



SCoJeC was established in 1999 to represent the Jewish Communities of Scotland to the newly devolved Scottish Government and other Scotland-wide public bodies, and it continues very effectively to serve that purpose, as well as providing a number of other services to support the community.

I became Chair in 2016. Nearly my whole tenure has unfortunately been dominated by the theme of antisemitism. In 2016, we were coming to terms with the findings of our Scottish Government funded research *What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland*, which highlighted a significant increase in antisemitism following the Gaza conflict in 2014. There was a crying need to strengthen our measures to support, connect, and represent our various Jewish communities, particularly in Aberdeen which became an anti-Israel hotspot, and Edinburgh which had suffered particularly from the victimisation of Israeli performers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe of 2014. During my tenure we also had to respond strongly to proposals by a group called Clyde Rights to introduce a teaching resource on Israel / Palestine to pupils in the 11-14 age group in schools, which could have divided communities and fostered prejudice about Jews and Muslims in the Middle East context. We set up an ambitious Dialogue with the Church of Scotland in order to tackle the Kirk's continual emphasis on Israeli-Palestinian relations in its reports to the General Assembly. As we worked hard to combat antisemitism in its various new forms, particularly when presented under self-contradictory slogans like "Antisemitism is a crime, Antizionism is a duty", it became clear that that International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism (originally the EU Monitoring Committee on Racism and Xenophobia definition) would be a good template for us to support. This makes clear the distinction between legitimate criticism of Israel, such as would be applied to any other democratic state, and targeting Israel by demonisation, deligitimisation and double standards. During my time in office I am proud that we saw the Scottish Government and many public bodies adopt the IHRA definition, including several local authorities and all the major political parties. During my tenure there have been many shifts in international politics and particularly in the Middle East. Fortunately, we have not yet witnessed another huge outbreak of violence such as Gaza in 2014. The difference now is the clear position of our First Minister, who has publicly stated more than once that international events are no excuse for victimisation of any community in Scotland and that she "would not want to live in a country where people are afraid to admit they are Jewish". During my time in office, the Scottish Government has continued to support us financially giving us a secure basis on which to plan our programme. In return, we are, I believe, trusted advisers in policy making who can be relied on to use with integrity all the trust that the Scottish Ministers have put in us, on issues like death certification, marriage celebrants, trading in looted works of art, and hate crime.

The rest of my report will concentrate on 2019, and at the end I shall comment on the first half of 2020, so that my successor as Chair may start with a clean sheet.

2019

Our Director, Ephraim Borowski, assisted by Danielle Bett in her first full year as Scotland Public Affairs Manager appointed by the Jewish Leadership Council, has ably represented the Jewish community at numerous meetings with politicians and other public officers. In the early part of 2019, we worked closely with the co-Presidents of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, and after GJRC's AGM we continued that close collaboration with Paul Edlin, the new President.

In 2019 the main grant-giver continued to be the Scottish Government, which through its Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF) supports a number of functions. After a temporary increase in 2016-17, the grant was pegged at £50K a year until 2019-20. (Owing to the Corona crisis, that level is being continued for another 15 months.)

Leah Granat remained responsible for research and publications, and was able to reduce her hours to part time in 2019, although this has been temporarily upset by the extra work generated by the Covid crisis. As well as a daily Political Affairs Digest (PAD), which has just passed its 2000th issue, she produces the weekly publication MEMO, supported by PECF, continued as a partnership with BEMIS Scotland, a strategic partner in the Scottish Government's Race Equality Framework. Our partnership with BEMIS Scotland involves both a funding contribution to MEMO and to our outreach activities (see below), and is of key importance to SCoJeC. PECF also supports other Outreach activities and has enabled us to continue our contract with Fiona Frank as our Projects and Outreach Manager. Joanne Gabbay continued in her role as Education and Outreach Assistant. Melissa Eisenberg took the role of Social Media and Marketing Assistant but has recently been replaced by Geanina Beres. Our daily media digest is now prepared by Danielle, Ephraim, and Yoni Satat.

We had fewer direct meetings with Ministers and MSPs in 2019 than in some years but notable meetings did take place with Ian Murray MP, now Shadow Scottish Secretary, and with Monica Spooner MSP, where issues of antisemitism in the Labour Party were extensively discussed. We also had a joint meeting with Green Party MSP Ross Greer along with GJRC at which we discussed the Green Party's policy on BDS among other matters. Later in the year, matters were dominated by the upcoming General Election, and instances of antisemitism that came to light amongst candidates, most notably Neale Hanvey, who was elected as an MP despite having been disowned at the time by the SNP. We are most grateful for the positive approach the SNP has taken to the Jewish community's concerns, and for Mr Hanvey's own willingness to engage with us, the Westminster All Party Group on Antisemitism, and others. He has now been reinstated, and wrote a remarkable article for the *Jewish News* on his new insight.

During 2019 a new cohort of "Volunteer Educational Ambassadors" received AQA accreditation and began to assist with this work. We also continued to be grateful to Debby Taylor and Margalit Borowski, who have been delivering sessions in schools in different parts of Scotland, and to Professor Joe Goldblatt, who has not only led educational sessions in schools but personally delivered "JOES Boxes" to different locations. This was completed in 2019 and I would like to thank Joe Goldblatt for all that he did before standing down from SCoJeC at the end of 2019.

We are very grateful to the People's Postcode Trust for a grant of £15K to expand our programme to train and support volunteers who can take education about the lived experience of Judaism to schools and other external settings. Despite the coronavirus crisis, we have just completed one

Zoom training course for new volunteers. The new and existing volunteers have been working on short videos about aspects of Jewish life, designed to be of help to schools providing remote education during the lockdown.

In 2019 we also undertook a new survey of Jewish people in Scotland by means of an online questionnaire and some focus groups. Fiona Frank, our Projects and Outreach Manager, has recruited final year students to help with analysing this research which is an ongoing project.

We have also been fortunate to be allocated very generous support by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Foundation to continue our programme of outreach visits and special events throughout Scotland. This was another ambitious year for our events programme – we held 20 events in all parts of Scotland from Arran to Shetland. Full reports of these events can be found on our website.

During 2019, as mentioned above, following an extensive period of correspondence and meetings with the Jewish Community, led by SCoJeC, the Scottish Government decided that Education Scotland would no longer support the proposed Israel / Palestine Teaching Resource. We also continued our Dialogue with the Church of Scotland but were disappointed that the 2019 General Assembly received a report on the Church's property in Israel that again reflected their particular, supposedly theological, point of view on the Israel / Palestine conflict. Dialogue stalled after this but a meeting involving the Chief Rabbi personally on 4 February 2020 gave some hope it might be resumed under strict ground rules.

During the year SCoJeC has submitted responses to a wide range of consultations by the Scottish Government, and other bodies, on matters affecting the Community, listed separately below. All these responses can be accessed on our website at [www.scojec.org/consultations.html](http://www.scojec.org/consultations.html).

Within the community, SCoJeC also acts as umbrella for a number of legal purposes, such as the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme ("Disclosure"), sponsoring visa applications on behalf of Jewish communal organisations, and confirming the authenticity of proposed marriage officiants who are not synagogue rabbis for National Records of Scotland. Our website ([www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)) is increasingly popular as the source of information on the Jewish community for government and other officials, visitors, ex-pats, and others.

On the financial front, we are immensely grateful to the communal Trusts and other organisations that support us financially, especially the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust which increased its funding significantly this year, Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, which has very generously supported our outreach events, and the Queen's Park Charitable Trust. Our thanks also go to the West of Scotland Kashrut Commission, the Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society, and the congregations that support us financially, demonstrating that they understand the need to engage with politicians and others in order to maintain religious freedoms. We are also grateful to the JLC for continuing to support the appointment of Danielle Bett who is performing an outstanding role on behalf of the Jewish Community in Scotland. Despite repeated approaches, the Board of Deputies is not willing to provide any funding to SCoJeC. However, the recent and long-awaited appointment of Sara Radivan, based in Manchester, whose current role is to support Community Development in the regions in dealing with the Corona crisis, may indicate a greater level of support in kind from the BoD in future.

2020

In 2020 we were proud to collaborate with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council on a major event to celebrate Glasgow Jewry which took place in the City Chambers on 4 February. This was attended by nearly 300 people, and the First Minister gave the keynote speech. On the platform with her were the Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Rabbi Moshe Rubin, Senior Orthodox Rabbi in Scotland, the President of the Board of Deputies, Marie Van Der Zyl, the Chair of the Jewish Leadership Council, Jonathan Goldstein, and the Lord Provost, Philip Braat. Paul Edlin and I both spoke at this event, signalling our close relationship and co-operation. We were also delighted to be entertained by the choir of Calderwood Lodge Primary School.

We had embarked also on an ambitious programme of events for 2020 when the Corona crisis struck us. I am devastated by the immediate loss of lives in nursing homes in Glasgow and even more shocked and saddened by the loss of life in our sister communities of London and Manchester particularly. In Scotland we very quickly put arrangements in place to support, connect and represent the communities of SCoJeC and as the crisis struck just before Pesach, the first priority was to get appropriate products and support to people celebrating the Festival in unprecedented isolation. The Scottish Government came quickly to our aid with financial support towards Pesach food packages, and setting up IT and telephone methods of reassuring people, keeping in touch and holding virtual events. In Glasgow under Ethne Woldman and Joe Freedman, a new group called Pulling Together quickly organised a volunteer food delivery service that has gone from strength to strength, while Jewish Care Scotland, Cosgrove Care and Newark Care as well as the synagogues pulled out all the stops to organise support and help for their service users and their members. In Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Tayside and Fife, community leaders similarly lost no time in organising local support, including collecting food parcels from central locations, telephoning members and ensuring that everyone had the information they needed to cope with Pesach. The arrangements put in place at the time of crisis have been tested and have held up well, as, unfortunately our communities have experienced, successive Shabbatot and Shavuot under lockdown.

During the crisis, SCoJeC has held virtual meetings every 2 weeks with representatives of all our communities and have offered as much support as we can, and Ephraim has had “meetings” at least weekly, and sometime more often, with Scottish Government Ministers and officials to ensure they are fully aware of our Community’s needs and concerns. While, as mentioned above, we have obtained some emergency funding from the Scottish Government, it has become clear that money is not the main issue for most people; it is information and the need to feel connected despite social distancing. Therefore, our Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat, quickly set up a completely new section of our website devoted to information and resources for coping and connecting with each other as Jewish people during the crisis. This has been very well used. Our Projects and Outreach Manager, Fiona Frank, quickly realised that Zoom holds out the potential to run events for large numbers of people where performers and the audience all in their own homes. By this method she has run 2 klezmer concerts, both with an international ‘audience’, a weekly art club, a Yiddish Open Mic session, and 3 book talks. and in addition has put on a weekly Zoom training session for all levels to increase access to this new technology.

We have raised more from donations by our online audience than we ever expected and have been able to contribute more than £3000 to Aberdeen Synagogue’s roof fund. Fiona has also been

publishing a weekly e-news, rather than monthly as before the crisis, to inform people about everything that is happening and that might be of interest to them.

Another element of Fiona's work in 2020 has been to go back to the respondents surveyed in 2019 to find out how their experience of being Jewish in Scotland has changed during the Corona crisis. We hope that Fiona will be able to complete this, with the help of her student interns, before she retires in September.

I am proud of the team and what they have achieved. A healthy organisation is one that is nimble and thinks on its feet, and SCoJeC has certainly shown that we are able to rise to the challenge of working in entirely new ways and have adapted very quickly.

But the Corona crisis will not last forever. We now have to start to prepare for a return to normality. One challenge will be how far we maintain our new ways of working by Zoom and how far we go back to meeting face to face all over Scotland. The remote meetings and events undoubtedly have some advantages. They are a way of beating the Scottish weather and long travel distances, as well as the uncertainties of public transport. But will we really want to carry on like this, not being able to see each other in the flesh, to eat food together and to see each other in our own Jewish habitats? The right balance will be a matter for careful consideration over some time.

Looking to the future, our organisational priority must surely be to secure sufficient funding to enable us to employ the staff we need to enable us to continue our essential work. We have been extremely fortunate that from the outset our Director has undertaken his work in a voluntary capacity. However, continuing to presume on both his time and his good will is neither fair nor sustainable, and we need to plan on employing an appropriately salaried Chief Executive in our strategy for the future.

In conclusion I wish to thank our Director Ephraim Borowski, Leah Granat, our Research and Publications Officer, and Fiona Frank, our Projects and Outreach Manager, who has developed the education and outreach role to a new level in 2019, and showed such imagination and resourcefulness in 2020, for their outstanding service, not just to SCoJeC but to the Jewish Community of Scotland. I add thanks to Joanne Gabbay, Margalit Borowski, Melissa Eisenberg, and now Geanina Beres, who are making a great contribution as sessional staff.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council for the terrific partnership we enjoy in the public affairs role; and last but not least I must thank the Council and the Executive for all your support during the year and I must especially mention the co-Presidents of GJRC, Nicola Livingston and Evy Yedd, and now Paul Edlin, for their unstinting support to me personally. I also pay tribute to everyone who has done a massive amount of voluntary work in their communities including places where it is difficult and involves great sacrifice to maintain a Jewish life. SCoJeC's unique role is to reach out to Jewish people in far flung places and to support their leaders but their leaders also support us, for which we are immensely grateful.

**Micheline Brannan**  
**June 2020**



**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities  
 Financial Summary for 2020**

	General Funds	Equalities 2017-20	Events	Education	Peoples Lottery	Emergency Funding	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	2020 TOTAL
<b>Opening Balance at 1 January 2020</b>	<b>27,836.35</b>	<b>17,276.15</b>	<b>-30,936.93</b>	<b>-5,754.56</b>			<b>6,815.94</b>	<b>3,575.00</b>	<b>18,811.95</b>
<b>INCOME</b>									
Affiliations	890.00								890.00
Equalities Grant		25,000.00							25,000.00
General Donations	2,080.04								2,080.04
Community Trust Funding	3,000.00								3,000.00
CST Funding	0.00								0.00
Events			3,690.86						3,690.86
Education									0.00
Peoples Lottery					15,000.00				15,000.00
Photography Project									0.00
Emergency Funding						4,650.00			4,650.00
	<b>5,970.04</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>3,690.86</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>4,650.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>54,310.90</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>									
Staff	5,557.00	8,650.50	2,520.00	547.50	60.00	1,840.00			19,175.00
Sessional Staff	1,598.25	4,759.77	1,207.22	1,651.53	0.00	165.00			9,381.77
Office & Telephone	652.38	1,036.11	36.46	118.30	0.00	143.67			1,986.91
Advert, Print & Stationery	0.00	692.00	830.80	0.00	0.00	30.00			1,552.80
Travel	89.85	128.80	546.84	111.06	0.00				876.55
Hospitality & Events	110.49	16.10	3,716.06	480.00	0.00				4,322.65
Subscriptions, Affiliations & Licence Fees	0.00	0.00							0.00
Professional Fees	245.00	245.00				22.00			512.00
Bank Charges			30.00						30.00
Emergency Funding						2,193.44			2,193.44
Sundry Expenses	333.69								333.69
	<b>8,586.66</b>	<b>15,528.28</b>	<b>8,887.38</b>	<b>2,908.39</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>4,394.11</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>40,364.81</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>25,219.73</b>	<b>26,747.88</b>	<b>-36,133.45</b>	<b>-8,662.95</b>	<b>14,940.00</b>	<b>255.89</b>	<b>6,815.94</b>	<b>3,575.00</b>	<b>32,758.04</b>
<b>Surplus to end May 2020</b>									<b>13,946.09</b>

**Membership of Council (June 2020)**

Glasgow:	Paul Edlin, Henry Lovat, Paul Morron, Susan Siegel, Mia Spiro
Edinburgh:	John Danzig, Raymond Taylor, Gillian Raab
Aberdeen:	Hilary Franklin
Tayside & Fife:	Paul Spicker
Highlands:	Linda Martin
Small Communities:	Mark Robertson
Student Chaplaincy:	Nicola Livingston
Israelis in Scotland:	Danielle Bett
Scottish Jewish Archives:	Fiona Brodie
Immediate Past Chair:	Hilary Rifkind
Coopted:	Micheline Brannan, Simon Dover, Alan Kay, Carol Levstein, Hilary Rifkind, Mark Taylor



It gives me great pleasure to report on yet another year of outstanding success for the Council. Despite the shadow that the current Coronavirus crisis has cast over us all as individuals and as a Community, from my frequent engagements with the Scottish Government and other faith and ethnic communities, I can say with certainty that the Jewish Community, and SCoJeC in particular, have weathered these challenges far better than most.

I always find it a challenge to write this report: am I reporting on Financial Year 2019, like the attached formal accounts? Or should I report on our achievements since the last AGM in June 2019? Inevitably the most recent events are at the front of my mind, so often the first draft looks like my current diary, but this year I have more excuse than usual, because the world has so changed for the busier – first, because so much of communal activity has been affected by the pandemic, then the lockdown, and now the gradual easing of restrictions; and secondly, because it is now so much easier to “attend” meetings remotely that I have never had more meetings to attend than since no-one has been allowed to attend meetings!

SCoJeC's objectives are *Representing, Connecting, and Supporting Jewish people in Scotland*; we have achieved outstanding success on all these fronts, both before and during the crisis:

- **Representing the Community** – by meeting politicians, civil servants, and others to brief them on issues of concern to Jewish people in Scotland; responding to consultations and enquiries by the Scottish Government, Parliament, and others on matters that could affect the community; advancing public understanding through good quality formal and informal education about Judaism and the Jewish Community, including creating new materials for home schooling; ensuring that the concerns of Jewish people are heard where they should be; and maintaining and adapting our extensive and much commended website as a key source of information about Jewish people in Scotland.
- **Connecting the Community** – by providing a support network for the smaller Jewish communities and for potentially vulnerable Jewish people outwith the formal community, particularly at this time; publishing *Four Corners* and arranging events – now, of course, virtual – to foster a sense of community amongst people of Jewish background throughout the country; and working with Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland to support Jewish students in Scottish universities and colleges.
- **Supporting the Community** – by responding to general enquiries about communal facilities and services; advising and assisting people who have been victims of hate crimes, and liaising with the police and prosecutors about these incidents; alerting relevant organisations in the national and local Jewish Community about matters that might affect them, particularly at this time; keeping communities informed about political and civic developments by publishing digests of relevant information for Jewish communal organisations and minority ethnic communities; and assisting communal organisations to comply with Immigration and Protecting Vulnerable Groups regulations.

Looking back, the best this report can do is offer a snapshot. Formal policy consultations and meetings with policy-makers are listed below, as are the schools where our volunteers have spoken to nearly 3000 pupils from the Dumfries to Dingwall, and our community-building social and cultural events from Lamlash to Lerwick. Our daily *Political Affairs Digest* (PAD) for Jewish communal organisations ([www.scojec.org/pad.html](http://www.scojec.org/pad.html)) recently reached the significant

milestone of its 2000th issue, and MEMO, our weekly digest of current information for minority ethnic communities ([www.scojec.org/memo.html](http://www.scojec.org/memo.html)) has been particularly popular in these troubled times. These are produced with exceptional diligence by Leah Granat, who is also responsible for our website, which is ever more popular as the go-to source of information about the Community, with more than 12 000 files of information.

During 2019, this registered more than 2 million hits, plus more than 205 000 “impressions” on Facebook and Twitter. We have also recently registered our own YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/c/scojec](http://www.youtube.com/c/scojec)) where we are uploading recordings of recent events and new educational materials. The consistently most popular section is our Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland, which had more than 50 000 visits last year – up from 13 689 two years ago! We created a new section of the website ([www.scojec.org/lockdown.html](http://www.scojec.org/lockdown.html)), initially with information and advice about how to celebrate Pesach in the time of Corona, which is now updated almost daily with information about communal events and facilities. To date it has had around 40 000 visits.

