team**, whose details are included in this letter.

It is hoped you will offer your full co-operation to the Party in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Complaints Team
The Labour Party

* Where a determination has been made as a result of a case brought under disciplinary proceedings concluded at NEC stage under Chapter 6 Clause I.1.B below of these rules, to impose such disciplinary measures as it thinks fit including: formal warning; reprimand; suspensions from membership of the Party, or from holding office in the Party (including being a candidate or prospective candidate at any, or any specified, level) or being a delegate to any Party body, for a specified period or until the happening a specified event; withholding or withdrawing endorsement as a candidate or prospective candidate at any, or any specified, level (such disciplinary power shall be without prejudice to and shall not in any way affect the NEC's other powers to withhold endorsement under these rules); expulsion from membership of the Party, in which case the NEC may direct that following expiration of a specified period of not less than two nor more than five years, the person concerned may seek readmission to the Party on that basis that Chapter 6.I.2 is not to apply to that readmission; or any other reasonable and proportionate measure. (Chapter 1, Clause VIII.3.A.iii of the Labour Party Rule Book)

** In relation to any alleged breach of Chapter 2 Clause I.8 above by an individual member or members of the Party which involves any incident which in the NEC's view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation, the NEC may, pending the final outcome of any investigation and charges (if any), suspend that individual or individuals from office or representation of the Party notwithstanding the fact that the individual concerned has been or may be eligible to be selected as a candidate in any election or byelection. The General Secretary or other national officer shall investigate and report to the NEC on such investigation. Upon such report being submitted, the NEC or a sub-panel of Disputes Panel may exercise its powers under Chapter 1 Clause VIII.3.A.iii (Chapter 6, Clause I.1.B of the Labour Party Rule Book)

Please respond to the following questions to the email address outlined in your letter within 14 days of the date on page 1. Your response should include:

- A written statement of representation in your defence to the draft charge(s) below.
- Any evidence you wish to submit in your defence to the draft charge(s) below.
- A written response to the questions contained in this letter.

Your response should be submitted in writing to the Disputes Team by email or by post:

Email:

investigations@labour.org.uk

Post:

Investigations Team
The Labour Party
Southside,
105 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6QT

Draft Charge

1. Mr Robert Pitt (the Respondent) has engaged in conduct prejudicial and / or grossly detrimental to the Party in breach of Chapter 2, Clause 1.8 of the Labour Party Rule Book by engaging in conduct which:
 - a. may reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on race, religion and belief; and / or
 - b. may reasonably be seen to involve antisemitic actions, stereotypes and sentiments; and / or
 - c. undermines the Party's ability to campaign against racism; and / or
 - d. Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions:
 - i. Item 1. On 03 October 2017, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook post and a link to the story on 04 October 2017 in relation the expulsion of Moshe Machover.
 - ii. Item 2. On 27 December 2017, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a post picture with a picture saying "A Jew is a crook"
 - iii. Item 3. On 25 January 2018, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a link for a campaign demanding Labour must drop charges against anti-racist campaigner.
 - iv. Item 4. On 17 May 2018, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a post and link to an article he had written, the post talks about labours defeat and how it was attributed to the Jewish voters protesting against the party's supposed toleration of anti-Semitism.
 - v. Item 5. On 31 May 2018, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a link to an article he had written. In the post he stated the article was on the witch hunt over anti-Semitism in the labour party.

- vi. Item 6. On 22 August 2018, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a post and link to an article he had written with the headline "Israel as a racist endeavour – how the IHRA is used to suppress free speech".
- vii. Item 7. On 19 February 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a post and link about "Zionist malcontents like Adam Langleben".
- viii. Item 8. On 19 March 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook about the JLM AGM and that Adam Langleben was standing for re-election as JLM campaign manager. You state that he has said he would do his best to "stop a party led by anti-Semitism from every gaining power in this country". You claim that JLM are appointing someone who will campaign against the labour party.
- ix. Item 9. On 21 March 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a link to an article you have written with the headline. Has the Labour left subjected Luciana Berger to death threats?
- x. Item 10. On 22 March 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook about JLM AGM and the rules they would like to see about complaints about anti-Semitism.
- xi. Item 11. On 31 March 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook about the Jewish Chronicle is biased about its reporting on anti-Semitism and that it had outdone itself in regard to an article about Ken Livingstone.
- xii. Item 12. On 29 May 2019, Mr Pitt posted on Facebook a link to an article that you have written about what happened to Adam Langleben. You have also stated the JLM have riding a publicity wave over their role into n EHCR investigation into the labour party.
- xiii. Item 13, On 26 September 2019, Mr Pitt published an article on medium.com. The article is titled more anti-Semitism hysteria at the Labour conference. It contains a picture of a poster of a fighter plane with the Star of David on it firing missiles at Jeremy Corbyn.

Please respond to these questions to the email address outlined in your letter within 14 days of the date on page 1.

