

Reinstate Moshe Machover

On Tuesday October 3, Professor Emeritus Dr. Moshe Machover was expelled from the Labour Party, based on allegations that he denies. Professor Machover is an Israeli Jew, the distinguished co-founder of the socialist organisation Matzpen, which from the early 1960s to the 1980s brought together Arab and Jewish opposition to the illegal occupation of Palestine.

This Branch/CLP notes:

1. The first expulsion letter from the head of disputes, Sam Matthews, on October 3, focuses on Professor Machover's article 'Anti-Zionism does not equal Anti-Semitism', which is described as "*apparently* antisemitic" and that "it *appears* to meet the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism which has just been adopted by the Labour Party."
2. The letter of expulsion does not quote the definition but instead says: "Antisemitism of any form – whether direct attacks or pejorative language which may cause offence to Jewish people – is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in the Labour Party. Language that may be perceived as provocative, insensitive or offensive falls short of the standards expected of us as party members and has no place in the party." It appears to be referencing the parts of the IHRA definition that were *not* adopted by the Labour Party.
3. The article in question is a scholarly criticism of Zionism as a political ideology.
4. Professor Machover is accused "of involvement and support for both Labour Party Marxists and the Communist Party of Great Britain (through your participation in CPGB events and regular contributions to the CPGB's newspaper)".
5. Prof Machover has denied all allegations, but has not been given the opportunity to challenge them.
6. That after many Labour Party members, branches and organisations have sent in protest statements, Professor Machover was sent a second expulsion letter on October 6, which states he has only been expelled for his "clear support" for LPM and CPGB. The allegations of anti-Semitism "are not subject to an investigation as you are not currently a member of the Labour Party."

This Branch/CLP further notes:

1. The Chakrabarti Report found the Labour Party's "complaints and disciplinary procedures . . . lacked sufficient transparency, uniformity and expertise" and "failed to observe the vital legal principles of due process (or natural justice) and proportionality". Members deserve to see these principles applied in all disciplinary cases, including that of Professor Machover.
2. This accusation of anti-Semitism will be held on file in the event that after 5 years Professor Machover was to reapply for membership.

This Branch/CLP believes:

1. This action in expelling Professor Machover is arbitrary, lacking in basic justice and is bringing the Labour Party into disrepute.

This Branch/CLP agrees:

1. To fully support Professor Machover and call for his expulsion to be rescinded and for his immediate reinstatement as a member of the Labour Party.

2. To reject any McCarthyite-style move to expel members for alleged “involvement and support for” other left groups on the basis of writing articles and attending and participating in meetings. It is common practice for Labour members of all levels to speak and participate in events of other groups, and have articles published, representing their individual viewpoints, in a range of publications. Jeremy Corbyn had his own column in the *Morning Star* for many years.

3. To call on the NEC to investigate the procedures followed to ensure that principles of natural justice are upheld.

This Branch/CLP further agrees:

1. To submit this to the next higher unit of the Labour Party (e.g. Branch to CLP, CLP to DLP).

2. To send the motion as passed to the following:

Sam Matthews, Head of Disputes

Chair of the NCC

Chair of the NEC

Party General Secretary

The Leader’s Office

Shami Chakrabarti

Plus the Chair and Secretary of all other branches of XXX CLP