

Foreign Networks Connected to Britain's Green Party Anti-West Agenda

Executive Summary

The Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) has traditionally presented itself as an environmental advocacy movement focused on ecological sustainability and local governance. However, the party has increasingly become a target for anti-Western ideologues, and foreign-connected networks. At the party's national conference in Brighton on October 4, 2026, they officially passed [Motion A105 or "Zionism is Racism,"](#) and redefined the Green Party's foundational platform as anti-Zionist.¹

In addition to formally declaring the Green Party as anti-Zionist, the motion legitimizes terrorism or what it calls "armed resistance by all available means," rejects standard international definitions of antisemitism, and demands the de-proscription of direct-action groups like Palestine Action, proscribed by the UK as a terror group. It also "calls for a single democratic state throughout historic Palestine."²

Endorsers of the motion include individuals and groups with connections to foreign entities and terror groups, including Hamas. For example, convicted Palestinian Islamic Jihad financier Sami Al-Arian and his Istanbul-based thinktank CIGA, and Riverway to the Sea, the law firm defending Hamas in its attempt at being de-proscribed in the UK, supported the motion. Also supporting the motion is the Palestinian Forum in Britain, whose former longtime leader was US-designated senior Hamas official in Europe Zaher Birawi. It is likely that the Green Party's strategic policy shift occurred due to the influence of these figures and others with foreign, radical ties who have taken advantage of open democratic processes to advance anti-UK, anti-Western, and hostile foreign policy agendas.

Green Party
of England and Wales

Foreign Networks and Motion A105

The article argues that the party's 2026 'Zionism is Racism' motion reflects growing influence from radical foreign-linked activist networks.

What Happened

- Motion A105 passed at the 2026 Brighton conference
- Vote: 1,022 in favor / 813 against
- The motion redefined the party platform as anti-Zionist

Key Figures & Networks Mentioned

- Greens for Palestine and Lubna Speitan
- Party leader Zack Polanski
- Pan Islamic Alliance
- CIGA and other foreign activist platforms

Why the Article Says It Matters

- Endorses "resistance by all available means"
- Calls to de-proscribe Palestine Action
- Rejects IHRA and JDA antisemitism definitions
- Promotes a single state across "historic Palestine"

Wider Concern Raised

- Local councils and party structures can be exploited
- Foreign-linked ideological campaigns may shape UK politics
- Influence from non-British figures and overseas networks
- Part of a broader pattern of anti-Western activity

Background: From Environmentalism to Antisemitism

While the Green Party only holds five seats in the House of Commons and two in the House of Lords, it has expanded significantly in the municipal government, where it has influence over local council budgets, public pension fund divestments, municipal procurement, and civic resolutions.

Concurrently, party strategists have targeted parliamentary by-elections by running heavily on single-issue, foreign-policy platforms focused on Middle Eastern conflicts.³ The Green Party controls over 900 principal authority council seats, representing approximately 11% of local government seats across England and Wales.⁴

Although the party continues its historic efforts to push for larger economic, social, and environmental change, anti-Israel and antisemitic efforts have seemingly become a major focus of the party. Across many of its major urban centers such as Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, and several London boroughs, Green Party councilors advance an anti-Israel agenda by pushing local government pension schemes to fully disclose and divest holdings from companies linked to Israel's military operations.⁵

Beyond pension funds, Green groups seek to alter municipal procurement rules by tabling Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) resolutions and passing motions, like that passed in Sheffield, declaring councils to be "Apartheid-Free Zones," to terminate contracts with Israeli-origin vendors or financial institutions like Barclays.⁶ These official council actions are paired with symbolic and civic measures, including promoting municipal twinning with Palestinian towns, aligning local branches with grassroots pressure groups like the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), and passing council resolutions opposing central government restrictions on activist networks or unilateral boycotts.

On a regional scale, the Scottish Greens have similarly leveraged local and parliamentary structures to commit to comprehensive boycott and divestment frameworks and institutionalize anti-Israel policies within UK public bodies.⁷

The "Zionism is Racism" Motion

Motion A105 was drafted by internal sub-groups, mainly Greens for Palestine, and led by activist Lubna Speitan.⁸ After drawing a record 330 co-proposers ahead of the Spring 2026 conference, support expanded to over 700 signatories ahead of the national conference.⁹

Vote and Response

On October 4, 2026, the Party formally passed the resolution with 1,022 votes in favor and 813 against.

