

External Affairs Manager: Leeds, Birmingham and Cardiff

The Jewish Leadership Council is the strategic umbrella organisation for Jewish communal organisations. It aims to ensure that the Jewish community in the UK remains vibrant and vital, safe and secure, assured of its place in British society, proud of its heritage and culture and confident in its support of Israel.

In the past eighteen months, we have seen antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric become blurred. "Anti-Zionist" antisemitism is being fuelled by an aggressive BDS movement. The need to respond has become urgent and the JLC is acting accordingly.

To respond to this trend, the JLC has decided to resource communal capacity to mount creative, strategic public policy outreach to respond to today's most important challenges and to prepare for the future.

The JLC prioritised Glasgow, Leeds, Birmingham, and Manchester for supportive investment through external affairs managers. These regional centres will serve other cities close to the proposed hubs. Manchester will, for example, cover major towns and cities in the North West, Leeds will cover Newcastle and Gateshead as well as other communities in Yorkshire. Birmingham role will cover the West and East Midlands. The Scotland role will cover the whole of Scotland. The JLC investment plans have been warmly welcomed by communal bodies in each location. Close working relations with communal leaders is a major part of JLC strategy.

The Birmingham Jewish Representative Council have given their official backing to the appointment and will work with the JLC to find the right candidate.

External Affairs Managers – Role and Remit

These new roles are essential to the ability of the community to respond to challenging campaigns and will form a resource capable of enhancing existing advocacy work by the community. These appointments represent an investment by the JLC in a campaigning capacity for the *whole community* and are designed to provide practical help to the communal bodies in each of the three locations.

Role Description

- Strengthen and support existing regional communal bodies and campaign groups. Harness the knowledge and energy of the individuals in these bodies.
- Produce a plan for advocacy in each region covering key issues. Work closely with We Believe in Israel to produce this plan

- Work closely with lay leaders to develop locally sensitive work programmes. Provide advice to existing communal bodies.
- Strengthen and build a regional network including but not limited to:
 - Local political figures (including local MPs, MSPs, councillors, civic leaders)
 - Local media
 - Community contacts including other faith groups
 - Relations with local student groups
- Relations with regional civil society e.g. trade unions, chambers of commerce
- Coordinate Jewish community advocacy in the region
- Be capable of developing and running innovative campaigns and contact programmes
- Build and maintain a network of local activists - working with We Believe in Israel and local advocacy groups
- Organise outreach events including an appropriate annual reception for stakeholders
- Report to and work with the JLC Director of External Affairs and wider national and regional team to deliver a political engagement strategy

Requirements

- Ideally at least 2 years' experience in a political, communications or community advocacy role where engaging with different stakeholders has been a key part of the role
- An understanding of Jewish community issues and how they relate to wider UK audiences
- An understanding of local politics
- A track record of writing and editing material for different audiences
- Strong political insight and judgement
- Understanding of modern campaigning techniques including social media
- An ability to represent the community with stakeholders
- Passionate in their job and a real team worker
- A good listener

- Holder of a clean driving licence

Salary

- This is a full time and permanent post. Salary will be dependent upon experience.

Reporting Lines

- The post holders will report into the Director of External Affairs at the JLC, but will work very closely with local lay leaders.

Next Steps

- Please send a CV and covering letter with your current salary to Natasha@thejlc.org. Bernard Hughes, Director of External Affairs, is available to answer any questions from applicants about the role.