



The Joseph Interfaith Foundation

*United in a Vision for Truth*

31<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Dear Home Secretary

The Council of Imams and Rabbis of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation is an authoritative religious body that is inclusive of senior Rabbis from Orthodox, Spanish and Portuguese, Reform, Liberal and Masorti movements in Britain, and of senior Imams from major mosques of different ethnic backgrounds from the Muslim community in London. The principal aim of the Council is to promote harmony and interactions between members of both religious communities and to combat misunderstandings that cause tension and strife between them.

The Council is most concerned about the following matter. It has been brought to our attention that as the result of English Defence League propaganda and the waving of the Israeli flag at their demonstrations against the Muslims, a misunderstanding has arisen that the Jewish community supports EDL or the waving of the Israeli flag by them.

The Council wishes rigorously to dispel this fallacious perception. Therefore, we have asked all Rabbinic Assemblies in Britain and the Board of Deputies of British Jews to make official statements regarding this matter. A number of key bodies have done so and the statements are attached for your information.

**The Council respectfully requests that the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, the Home Secretary, and Andrew Stunell MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government, take note of our letter and the official statements.**

The Council will disseminate this information very widely within the Muslim community through its contacts. The information will also be disseminated through the Jewish community via the Rabbinic Assemblies.

We hope very much that the Council's initiative and the official statements will decisively dispel this inaccurate perception of Jewish collusion in the Islamophobic propaganda perpetuated by the EDL, and thereby strengthen community cohesion.

Yours sincerely

Mehri Niknam MBE, Executive Director  
The Council of Imams and Rabbis  
The Trustees of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation

**Trustees: Lord Ahmed, Sir David Michels, Baroness Neuberger, Professor Mona Siddiqui**

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