



Andrew Rosindell M.P.

Member of Parliament for Romford

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Cllr Ray Morgon
Leader of the Council
London Borough of Havering
Town Hall
Main Road
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Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Ray

I am writing to you with grave concern regarding the Council's plans for celebrating Hanukkah in conjunction with the Romford and District Synagogue.

From my understanding, there has been a long-term plan to celebrate Hanukkah in Romford, including by the erection of a public menorah at the Town Hall. Hanukkah is an important religious occasion for the Jewish people, and the menorah is an important symbol of that occasion.

However, I have been made aware that the Council plans to retract its commitment to enabling and participating in this celebration, citing the current conflict in the Middle East.

Should this be true, it would be a grave insult to the Jewish community in Romford for their public celebrations to be prevented by the Council. Quite frankly, it would be shameful!

Fundamentally, this is a matter of religious freedom, and has nothing to do with current affairs in the Middle East. However, the Council supporting such celebration is even more pertinent at this time.

The only Jewish state in the world is suffering under the thumb of terror whilst the British Jewish community is fearful of a rise in antisemitism.

It is imperative that we collectively show support for the British Jewish community, and I hope that the Council does indeed plan to permit and enable public celebration of this traditional holiday as it does with other minority religious occasions, such as Diwali.



It would be a grave disappointment to see public menorahs erected all over Essex, Redbridge, and North London with Havering being the outlier due to flawed and troubling reasoning.

I would be grateful should you be able to provide further context to this situation and hope that you can assure me that the Council will fully enable and participate in public Hannukah celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rosindell

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