

AS a Government, we are committed to doing everything we can in the fight against anti-semitism. We have provided over £2.3 million to fund organisations to prevent hate crime, to increase reporting and to improve the operational response. We are working with our police and universities to stop the spreading of divisive messages on our university campuses, and we have excluded more foreign preachers of hate on the basis of our strategy for preventing extremism than ever before.

Britain is a tolerant country, but no tolerance and no disagreements on international politics or policy should ever be allowed to justify racism, prejudice or extremism in any form. And we will continue to do everything we can to bring anyone guilty of anti-semitic acts to justice.

Of course when the Israeli Government acts in ways that we cannot support, as it did so recently setting out plans to expropriate nearly 1000 acres of land close to Bethlehem, we have to say so. But that should never, and must never, be confused with any kind of weakening in our commitment to Israel. Nor must it be allowed to become an excuse for those who want to promote anti-semitism or extremism.

With me, you have a Prime Minister whose belief in Israel is unbreakable and whose commitment to Israel's security will always be rock solid. I will always stand up for the right of Israel to defend its citizens, as I did earlier this summer in the House of Commons.

I also have a deep appreciation of the incredible contribution that our Jewish communities make in Britain. In welcoming that contribution, I will continue to protect Jewish practices like Shechita and to oppose boycotts and anyone who seeks to delegitimise the State of Israel.

As we enter this time of reflection in marking Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur I hope that your community of Rabbis may be able to offer some reassurance to any who need it about the incredible pride that Britain has in its Jewish communities and our continued determination to fight discrimination and to keep Jewish people safe.

A Jewish friend once asked me whether it will always be safe for his children and grandchildren to live in Britain. The answer to that question will always be "yes". I hope that in years to come we will reach a point where that question will not even need to be asked.

I wish you every success with your conference this week and hope that you all have a happy and sweet new year.

Shanah tovah.

*Yours sincerely,*

*David Cameron*

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis