Jeremy Miles AS/MS Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Reference: WQ89948

Laura Anne Jones MS Senedd Cymru Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

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20 December 2023

Dear Laura,

Thank you for your recent Written Question – WQ89948:

What steps is the Government taking to protect Jewish pupils in schools, universities and throughout the education sector?

I am concerned by reports of learners and students experiencing both antisemitism and Islamophobia in schools and education settings. I have met with representatives of both the Jewish and Muslim communities in Wales and have listened to their experiences and concerns.

The Welsh Government's Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan provides a framework through which we are taking concerted action to tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia. As a country committed to creating an anti-racist Wales by 2030, we are clear that racism and prejudice-related behaviour are unacceptable in our education system and society.

We have been pro-active in sharing information on tackling antisemitism and Islamophobia with our partners across Wales, as well as directly with teachers and education practitioners:

- On Friday 13 October we reminded schools via the Dysg newsletter of our existing statutory anti-bullying guidance for schools <u>Rights, Respect, Equality</u> and the upcoming update to the guidance on prejudice-related bullying.
- We have shared materials and information with all local authorities, including links to the Welsh Government's <u>Hate hurts Wales</u> campaign which is running until at least March 2024.
- Links have also been shared to our conflict in war collection of resources on Hwb.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

On 14 December I wrote to all Further Education and Higher Education institutions in Wales, requesting a summary of progress on advancing race equality within respective institutions, including any key challenges. My letter also stated that adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism is an important step to support understanding and recognition of contemporary forms of antisemitism, and to be clear that antisemitism in any form will not be tolerated in Wales.

On 19 December I, along with the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip, issued a joint letter to all schools and maintained education settings in Wales with advice and information on tackling antisemitism and Islamophobia. The letter also included useful guidance and sources of information for teachers and education practitioners, to support children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles

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