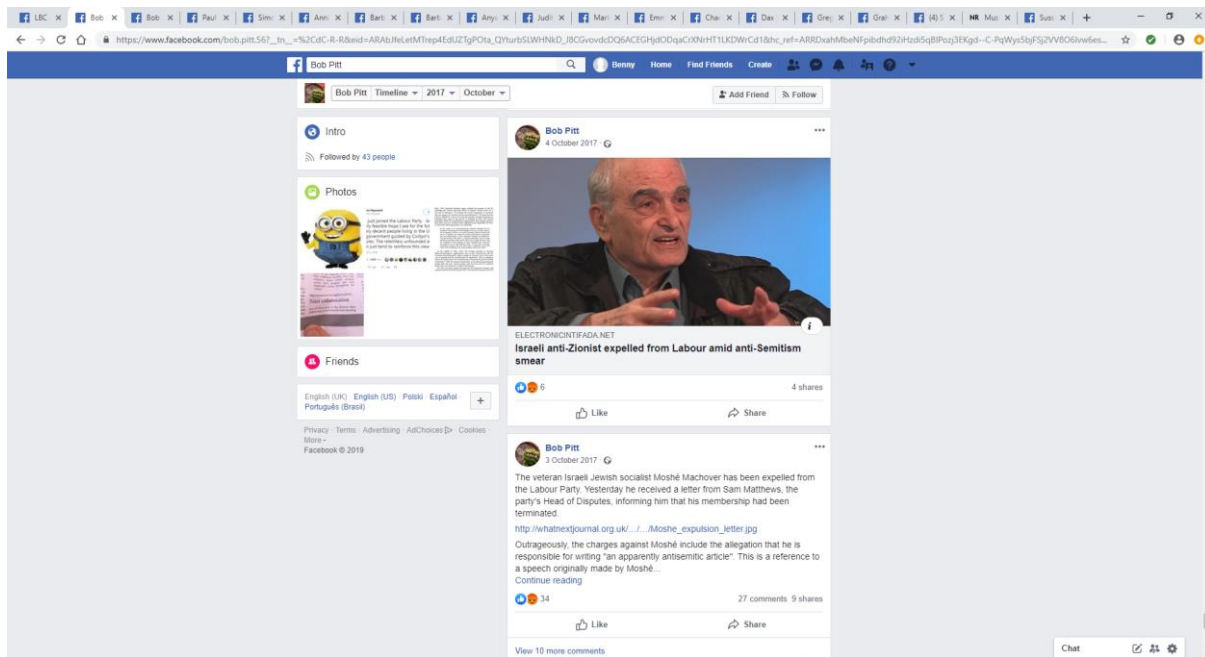
- 1) Please see the evidence attached overleaf. The Party has reason to believe that these posts were sent from your Facebook account. Can you confirm this is the case?
- 2) Taking each item in turn, please explain your reasons for social media posts, Items 1-13?
- 3) Taking each item in turn, please explain your reasons for posting, sharing or endorsing each numbered item of evidence included in this pack?
- 4) Chapter 2, Clause 1.8 of the Labour Party Rule Book provides:

"No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. The NEC and NCC shall take account of any codes of conduct currently in force and shall regard any incident which in their view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation as conduct prejudicial to the Party: these shall include but not be limited to incidents involving racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia or otherwise racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions, sexual harassment, bullying or any form of intimidation towards another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as determined by the NEC, wherever it occurs, as conduct prejudicial to the Party. The disclosure of confidential information relating to the Party or to any other member, unless the disclosure is duly authorised or made pursuant to a legal obligation, shall also be considered conduct prejudicial to the Party."

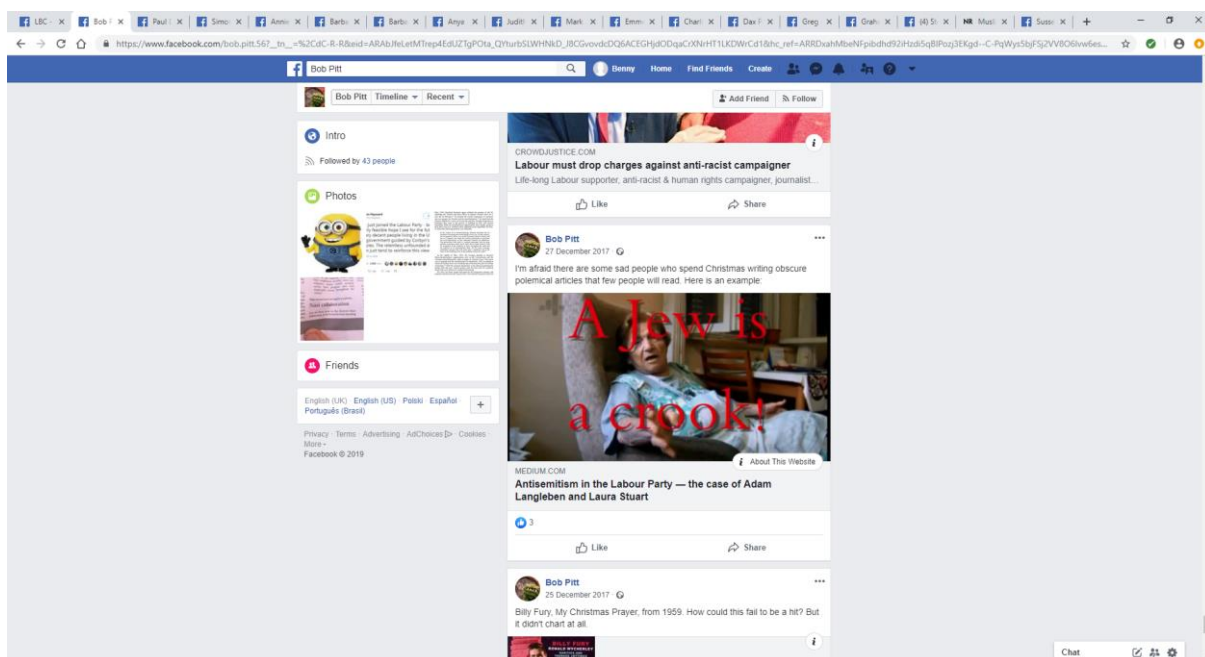
What is your response to the allegation that your conduct may be or have been in breach of this rule?

