

# Jewish Everyday Rights Forum

## 2026 Local Elections Asks

The 2026 local elections come at a pivotal time for the UK Jewish community. Amidst a stream of physical attacks on Jewish people and sites, Jewish communities across the UK need local politicians to advocate for them. At the same time as increased racism, the cost-of-living crisis has put extreme pressure on faith-appropriate services. The Jewish Everyday Rights Forum - a collection of frontline services and charities - consistently encounters three drivers of need: **failures in the social welfare system**, a **lack of community provision**, and the growth of **racism directed at Jewish people**. These asks seek to address these:

# 1

### **Be proactive in addressing anti-Jewish racism**

Local authorities should explicitly incorporate anti-Jewish racism into Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and safeguarding training for Councillors, officers, and service providers. A clear understanding of anti-Jewish racism should be implemented consistently across council services, schools, housing, and community safety functions.

# 2

### **Improve local authority knowledge of Jewishness**

Local authorities should improve understanding of Jewish cultural and religious life, including how Jewish practice shapes engagement with public services. This includes recognising the distinctiveness of Jewish ethnicity, alongside religion, and addressing gaps in ethnicity data that can obscure need. Better literacy around Jewish identity supports fairer decision-making in housing, education, social care, and health.

# 3

### **Support intercommunal life and strengthen trust between councils and the Jewish community**

Local authorities should strengthen relationships with Jewish organisations and celebrate collaboration. This includes improving signposting, referral pathways, and communication between councils, local health trusts, and Jewish communal providers. Trusted partnerships help residents access support earlier, reduce pressure on services, and improve the quality of life for residents.

# 4

### **Ensure access to culturally and religiously appropriate food across local services**

Local authorities should ensure access to culturally and religiously appropriate food, including Kosher provision, across local services such as schools, care settings, hospitals, and emergency food provision. Food support should be delivered with dignity and in consultation with community organisations, recognising the role that faith, festivals, and dietary laws play in everyday life.

# 5

### **Apply the Socio-Economic Duty to tackle inequality**

Councils should meaningfully apply the Socio-Economic Duty to address poverty and inequality within the Jewish community, as well as across other minority communities. This includes recognising internal diversity within Jewish populations, including low-income households, disabled residents, older people, and large families, and ensuring policy decisions do not rely on assumptions of uniform affluence.

## A Call for Humanity

At a time where divisive rhetoric is tearing communities apart and bringing danger to the Jewish and other minority communities, we would like to echo the Equally Ours Call for Humanity. This Call asks for parties and candidates to tone down inciteful rhetoric and ensure their campaigns reflect the values of fairness, respect, and our shared humanity. Through our work with the Jewish community, we see first-hand the need for change. The local elections are occurring at an incredibly tense time for Jews in the UK, and recent attempts by campaigners from a range of parties to capitalise on this suffering only brings more danger to our community. Respect for our shared humanity and our equal rights and dignity are cornerstones of our democracy. Election campaigns are crucial testing grounds for all political parties' and their candidates' commitment to them.

## About the Jewish Everyday Rights Forum

The Jewish Everyday Rights Forum brings together Jewish frontline organisations and service providers working with Jewish clients across a wide range of denominations and socio-economic backgrounds. Convened by René Cassin, the Forum offers members the opportunity to share experiences and best practices and serves as an advocacy outlet to influence policy at both the local and national levels. The Forum believes that incorporating Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is a key mechanism for achieving equitable living standards for minority communities. The asks we have set out are rooted in Jewish frontline lived experience and are intended to support councillors in delivering inclusive, rights-based local services for all communities.

## Forum Members