In addition, Leah is our 24/6 enquiry line, responding to around 50 miscellaneous queries a week from public bodies, members of the Community, people planning holidays in Scotland, the media, and the Scottish public! Around a quarter require significant time to research and respond, although some are easier to answer, such as the location of the glatt kosher butcher in Campbelltown!

One of SCoJeC’s strengths has been that we see our outward-facing and community-building activities as entirely intertwined: we can only represent Jewish people in Scotland if we listen to what they have to say, and we can only hear what they have to say if we can get them into the room, and we can only get them into the room by putting on social and cultural events (and providing food!) to attract them there. In 2019 we were delighted that we were able to hold our Council meetings in all the four corners of the Scottish Community – Aberdeen, St Andrews, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. These events also give very isolated people an opportunity to meet others and speak their minds, which helps them feel more connected, so more secure and better supported, and less vulnerable and more at ease with their identity as Jewish people in Scotland. Our funding from the Scottish Government recognises this.

Unfortunately much of our time is taken up with combatting antisemitism in all its forms – supporting the victims, liaising with the authorities, commenting in the media, collating information, pressing local and national politicians to show zero tolerance, educating other communities and civic society, and arguing for stronger legislation. Despite the worrying rise in reported incidents, it is important not to overstate the case – as the previous Chief Constable put it, the Community needs to remain alert, but not become alarmed.

Unfortunately antisemitic comments by politicians of all parties remains a concern, although it is gratifying that the media regard this as worthy of comment, and we are fortunate that the main Scottish parties all have robust procedures for dealing with it. Our policy is that we seek to educate, not to punish, as exemplified by the case of Neale Hanvey, who was suspended by the SNP after consultation with SCoJeC, within hours of his offensive social media posts coming to light, despite it being too late to replace him as their candidate in the General Election. After he nonetheless won the seat, the Party encouraged him to engage with SCoJeC and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Antisemitism, and he has sought to make amends by educating himself on why his actions had caused such offence. He has now been readmitted to the SNP, and has written an account of his journey in an article for the *Jewish News* (see [blogs.timesofisrael.com/apology-for-posts-was-a-watershed-moment-for-me/](https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/apology-for-posts-was-a-watershed-moment-for-me/)). Would that other parties acted so decisively, but we do have good relationships with their Scottish leadership, and, in the case of Labour in particular, look forward to working together on antisemitism awareness training once the outcome of the current EHRC inquiry is known.

Of course, Antisemitism is not the only issue that has the potential to impact severely on Jewish life in Scotland, and they all have to compete for our attention. We are therefore particularly fortunate to have the assistance of Danielle Bett, the JLC's Scotland Manager, with this side of our work. We are extremely grateful to the JLC for their support through this appointment, and to Danielle for her dedication and her always level-headed advice, which has helped forge smooth and successful joint working arrangements with the Glasgow Rep Council and hugely increased the Community's ability to engage with public life in Scotland.

We also have an excellent team to deliver the other aspects of our activities. Our Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat, now works part-time, but continues to be responsible for most of what we have undertaken to deliver under the Scottish Government's Promoting Equality and Cohesion scheme: our current affairs digests, MEMO and PAD, consultation responses, our website, and *Four Corners*, as well as responding to huge variety of phone and e-mail enquiries – see Leah's detailed report below. Leah is in many ways the backbone – and the memory – of SCoJeC, and without her competence, conscientiousness, and attention to detail we could not have achieved half of what we have for Jewish people in Scotland.

Our thanks also to our Projects and Outreach Manager, Fiona Frank, and her team for all their efforts to “connect and support Jewish people in Scotland” through our community development work, especially at this time. Joanne Gabbay, our Education and Outreach Worker, has been training new “Volunteer Ambassadors” and managing the production of new on-line resources by remote control. Geanina Beres, our Marketing and Social Media Assistant, has not only demonstrated a talent for eye-catching publicity, but has willingly and expertly turned her hand to running our on-line events. Sadly, Fiona plans to retire shortly; her many talents will be difficult to replace, but the process of recruitment is well under way.

Last year I concluded by reporting a small surplus; in 2019 we returned a small deficit despite some significant expenses. We have cut costs, for example reducing *Four Corners* from 6 to 4 pages, and we have reduced the net cost of events by charging for or taking collections at events. We have also benefitted from the generosity of the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, and Scotland's synagogues and other communal bodies. To them all, we are very grateful.

However, despite roughly breaking even, this is – as we say every year – simply not sustainable. SCoJeC is one of those things that, if it didn't exist would have to be invented! But we do it on a shoe-string, and by straining the good will of our volunteers; we need adequate professional staff including a Chief Executive. The support of the JLC has certainly helped, but where is the Board of Deputies? Without SCoJeC it would have to choose between engaging with Scotland's very different politics at huge cost to themselves, or else abandoning their claim to protect the whole of the UK Jewish Community. That SCoJeC delivers is evidenced throughout this report; that we deliver value for money is demonstrated by the continuing support of the Scottish Government; we ask the Board to join them.

This has been an exceptional and very successful year, and I wish to pay tribute as ever to all my colleagues: and especially to Micheline as she reaches the end of her four year term, to Fiona Brodie for her work as Vice Chair, to all our Executive and Council for their advice and support, to our staff and volunteers for their efforts and achievements, and especially to Fiona Frank who will be so difficult to replace. And finally to all those who help us to represent, connect, and support Jewish people in Scotland either financially or by giving their time. SCoJeC and all Jewish people in Scotland owe you our thanks.

**Ephraim Borowski, Director**

**June 2020**



**Parliament and Government**

Meetings with Ministers and opposition party leaders  
Weekly meetings with various officials during Covid-19 crisis: funerals, places of worship, funding, etc  
Regular meetings with SG Community Safety Unit, CST, police, and Crown Office  
Proposed consolidation of Hate Crime legislation  
Census re Ethnicity question  
Marriage, Civil Partnership, Divorce: secondary legislation  
Death registration, post mortems, Medical Review, mortuary standards  
Education Scotland: "Israel/Palestine resource"  
Revision of Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme ("Disclosure")  
Prisoners claiming to be Jewish  
Cross-Party Groups on Freedom of Religion, Bridges with Israel, Race Equality, Tackling Islamophobia

**Interfaith and Community Relations**

Church of Scotland: Dialogue group  
Contacts with other churches  
Muslim Council of Scotland; Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society  
BEMIS  
Interfaith Scotland

**Media interest** (excluding JC and JT)

recent requests for comment: Antisemitism (specific incidents, specific politicians, Labour party, campus, CST statistics, Nazi dog, conspiracy theories); freedom of speech; ethnicity in census; issues around Covid-19, esp death statistics, funerals, and mourning;

**Projects**

Equality Fund: MEMO and PAD, Outreach and Community Development  
Educational materials, "JOES Boxes", volunteer training  
Pilgrimage II