- 5) The Code of Conduct: Social Media Policy states that members should *"treat all people with dignity and respect"* and that *"this applies offline and online."* Do you think your conduct has been consistent with this policy?
- 6) Looking back at the evidence supplied with this letter, do you regret posting, sharing or endorsing?
- 7) Do you intend to email, post, share or endorse content of this nature in the future?
- 8) Are there any further matters you wish to raise in your defence?
- 9) Is there any evidence you wish to submit in your defence?

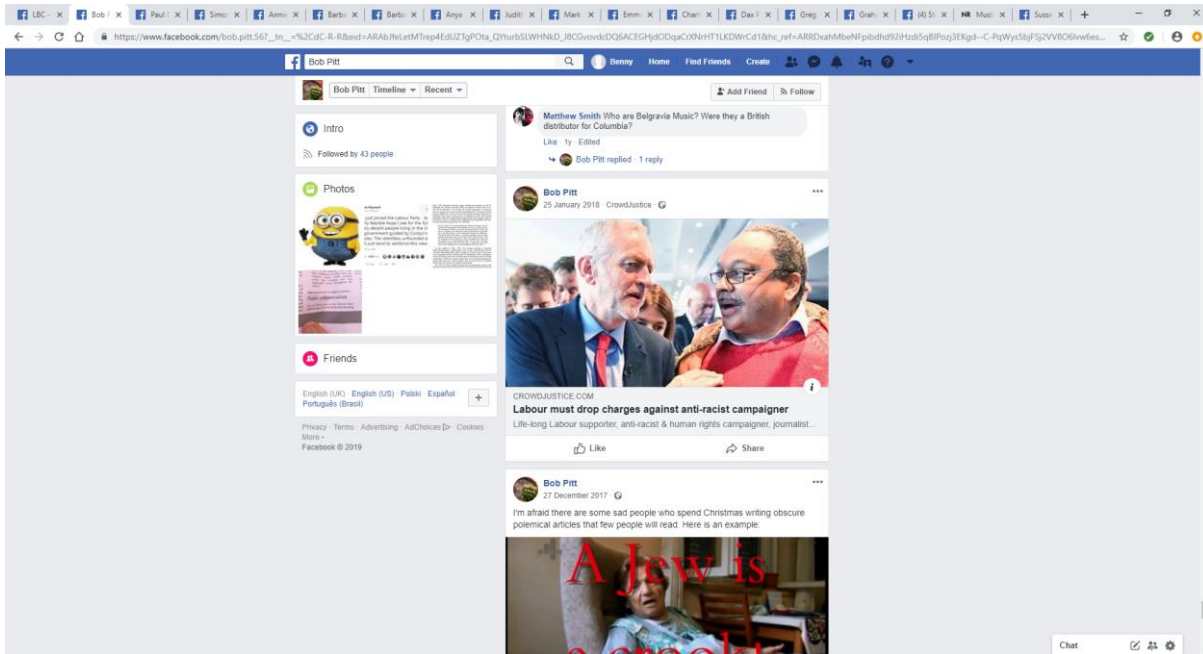
Item 1 – Facebook post from 03 October 2017



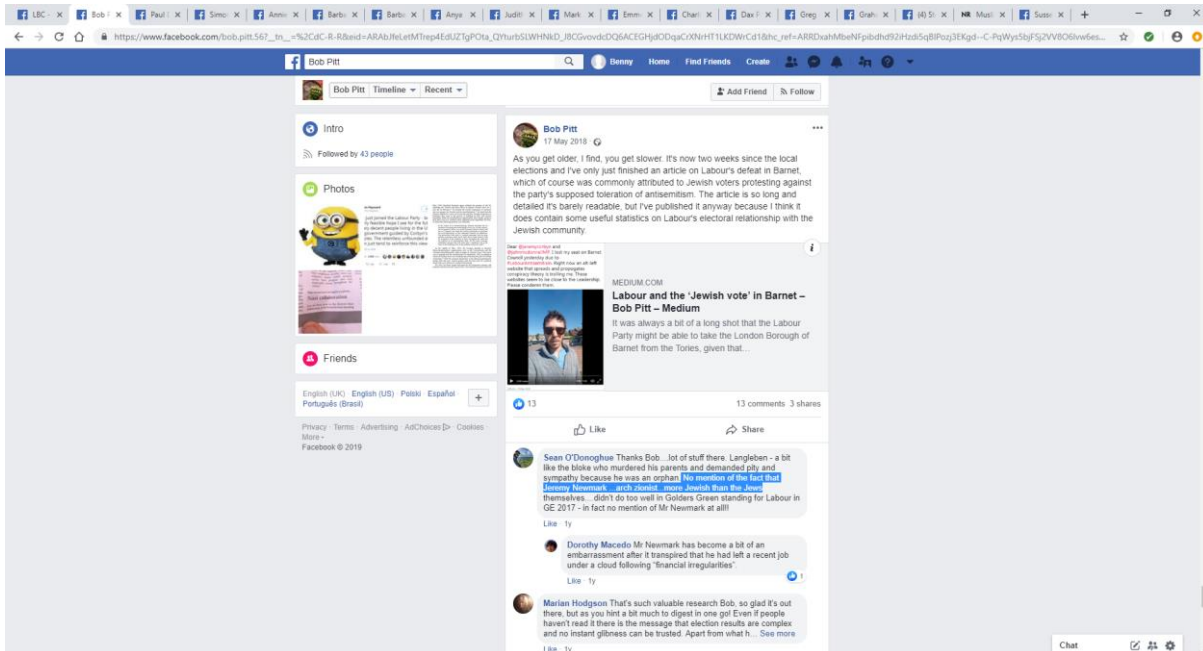
Item 2 – Facebook post from 27 December 2017

