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Antisemitism on websites

BY SHARON MAIL

THE use of internet blogs on Israel on the websites of The Scotsman and The Herald to launch virulently antisemitic diatribes has caused shock and anger.

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities has written to the Press Complaints Commission over the alleged lack of self-policing by the two publications.

In the letters, copied to both papers, SCoJeC gave examples of several chilling comments made, including:



APPALLED: MSP Ken Macintosh

It is high time the entire world stand up against this genetically mutated, inbred Tribe and end their reign of Goyim-terror once and for all.

People around the world will one day unite to declare that Hitler may have been right all along.

Now call me old-fashioned, but please tell me what is wrong with being a racist antisemite?

The Jews have exposed their fangs. Nothing will deter them, except the colour of their filthy people's blood.

Jews plan to take over the world by killing their opponents, Israelis are the descendants of pigs and monkeys.

SCoJeC wrote to the PPC: "These blogs are, unfortunately, not the first of their kind to have been hosted by The Scotsman, whose public comment section frequently provides a forum for some individuals to air racist views in public in the knowledge that a proportion of what is written is likely to remain permanently online.

"Such views are not only extremely unpleasant in themselves, but may also incite others to adopt racist attitudes, or even commit offences against members of different faith or ethnic communities."

Similar comments were made about The Herald blogsite.

A disgusted Dr Kenneth Collins, immediate past president of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and SCoJeC chair, told the Jewish Telegraph: "Some of the comments posted on the blogs are deeply shocking.

"Their racist invective is reminiscent of Nazi rhetoric against the Jews and the terms in which their hatred of Jews is couched is deeply disturbing.

"We trust that the newspapers will take sharp and decisive action in dealing with such abusive racist filth."

An equally horrified Ken Macintosh, MSP for Eastwood, said: "I have read these blogs and the comments are appalling, racist and antisemitic.

"Newspapers need to exercise more control over what is allowed to be published online in their name. This goes way beyond anything I would deem acceptable under freedom of speech.

"I believe some of these posts should be investigated on the grounds that they constitute a criminal act in inciting racial hatred."

SCoJeC has requested that the Press Complaints Commission look into the two newspapers' procedures for moderating blogs.

At present it appears that they only remove material when complaints have been made and are not otherwise proactive.

The blogs have also been reported to the police and it is hoped that they will be able to trace some of the perpetrators.