**Communal Matters**

Helping other communal orgs during the Covid crisis – Pesach packages; information; Zoom; etc  
Antisemitic incidents and prosecutions – loss of confidence in the police and judicial system  
Antisemitism in schools  
Regulatory activities: PVG, immigration, marriage registration  
GDPR: briefing

**Finance and Administration**

SG Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund  
Communal Trusts: Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, Netherlee and Clarkston Trust; Queens Park Trust  
UK Community: JLC and Board of Deputies  
Staffing issues – recruiting new Projects and Outreach Manager  
Fundraising



**Regular Meetings**

SCoJeC / GJRC / JLC liaison meetings

BEMIS

Interfaith Scotland

Church of Scotland: Joint Dialogue Group (with Board of Deputies and Office of Chief Rabbi)

Scottish Alliance against Prejudice and Hate Crime (SAAPaHC)

Police Scotland National Independent Strategic Advisory Group and IAG on policing Covid regulations

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Race Equality

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Building Bridges with Israel

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Human Rights

Scottish Churches Committee Safeguarding Group (“Disclosure”)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education

Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings; and Regional Deputies Assembly  
Defence and Group Relations Division

**Occasional Meetings and Conferences**

First Minister, Justice Secretary, Communities Secretary

Opposition Party Leaders: Conservative, Labour, Lib-Dem

Various MSPs of all parties to discuss matters of concern to the community

Scottish Government Justice Dept, Police Division, Crown Office, Police re Hate Crime

Scottish Government re Connected Communities, Family Law, Holocaust restitution

Scottish Government and Education Scotland re “Teaching resource”

Scottish Government: review of Hate Crime Legislation

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

CST briefings on antisemitic incident statistics

National Records of Scotland and Office for National Statistics (re census)

BEMIS Winter Festivals programme (for Scottish Government)

Edinburgh Interfaith Association

Scottish Refugee Council

National Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception

Anne Frank Trust Parliamentary reception

Voluntary Action Fund seminars

Scottish Institute for Policing Research conference

NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland (re mortuaries)

MCS re burial and post mortem issues

STUC and GMB union



### **Political and other monitoring**

- On a daily basis I monitor the activities of a large number of organisations including the Scottish, UK, Welsh, and Northern Ireland Parliaments and Governments, the European Parliament, the United Nations, and a very large number of statutory and non-statutory organisations. Relevant information is then circulated to an extensive mailing list by means of *Political Affairs Digest*, *MEMO*, and daily briefing e-mails.

### **Consultation Responses**

- I prepare consultation responses on matters of relevance to the Jewish community in Scotland. The most important aspect of this work is consultation with all relevant communal organisations to ensure that responses represent the views of all branches of the community, so that their voices are heard at policy level in the Scottish Parliament and Government, and other relevant bodies.

### **Publications**

- I design and regularly update SCoJeC's website which received well over 2,000,000 hits during 2019. I also manage and regularly update SCoJeC's facebook and twitter accounts.
- Within a period of one week I designed and produced, and now regularly update, a mini-site on SCoJeC's website providing information about matters relating to the covid-19 pandemic, including communal and national reassurance, information about welfare and social support, and details of online communal activities.
- In order to make relevant information accessible to new residents from Israel, and potential new residents and tourists from Israel, I am currently developing a Hebrew-language mini-site on SCoJeC's website. This will go live later this year.
- I produce 4-5 issues of *Political Affairs Digest* each week, a weekly issue of *MEMO*, and occasional issues of *MEMO+*. These are very popular – there are around 20,000 hits on the *Digest*, and more than 9,000 hits on *MEMO* on our website each month. *MEMO* is also circulated by Bemis to their extensive mailing list. The *Digest* has just passed its 2,000<sup>th</sup> issue, and congratulatory comments have been published from the Scottish Government, the Board of Deputies, JLC, CST, Police Scotland, and further communal and other organisations – see [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20vi\\_pad/2000.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20vi_pad/2000.html)
- I contribute to the production of SCoJeC's quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*.
- I regularly update the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland*. Since first publication in 2007, this has consistently been the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website; during 2019 it was downloaded more than 4,000 times each month, and during the covid-19 pandemic more than 6,000 times each month.
- I assist with the production of briefings and other materials on a range of subjects relevant to the community.

## **Services to the Community**

- I liaise with the Procurator Fiscal Service, Registrars, and Pathologists, to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused either by post-mortem examinations, or by the system of reviews to death certification procedures.
- I administer SCoJeC's registration with UK Visas and Immigration as a sponsor to enable communal organisations to comply with the Points-Based Immigration System that regulates the employment (including voluntary work) of people from countries outwith the European Union, and provide information and assistance to assist communal organisations as required.
- I liaise with National Records of Scotland to facilitate compliance with the relevant regulations when a couple wishes to be married by a Rabbi from outwith Scotland.

## **Other Activities**

- During 2019 I responded to an average of 50 e-mail and telephone enquiries each week. These come from public bodies, the media, NGOs, the general public, and others, and concern a wide range of issues relating to the Scottish Jewish community. During the covid-19 pandemic the quantity of enquiries has increased; many of these additional enquiries have come from people wanting to access communal welfare and social support, and from organisations outwith the community such as care homes, seeking information about how to provide for their Jewish clients and their families during the crisis.
- I provide information, support, and reassurance to members of the community who have been, or who fear becoming, the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- I contribute to a wide variety of SCoJeC documents including letters to Scottish Government Ministers, public statements, publicity materials, and responses to relevant publications from other organisations.
- I assist with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- I provide IT advice and administrative support to SCoJeC staff as required.

**Leah Granat**

**June 2020**



February 2019:	One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (Scottish Government)
February 2019:	Racial Harassment in Higher Education (Equality and Human Rights Commission)
June 2019:	External Affairs (Scottish Parliament)
August 2019:	Proposed Mediation (Scotland) Bill (Scottish Parliament)
September 2019:	Islamophobia in Scotland (Scottish Parliament CPG on Tackling Islamophobia)
October 2019:	PE1737: Review of hate crime legislation and security funding in Scotland (Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee)
December 2019:	Draft Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type A Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations (Scottish Government)
February 2020:	Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill (Scottish Parliament)
April 2020:	Local death management – Statutory Guidance for local authorities on Powers in Relation to Transportation, Storage and Disposal of the Deceased (Scottish Government)

Copies of all of these responses, and of responses submitted in previous years, are available on SCoJeC's website at [www.scojec.org/consultations.html](http://www.scojec.org/consultations.html)