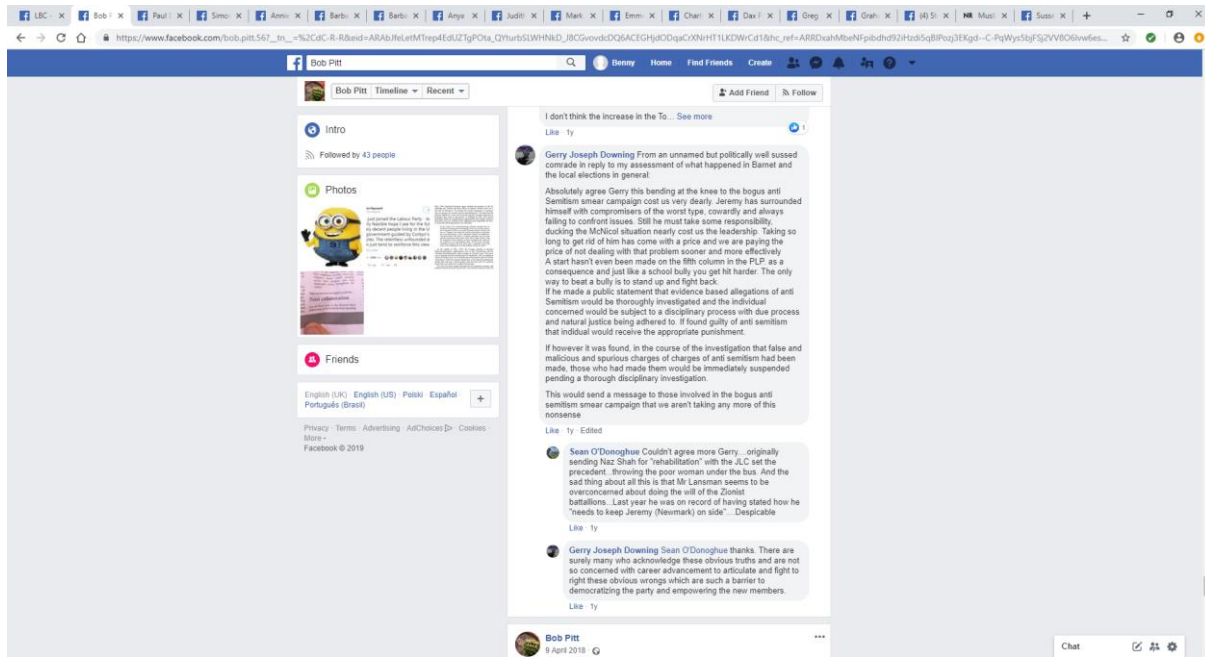


Item 3 – Facebook post from 25 January 2018

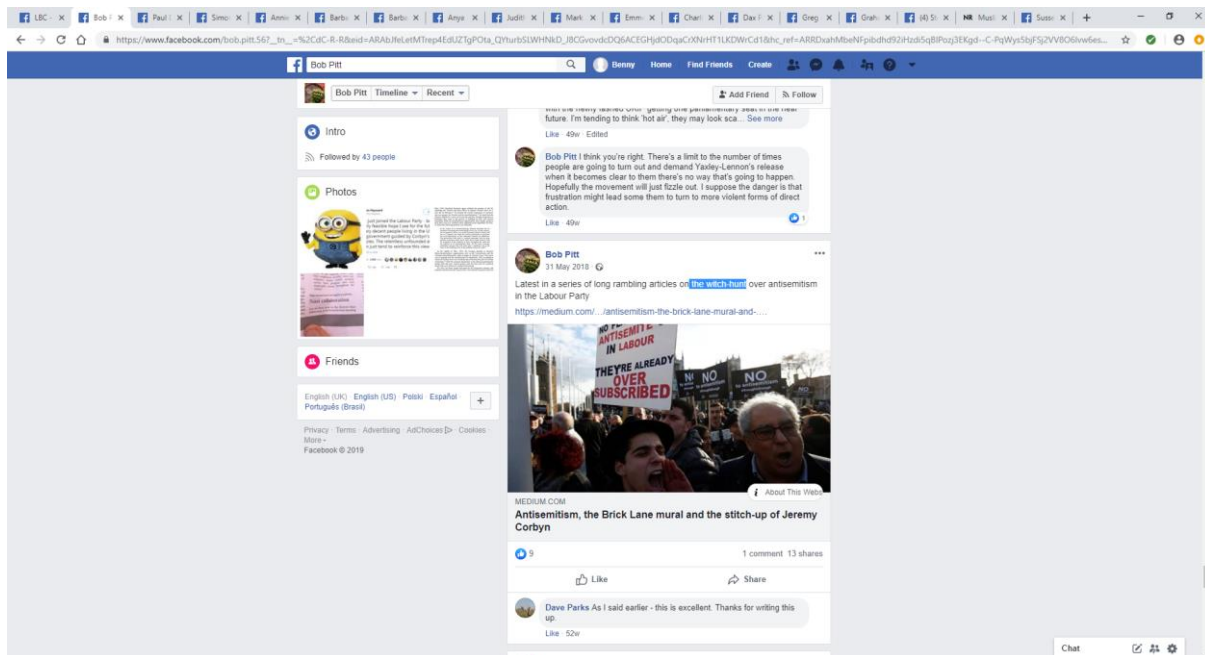


Item 4 – Facebook post from 17 May 2018





Item 5 – Facebook post from 31 May 2018



Item 6 – Facebook Post from 22 August 2018

The screenshot shows a Facebook post by Bob Pitt on August 22, 2018. The post text reads: "According to Medium this is a 15-minute read. (Just imagine how long it took to research and write the thing.) I'm not sure I'd encourage anyone to spend a quarter of an hour of their time on it, but it might be worth dipping into for some facts and statistics." The post includes a link to a Medium article titled "Israel as a racist endeavour" and a red graphic with white text that says: "Jewish newspapers aimed that: Had the full IHRA definition with examples relating to Israel been approved, hundreds, if not thousands, of Labour and Momentum members would need to be expelled." Comments from Marian Hodgson, Bob Pitt, Dorothy Macedo, Jacqueline Walker, and Jan Brooker are visible below the post.

Bob Pitt

Intro

Followed by 43 people

Photos

Friends

English (UK) English (US) Polski Español Português (Brazil)

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Facebook © 2019

Jan Brooker Lansman's personal view will have on the decision. It's not that I have anything other than contempt for Lansman's behaviour

Like · 40w

Bob Pitt On reflection, I think you're right, Jackie. So I've amended the article to include a reference to Lansman.

Like · 40w

Jan Brooker Blast downloaded, edited and printed off article before, to read later! What did you add in [and where]?

Like · 40w Edited

Bob Pitt I just added a sentence in the third-last paragraph that says "Momentum's Jon Lansman, who had originally acclaimed the code as the new gold standard", has been lobbying for the party to adopt the IHRA document in its entirety, including all the examples"

