

Jews will flee if Corbyn becomes PM, says Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt



Thousands of Jews may leave Britain if [Jeremy Corbyn](#) becomes prime minister without eradicating antisemitism from [Labour](#), Europe's most senior rabbi has said, comparing it to fears of a Marine Le Pen presidency in France.

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, also criticised Mr Corbyn for attending a passover dinner hosted by the far-left Jewdas group, saying that he was in effect telling mainstream Jewish bodies to "go fly a kite".

His comments come as polling shows that Mr Corbyn's personal ratings have dropped sharply. A YouGov poll of 1,662 people for The Times reveals that the proportion of those who say he is doing "badly" has jumped by 19 points since December 19-20 to 56 per cent, with the proportion who say he is doing "well" down 14 to 31 per cent. This has not hit Labour's overall ratings, as 42 per cent say they will vote Conservative, down one point on last week, while Labour is on 41 per cent, up two points. The Liberal Democrats are on 7 per cent, down one.

Mr Corbyn has conceded that his party's antisemitism problem is more than "a matter of a few bad apples" and has said: "I am committed to ensuring the Labour Party is a welcoming and secure place for Jewish people."

Rabbi Goldschmidt, 54, said that Mr Corbyn must fulfil his pledge or British Jews would regard him as unelectable and feel left in a "precarious" position.

"If the Jewish community feel they can only be assured of their future and feel safe if one party is in government, and the other party will make them feel less safe and secure, this is a problem and puts the Jewish community in a new situation where, before every election, everything is to be questioned," he told The Times. "Let's assume, for example, that Marine Le Pen became president of France. I'm sure that thousands of Jews would decide at this point to leave France.

"I don't want to make a parallel between British Labour and the French National Front, but if Jews feel there's a certain party which they feel very concerned about, which does not respect its

presence within Great Britain and does not seek its security and its future, then you might have something very similar.”

The Conference of European Rabbis is a representative body for about 700 mainstream synagogue communities, including 150 in Britain. Rabbi Goldschmidt, who is Swiss-born and also Chief Rabbi of Moscow, said there was “a red line” beyond which behaviour could be seen as antisemitic.

“I don’t know if by words [Mr Corbyn] crosses this red line, but by deeds, by joining these [Jewdas] groups and by not doing enough in terms of fighting those antisemitic pockets within his party, he is bound to cross this red line.”

A group of peers, including Lord Sugar, have written to the Metropolitan Police to report antisemitic abuse on Facebook pages backing Mr Corbyn. The letter said that some of the pages incite violence.

John Cryer, a Labour MP, yesterday accused Jennie Formby, the party’s new general secretary, of “a worrying set of priorities” after she used her first days to force two outgoing employees, including Labour’s most senior Jewish employee, Dan Simpson, secretary of the parliamentary party, on to gardening leave before their contracts ended.