## **SCoJeC Statements 2019–20**

January 2019:	Holocaust Memorial Day (statement in partnership with the GMB Union) <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19i_hmd/hmd.html">www.scojec.org/news/2019/19i_hmd/hmd.html</a>
March 2019:	Solidarity with the Muslim community following attacks on two mosques in New Zealand, and the murder of many worshippers <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_solidarity/solidarity.html">www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_solidarity/solidarity.html</a>
March 2019:	Stand Up To Racism to mark the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_stand_up_to_racism.html">www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_stand_up_to_racism.html</a>
July 2019:	Antisemitism in the Labour Party (following the broadcast of BBC Panorama exposing the extent to which antisemitism is tolerated within the UK Labour Party) <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii_labour/antisemitism.html">www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii_labour/antisemitism.html</a>
November 2019:	Solidarity with the Roma community following the desecration of their memorial in Glasgow to Roma victims of the Nazis <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi_solidarity/roma.html">www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi_solidarity/roma.html</a>
March 2020:	Coronavirus Epidemic: Community Message <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/lockdown/files/20iii20_community_message.pdf">www.scojec.org/news/2020/lockdown/files/20iii20_community_message.pdf</a>
March 2020:	Updated: Coronavirus Epidemic: Community Message <a href="http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/lockdown/files/20iii24_community_message.pdf">www.scojec.org/news/2020/lockdown/files/20iii24_community_message.pdf</a>



**Four Corners**

- March 2019: [www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19iv\\_4c61.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19iv_4c61.pdf)  
June 2019: [www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19vi\\_4c62.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19vi_4c62.pdf)  
September 2019: [www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19ix\\_4c63.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/19ix_4c63.pdf)  
January 2020: [www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/20i\\_4c64.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/20i_4c64.pdf)  
March 2020: [www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/20iii\\_4c65.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/20iii_4c65.pdf)

**Political Affairs Digest: A summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community**

*4-5 issues per week during the parliamentary session; as required during recess, dissolution, etc*

- 2018: [www.scojec.org/pad/pad\\_2019.html](http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad_2019.html)  
2019: [www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html](http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html)

**MEMO: A weekly overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland**

- 2019: [www.scojec.org/memo/memo\\_2019.html](http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo_2019.html)  
2020: [www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html](http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html)

**MEMO+: Occasional briefing papers of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland**

- May 2019: Voting in the European Parliament Election  
[www.scojec.org/memo+/2019/19v\\_voting\\_in\\_the\\_eu\\_parliament\\_elections.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2019/19v_voting_in_the_eu_parliament_elections.pdf)

**Website: [www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)**

During 2019, a total of 2 086 738 hits registered on our website, but we the true number to be higher since the software took time to catch up after we moved the entire site to a new secure server. There were also 206 471 “impressions” on Facebook and Twitter.

Highlights were:

- |  |         |                           |
|--|---------|---------------------------|
| • MEMO and MEMO+   | 125 677 | (106 554 hits in 2018)    |
| • PAD  | 241 267 | (187 322)                 |
| • Four Corners   | 43 861  | (37 115)                  |
| • Guidebook  | 50 688  | (28 566; 13 689 in 2017!) |
| • Education Resources  | 23 136  | (19 475)                  |
| • Other Resources  | 44 921  | (26 915)                  |
| • <i>Being Jewish in Scotland</i> reports<br>(2012 and 2015) | 42 626  | (26 039)                  |

The special Coronavirus information pages (since renamed “Lockdown” pages) were created on the second last day of March, and received 4614 hits in those 2 days, and another 24,493 in April and May. See [www.scojec.org/lockdown.html](http://www.scojec.org/lockdown.html)



### **Outreach and community development**

In 2019, supported by our funders Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust and with some additional support from the Alma and Lesley Wolfson Charitable Trust, Interfaith Scotland, and the Scottish Refugee Council, we ran or co-hosted 21 events across Scotland:

- The launch of Fiona Frank's book 'Candles, Conversions and Class: five generations of a Scottish Jewish Family' (published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ii\\_generations/generations.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ii_generations/generations.html)
- An author tour with 'Uprooted' author Lyn Julius, taking in Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh (both the city and the Scottish Parliament) and Dumfries  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii\\_uprooted/uprooted.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_uprooted/uprooted.html)
- A book event in Glasgow in partnership with the Mitchell Library and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. [www.scojec.org/news/2019/19v\\_glasgow/glasgow.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19v_glasgow/glasgow.html)
- A storytelling event in Inverness (for Refugee Scotland week)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_inverness/inverness.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_inverness/inverness.html)
- A film showing and a ceilidh in Edinburgh, a dance workshop in Glasgow, and a schools dance event in Glasgow (for Refugee Scotland week)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_dance/dance\\_edinburgh.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_dance/dance_edinburgh.html)
- A House Concert in Arran (which led to the setting up of the Arran Jewish Cultural Association, which has, so far since then run another 'house concert', a piano recital, and bagel baking demonstrations both in a private house and in a local school)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii\\_arran/arran.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii_arran/arran.html)
- Three author talks in Shetland and Orkney  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19viii\\_shetland\\_orkney/isles.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19viii_shetland_orkney/isles.html)
- A walk around the Traprain Law and the Whittingehame Estate  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ix\\_whittingehame/whittingehame.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ix_whittingehame/whittingehame.html)
- A Yiddish Song Concert and Klezmer Ceilidh in Edinburgh with 6 different musical ensembles, most of whom were visiting the city for Limmud  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi\\_klezmer/klezmer.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi_klezmer/klezmer.html)
- Involvement in Scotland Limmud including subsidising a coach from Glasgow and running two activities within the programme
- A Chanukah party in Linlithgow [www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii\\_linlithgow/chanukah.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii_linlithgow/chanukah.html)
- and another in Inverness [www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii\\_inverness/chanukah.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii_inverness/chanukah.html)

We also continued to work with a small group of interns recruited through the Glasgow University Internship Hub in partnership with the Hannah Frank Art Project.

So far in 2020 we have run:

- a tree planting event outside Inverness for Tu B'Shvat  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i\\_tu\\_b\\_shvat/tu\\_b\\_shvat.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i_tu_b_shvat/tu_b_shvat.html)
- an early Burns (supper) afternoon at Mark's Deli, complete with a Yiddish Address to the Haggis; [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i\\_burns/burns.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i_burns/burns.html)
- a Purim party in St Andrews [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_purim/purim.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_purim/purim.html)

- two Yiddish Song and Klezmer music concerts, in St Andrews and in Edinburgh, and a Yiddish song workshop in Edinburgh [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_nightingale/nightingale.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_nightingale/nightingale.html)

That took us to lockdown!