Like · 40w

Jan Brooker Thanks

Like · 40w

Steve Cooke I think you may have unwittingly redrafted the code there

"The IHRA working examples are a 15-minute read. I'm not sure I'd encourage anyone to spend a quarter of an hour of their time on it, but it might be worth dipping into for some facts and statistics."

Like · 40w

Jan Brooker I was interested to read this, via-a-vis the wreath nonsense "It could teach people one thing about public opinion it would be how little most of the political soap-opera actually matters... The row over Jeremy Corbyn and whether or not he laid a... See more

Like · 40w Edited

Bob Pitt Yes, that's interesting, isn't it? Mind you, the media furore over the wreath-laying only went on for a few days, so perhaps it's understandable that many people weren't aware of the details. The antisemitism accusations have been going on for ages, in... See more

Like · 40w

Jan Brooker I'm in the middle of reading: Paul Katerman's "The British Left and Zionism: History of a Divorce" (Manchester Univ Press, 2012), i.e. before Jeremy Corbyn was elected as Leader of the LP, the pro-Israel lobby was making the same points as it is now [which... See more

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national of social ISU ORG UK The contested history of the left and Zionism - International Socialism

Like · 40w Edited

Bob Pitt I have to confess I've acquired a dodgy pdf version of the book. I must read it properly. Also I need to re-read the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism that Katerman refers to. I wrote a pseudonymous attack on the Inquiry for the Mo... See more

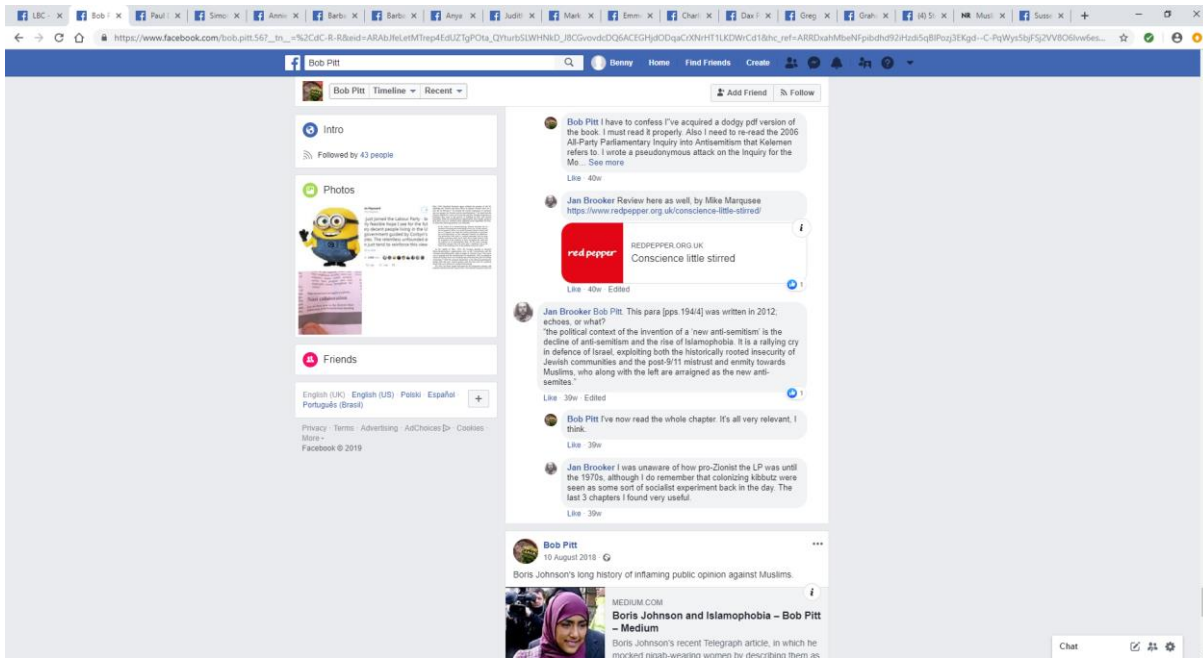
Like · 40w

Jan Brooker Review here as well by Mike Marguesee <https://www.redpepper.org.uk/conscience-little-stirred/>

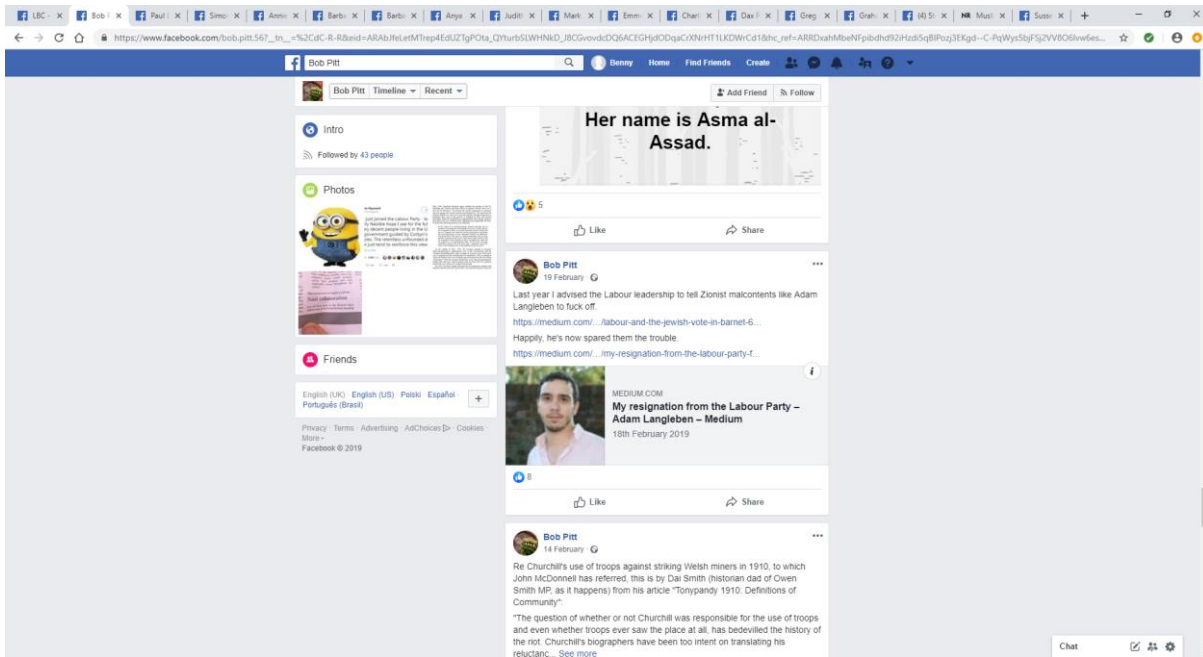
red pepper REDPEPPER ORG UK Conscience little stirred

Like · 40w Edited

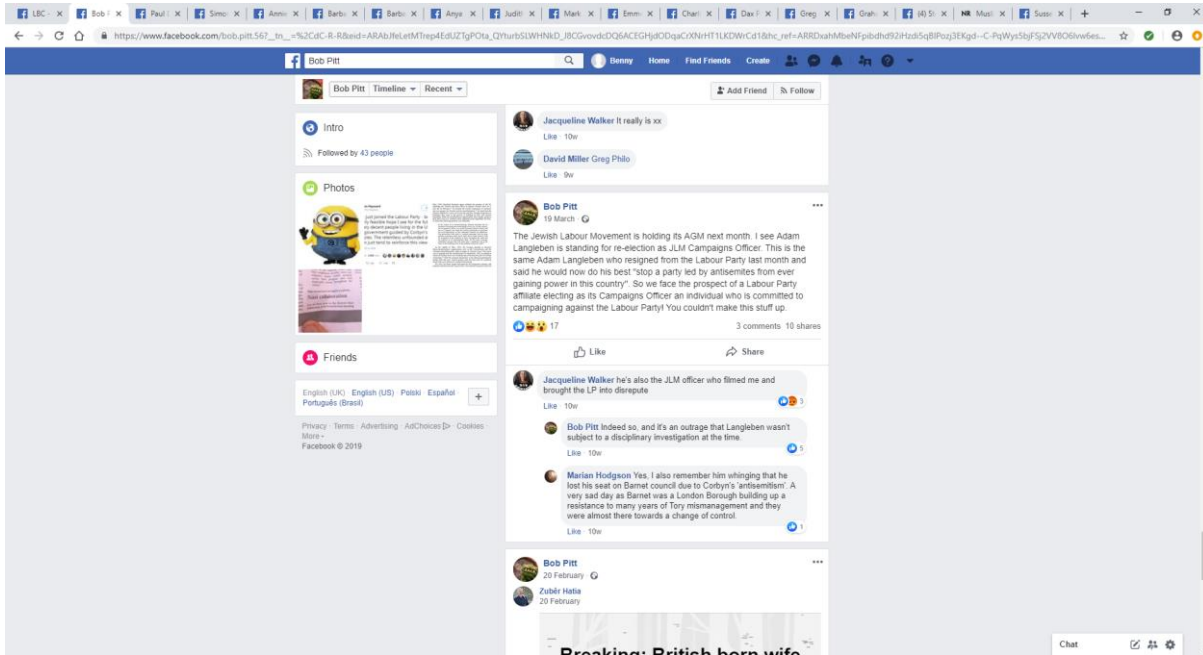
Jan Brooker Bob Pitt: This para [pps 194-4] was written in 2012, echoes, or what? "the political context of the invention of a 'new anti-semitism' is the decline of anti-semitism and the rise of Islamophobia. It is a salacious rvy