Since then, using Zoom, we have delivered the following events up to the time of writing (end May):

- A Yiddish Song and klezmer music concert (which had over 600 people registered) [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_virtual\\_kontsert/kontsert.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_virtual_kontsert/kontsert.html)
- Three Author Talks which raised over £3000 for the Aberdeen Synagogue Roof appeal, with over 250 people attending [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv\\_aberdeen/aberdeen.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv_aberdeen/aberdeen.html)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_glasgow\\_galilee/gg.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_glasgow_galilee/gg.html)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_shetland/shetland.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_shetland/shetland.html)
- A Yiddish Open Mic event with over 150 people attending [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv\\_yiddish/yiddish.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv_yiddish/yiddish.html)
- A Klezmer Kabaret with performers from all over Scotland and the USA; with over 180 people attending – which raised £400 for Scottish NHS charities as well as covering payment to the band [www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_kabaret/kabaret.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_kabaret/kabaret.html)

We have also hosted joint events with the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre, and the Yiddish Open Mic Café.

We are also making our ‘Zoom Room’ available to other Jewish communal organisations to use during the Covid-19 pandemic; these have included the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre; Liberal Judaism (we hosted their first night seder, which was attended by over 100 people); Glasgow Reform Synagogue; the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Book Group; and the Queens Park Charitable Trust. We are also about to begin hosting the Giffnock Jewish Guides group’s weekly meetings.

*“I really do admire and appreciate your current efforts towards enhancing and broadening the sense of Jewish community and identity in Scotland –and in making connections well beyond our shores. It now feels like a far bigger (and more welcoming) tent than it once did... So thanks again and zayt gezunt to you the rest of the team.”*

In addition to our main evening events, we have also run a couple of support group sessions at the beginning of lockdown, and a regular weekly half hour Zoom training session – which has been attended both by complete novices who needed help to get online, and presenters and facilitators who wanted to talk about livestreaming on YouTube and advanced meeting settings. In addition, we are running a weekly Scottish Jewish Art Group on a Thursday morning, the last few of which have included speakers from the art world including Dr Mia Spiro on the 1952 Glasgow Festival of Jewish Art, Sarah MacDougall and Rachel Dickson from the Ben Uri Gallery on Jankel Adler, Josef Herman, and the *Art of our Allies* exhibition that took place in 1942 in the Scottish National Galleries. These events have attracted more than 60 people through the weeks. We also recorded these talks, and they can be watched at [www.scojec.org/resources/videos/art\\_club/art\\_club.html](http://www.scojec.org/resources/videos/art_club/art_club.html)

## **Education**

We are very grateful to our volunteer ambassador team Debby Taylor, Joe Goldblatt, Margalit Borowski, Diane Kay, Cheryl Goldberg who have visited more than 50 schools and community groups since January 2019, the length and breadth of the country. Joe and Cheryl have now left the team and we thank them very much for their contribution.

We were successful in January 2020 in gaining a £15,000 grant from the People’s Postcode Trust to support our work in schools. Although they have allowed us to use these funds during the pandemic for other purposes necessary to continue our work, since we stopped going into schools in mid March, we have delivered online training to a new group of volunteers. We have also been working with our current and new volunteers, and Geanina Beres as video editor, on the preparation of a set of short videos for schools to use as part of their lessons with pupils who are learning from home.

We have completed a film featuring young people in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dundee showing us their synagogues. This was started by Zoe Jacobs in 2015, and was supported by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust. The film can now be viewed on our Educational Resources page at [www.scojec.org/education.html](http://www.scojec.org/education.html)

Schools visited since January 2019 have included:

- Drummond High, Edinburgh
- Law Primary, South Lanarkshire
- 2002 Club, West Church, Hamilton
- Falkirk High, Falkirk
- Anderson High (Shetland Isles)
- Auchterellon
- Banchory Academy
- Dalry Primary school
- Dingwall Primary School
- Drummond CHS
- Dyce Academy
- Eaglesham Primary School
- Falkirk High School
- Greenrigg Primary School
- Hillside School
- Kingswells Primary School
- Kingussie High
- Kirkwall Grammar School
- Law Primary School, North Berwick
- Meldrum Academy
- Milne's Primary School
- Our Lady of the Missions Primary
- Perth Grammar School
- Portlethen Academy
- Preston Street Primary
- Preston Tower primary school
- Robert Gordon's College
- Robert Gordon's College Junior
- Saint Margaret's, Dunfermline
- Sound Primary School
- St Fergus Primary
- St John's RC Academy, Perth
- St Margaret's School for Girls
- Stromness Academy
- The International School, Aberdeen
- Victoria Primary School

### **Research**

At the end of 2019 we started work with two fourth year Glasgow University Social Science students, Jordyn Murray and Andrew Hellyer, on a Q-Step funded project to update our *Being Jewish in Scotland* research findings. We had responses to our survey from nearly 200 people, plus carried out a small number of focus groups – in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen and Linlithgow.

At the time of writing (June 2020) we are working with Jordyn to pilot an update to the survey to find out about the experience of being Jewish in the time of coronavirus. She will do some additional qualitative analysis with the original data and add the new findings to the whole, and hopes to report by the middle to end of July.

### **Team News**

Many thanks are due to Joanne Gabbay our Education and Events Officer for rigorous and effective management of our Education programme and our country-wide events.

Thanks also to Melissa Eisenberg who worked with us on marketing our events programme since April 2018, and left us in November 2019.

Since Melissa left, we have had marketing support and excellent technical support for our online activities from our Marketing Assistant, Geanina Beres, who was recruited initially through the Glasgow University Internship Hub, and has great capacity for taking on new skills.

I plan to retire at the end of September 2020 so will be writing one more report before I leave SCoJeC.

**Fiona Frank**  
**June 2020**



- February 2019: Five Generations of a Scottish Jewish Family  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ii\\_generations/generations.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ii_generations/generations.html)
- March 2019: Uprooted – Highlighting the forgotten refugees (5 events)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii\\_uprooted/uprooted.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_uprooted/uprooted.html)
- May 2019: Oral history: tracing five generations of a Scottish Jewish family  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19v\\_glasgow/glasgow.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19v_glasgow/glasgow.html)
- June 2019: AGM: Public meeting addressed by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_agm/agm.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_agm/agm.html)
- June 2012: SCoJeC's Highland Family  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_inverness/inverness.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_inverness/inverness.html)
- June 2019: Come As You Are – The Show Went On!  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_dance/dance\\_edinburgh.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_dance/dance_edinburgh.html)
- June 2019: Come As You Are – Dance Medley  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi\\_dance/dance\\_glasgow.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vi_dance/dance_glasgow.html)
- July 2019: Musical House Party on Arran  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii\\_arran/arran.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19vii_arran/arran.html)
- August 2019: Jewish Roots in the Northern Isles (3 events)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19viii\\_shetland\\_orkney/isles.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19viii_shetland_orkney/isles.html)
- September 2019: Return to Whittingehame  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ix\\_whittingehame/whittingehame.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19ix_whittingehame/whittingehame.html)
- November 2019: Edinburgh Klezmer Concert and Ceilidh  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi\\_klezmer/klezmer.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xi_klezmer/klezmer.html)
- December 2019: Lighting Early in Linlithgow  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii\\_linlithgow/chanukah.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii_linlithgow/chanukah.html)
- December 2019: SCoJeC brings Chanukah to the Highlands  
[www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii\\_inverness/chanukah.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19xii_inverness/chanukah.html)
- January 2020: Early Burns: “mark the Rustic, haggis-fed”  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i\\_burns/burns.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i_burns/burns.html)
- January 2020: A Snowy Tu b'Shvat in the Highlands  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i\\_tu\\_b\\_shvat/tu\\_b\\_shvat.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i_tu_b_shvat/tu_b_shvat.html)
- March 2020: Purim in St Andrews  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_purim/purim.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_purim/purim.html)
- March 2020: “Waiting for the Nightingale” – Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_nightingale/nightingale.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_nightingale/nightingale.html)

- March 2020: “Waiting for the Nightingale” – Virtual Klezmer goes live!  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_virtual\\_kontsert/kontsert.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_virtual_kontsert/kontsert.html)
- April 2020: A hartsikn dank alemen!  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv\\_yiddish/yiddish.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv_yiddish/yiddish.html)
- April 2020: 75 Years of Dee Street  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv\\_aberdeen/aberdeen.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iv_aberdeen/aberdeen.html)
- April–June 2020: SCoJeC Virtual Art Club (5 events, but the report of the most recent event is not yet available online)  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_art/art.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_art/art.html)
- May 2020: From Glasgow to Galilee – and Beyond  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_glasgow\\_galilee/gg.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_glasgow_galilee/gg.html)
- May 2020: Growing up Jewish in Shetland  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_shetland/shetland.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_shetland/shetland.html)
- May 2020: A Rainbow for LaG b'Omer  
[www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v\\_kabaret/kabaret.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20v_kabaret/kabaret.html)
- June 2020: Yiddish Open Mic (in partnership with Yiddish Open Mic)
- June 2020: SCoJeC Virtual Jewish Art Club: Guest speaker Judah Passow

**Forthcoming events: details available from**  
[www.scojec.org/events.html](http://www.scojec.org/events.html)

*We are grateful to Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust for generous support for these events.*



Scottish Council of Jewish Communities  
Representing and Supporting Jewish People in Scotland



Glasgow Jewish Representative Council

**Danielle Bett**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER  
SCOTLAND

222 Fenwick Rd,  
Glasgow, G46 6UE  
0746 886 0427  
danielle@thejlc.org

SCoJeC & GJRC are Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, SC029438 & SC047108

## Report from JLC Scotland Regional Manager

June 2020



Below is a high level summary of my work over the past year. I have now been working for and with the JLC, SCoJeC, and the GJRC for 15 months. We are making positive progress on a number of fronts, and I believe our working relationship is positive, collaborative, and constructive. I'd like to note my thanks to all three organisations for their continued support and leadership.

Matters worthy of highlighting are:

### **Politics**

#### Labour antisemitism

Unfortunately, this continues to be an ongoing issue that the Jewish community has needed to deal with. The most recent update on the matter has been this week's confirmation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission that a formal investigation has been launched into the Labour Party. This includes Scottish Labour.

There have been a few cases of antisemitism in Scottish Labour and we continue to work closely with the party leadership, MSPs, and council leaders around how best to improve community relations and to tackle antisemitism. Some progress has been made:

- A motion was passed at the Scottish Labour conference highlighting the need to tackle antisemitism and address the need for comprehensive training led by the Jewish community.
- Richard Leonard has committed to ensure all of his MSPs undergo antisemitism awareness training sessions which, crucially, will be delivered by the Jewish community.
- Richard has also asked to meet with the Jewish community's representatives to hear more about Jewish life and Scotland, as well as to hear and discuss concerns around antisemitism in politics and society.

#### General political engagement

- We have held meetings with MPs and MSPs, including Lisa Cameron MP, Christine Jardine MP, Ian Murray MP, Stewart McDonald MP, Joanna Cherry MP, Paul Masterson MP, Anas Sarwar MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Bill Bowman MSP, Ross Greer MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, and Angela Constance MSP, as well as others. This allows us to engage cross parties on issues concerning the Jewish community locally and nationally.
- Several Scottish councils have adopted the IHRA definition of Antisemitism this year thanks to JLC, SCoJeC and Rep Council engagement: Glasgow City Council, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Moray, Dumfries and Galloway.

#### Jewish Representation

I continue to work with SCoJeC and GJRC to ensure the Jewish community is appropriately represented at government and policy level. This includes ensuring engagement with a

number of Cross Party Groups at the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Alliance against Prejudice and Hate Crime, Hate Crime Consultations, and Scottish Faith Action for Refugees. This ensures that Jewish voices are heard, and also that we continue to work with other organisations and communities, provide support wherever possible, and work together on joint issues.

Furthermore, working with the Jewish Leadership Council has allowed for Scottish community engagement with London based organisations and initiatives. For example, attending the Sara Conference (led by the APPG on antisemitism) but also meeting with the various JLC member organisations and highlighting the work of the community in Scotland.

### Interfaith

A main element of work I have been involved in is setting up Nisa Nashim Glasgow. This is a Muslim-Jewish Women's Network, and NN Glasgow will be the first Scottish Group. After working closely with representatives of the Muslim community to build positive relations, I'm thrilled to say our official launch will be on June 27th of this year.

I have also been engaged with the Jo Cox Foundation and the Great Get Together for a second year in a row – celebrating the things we have in common across communities.

### Israelis

I continue to engage with the Israeli community in Scotland and to be involved in organising Israeli community events, as well as Israeli cultural events aimed at encouraging participation from Israelis and non Israelis in culture.

We were delighted to see the return of Seret to Scotland, though hindered by lockdown, the event took place online, with lots of Israeli films screened online. We're working on this continuing online – more to come this month.

I work closely with Police Scotland to ensure all of these events are well managed and the safety of attendees is key. I believe that this goal has been achieved this year at all of our events and I have expressed gratitude to Police Scotland for their excellent service to the community.

### Other

I do my best to support the community on events and initiatives as much as possible. Other things worthy of note are:

- I am working with GMB Scotland to deliver an antisemitism awareness training day in alongside training on other forms of hate. This is in collaboration with Show Racism the Red Card.
- Brittany (former UJIA Youthworker) and I have been working with BBC The Social, an online platform that reaches young audiences in Scotland. We have thus far created four videos about being Jewish. The first reached over 30,000 viewers, and the second over 100,000. We are working on more content. This is a great way to reach young, non-Jewish people across Scotland and talk about religion and culture in an informal and light hearted way.

As I've always said, please do reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas. I'm not able to support or attend every meetings or event, but I will always try to assist, and I am always happy to meet and discuss any elements of my work with members of the community.

**Danielle Bett**  
**June 2020**