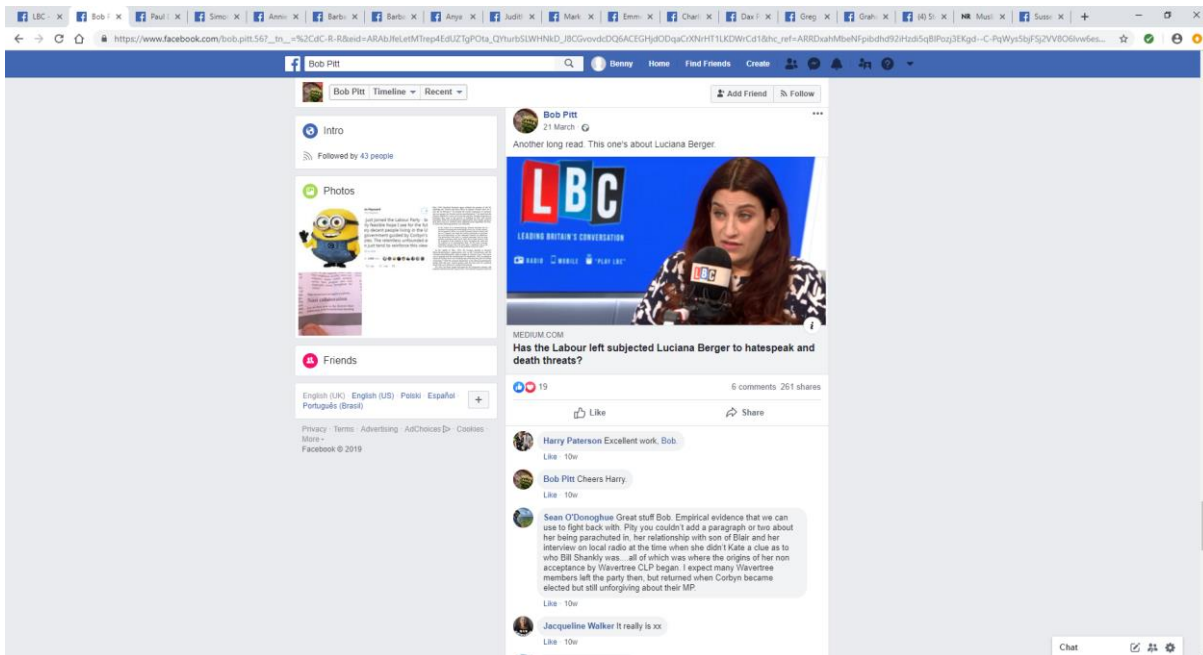
Item 7 – Facebook post 19 February 2019



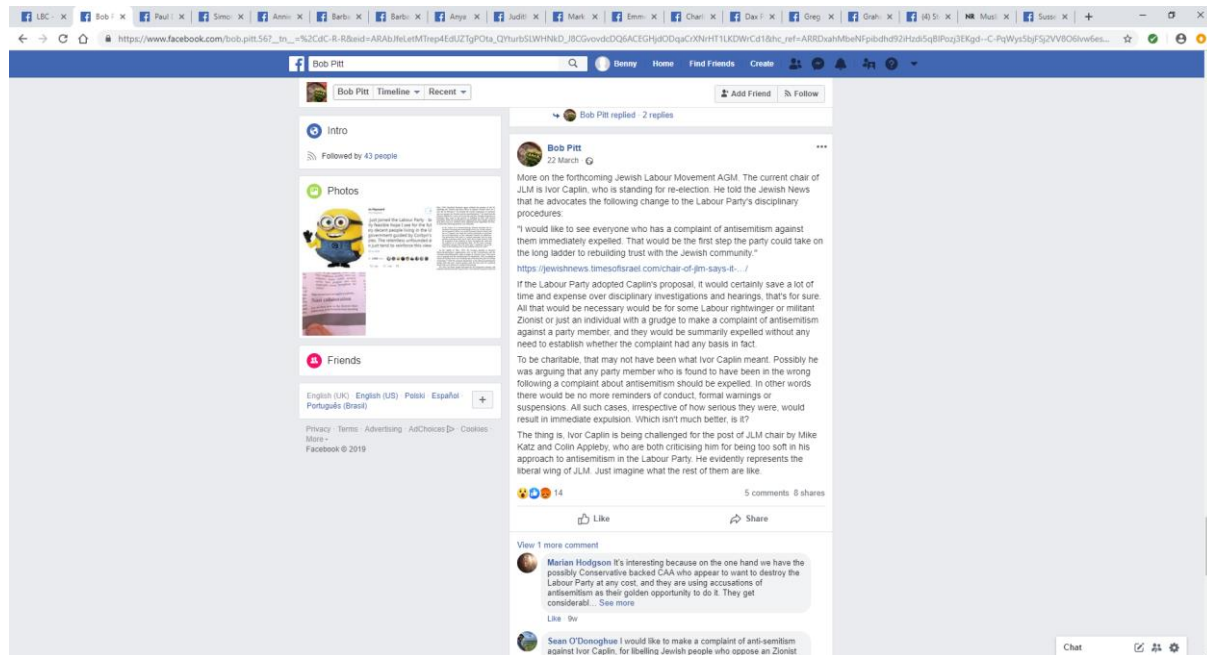
Item 8 – Facebook post 19 March 2019



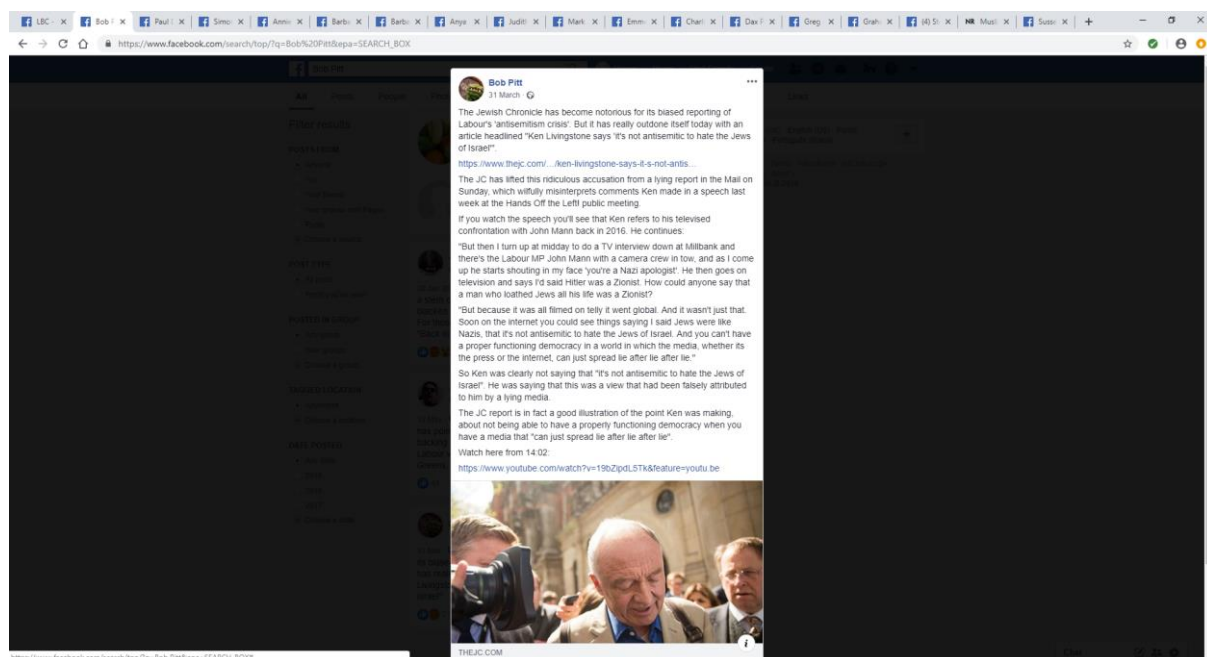
Item 9 – Facebook post from 21 March 2019



Item 10 – Facebook post from 22 March 2019



Item 11 – Facebook post from 31 March 2019



Item 12 – Facebook post from 29 May 2019

The image displays two screenshots of a Facebook post from Bob Pitt, dated 29 May 2019. The post is titled "What happened to Adam Langbein?" and discusses the removal of Adam Langbein from the Labour Party as a campaign officer for the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM). The post includes a video thumbnail showing a news broadcast with the headline "ANTI-SEMITISM ROW: ADAM LANGBEIN LOST TO CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE AND..." and a link to a MEDIUM.COM article.

Post Text:
What happened to Adam Langbein? That's the question everyone is asking. Well, not everyone exactly. Just me at the moment. But the apparent removal of Langbein as campaign officer for the Jewish Labour Movement, which is currently riding a wave of publicity over its role in provoking an EHRC investigation into the Labour Party, has yet to be explained.

Comments:
Matthew Smith: Perhaps they just got wise to the fact that they couldn't continue defying party rules and told him he had to go?
Bob Pitt: I suppose it's possible JLM expelled him, or forced him to resign. But I doubt it. I suspect Langbein's still actively involved in JLM. But his name's been pulled from their website.
Alex Winstanley: How interesting!

Second Screenshot Comments:
Alex Gutteridge: How interesting
Marian Hodgson: It's interesting because on the one hand we have the possibly Conservative backed CAA who appear to want to destroy the Labour Party at any cost, and they are using accusations of antisemitism as their golden opportunity to do it. They get considerable... See more
Sean O'Donoghue: I would like to make a complaint of anti-semitism against Ivor Caplin, for labelling Jewish people who oppose an Zionist state.
Mandy Parry: Corbyn would be gone in a second then. Convenient for them.
Alan Maddison: I think we should remember that 30% of the population endorse antisemitic tropes but the majority without dislike towards Jews, just out of ignorance. It would not take much for JLM/CAA to target those who support Palestinian rights. I mean this is what it's all about, and get rid of tens of thousands of critics of Israeli violations and crimes.

Item 13 – Article published 26 September 2019 written by Bob Pitt

https://medium.com/@pitt_bob/more-antisemitism-hysteria-at-labour-party-conference-372bb75a6a41



[More antisemitism hysteria at Labour Party conference by Bob Pitt | Medium](#)

Last weekend the hysteria over Labour antisemitism reached new heights with physical attacks on a pro-Palestinian banner displayed outside the Labour Party conference in Brighton. The banner ...
medium.com