Interviewed at Palestine Deep Dive – a Palestinian-led media platform and YouTube channel, Speitan claimed that the passing of the motion could become the start of a global movement, which could be adopted by trade unions, political parties and organizations around the world.¹⁰ Speaking with the press at the end of the conference, Green Party member and participant of the Hamas-affiliated

Global Sumud Flotilla Kieran Andreiu claimed that "there's a virtue in calling that ideology [Zionism] racist and dehumanizing".¹¹

Immediately following the vote, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar announced that Green Party leader Zack Polanski (who is Jewish) is barred from entering Israel. Iranian Press TV was among the first news platforms to criticize the decision as a "punitive ban" which "underscores the growing isolation of the Israeli regime on the international stage and its increasing reliance on retaliation to silence valid criticism of its apartheid policies".¹² Qatar's Al Jazeera called the Polanski ban a "swift response".¹³

"Zionism is Racism" Campaign Background

The "Zionism is Racism" campaign booklet includes information about the motion, the alleged justification for it and its endorers.¹⁴ Much of the information and analysis in the booklet is sourced from Al-Haq – a "Palestinian non-governmental human rights organization" - which was designated by the US in September 2025 for engaging with the ICC against Israel and the United States even though neither state is party to the Rome Statute.^{15 16} Israel designated Al-Haq as a terror organization in 2021 claiming it is part of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terror organization.¹⁷ In 1985, Al-Haq director Shawan Jabarin was convicted for recruiting and assisting PFLP members.¹⁸

The resolution defines Zionism as a proscribed form of racism under internal disciplinary codes, creating an administrative mechanism to discipline or expel Jewish and pro-Israel members. It also rejects a two-state solution and calls for a single state across all of "historic Palestine," seeking the complete dissolution of Israel. The resolution also endorses Palestinian resistance "by all available means under international law," effectively providing cover for Palestinian terrorism.

Furthermore, it demands the de-proscription of Palestine Action from Schedule 2 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and calls for the release of detained activists. Additionally, it explicitly rejects both the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA), leaving the party without an established framework to identify and address antisemitism.¹⁹

Motion A105 was prominently discussed at the Second Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress in Dublin, Ireland, from June 26-28, 2026. Lead resolution author Lubna Speitan was a featured speaker alongside other international anti-Israel figures, including UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese; former UN official Craig Mokhiber; Gaza aid coordinator Eyad Amawi; and *Palestine Chronicle* editor Ramzy Baroud.²⁰ During her presentation, Speitan promoted Motion A105 and explicitly called on international activist organizations and non-UK trade unions to adopt the text and "set this motion on fire" across political parties worldwide.²¹ The Dublin congress thus connected UK-based Green Party activists with Irish, European, and North American radical coalitions to disseminate "Zionism is Racism" worldwide.

Controversial Figures and Groups Leading Motion A105

Lubna Speitan

Speitan is the architect of Motion A105.²² She is a British-Palestinian activist, steering group member of Greens for Palestine, and co-founder of the Greenwich Palestine Alliance who also serves as an Equality Officer and Palestine Officer for the GLaB Unite Community branch (Greenwich, Lewisham, and Bexley branch of Unite Community).²³

Speitan's public statements reflect an explicit rejection of Western political institutions and British state authority. She routinely characterizes UK counter-terrorism laws, police enforcement, and public order measures as "authoritarian tactics of repression".²⁴ She has mocked Western counter-terrorism labels, asking audiences: "Do you want me to present myself as defined by the Zionists? **I'm your 'Palestinian, anti-Semitic, Hamas terrorist'**".²⁵

During a June 2026 rally in support of members of the UK-designated terror group Palestine Action outside Woolwich Crown court, Speitan expressed that Zionism should be "hunted in the same way as the Nazi oppressors were."²⁶

At a September 2025 event in Birmingham titled, "A Call for Military Intervention to Stop the Gaza Genocide," Speitan expressed support for Palestinian terrorism, saying: "*The only way forward for the liberation of any people is going to be by force; what was taken by force must be returned by force... I support our right to the armed struggle. We must never deny that.*"²⁷

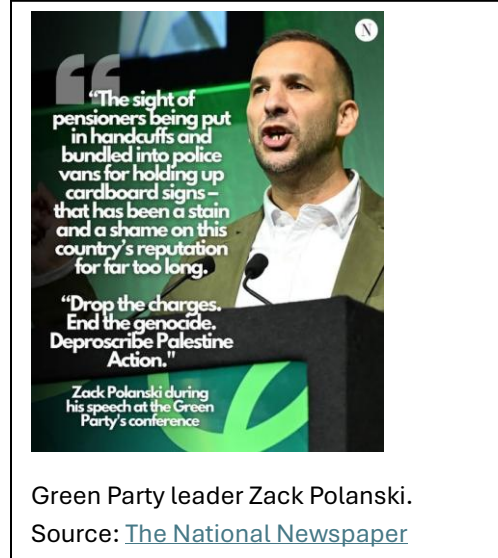


Lubna Speitan. Source: [JAZIC](#)

Zack Polanski

Polanski (born David Paulden²⁸) has been a London Assembly Member since 2021 and has served as the Green Party Leader since September 2025.^{29 30} Following Polanski's election as Green Party leader and the victory of Green Party candidate Hannah Spencer in Gorton and Denton, Green Party membership more than doubled—tripling from about 68,000 to over 200,000 members by early 2026.³¹

Polanski describes himself as a “non-Zionist Jew” and has called the situation in Gaza “genocide.”³² When asked during a Zeteo interview with Mehdi Hassan and Shehab Khan about the “Zionism is Racism” motion, which includes supporting the Palestinians “right to resistance,” Polanski claimed, “Palestinians definitely have the right to resistance. Everyone has the right to resistance within international human law...”³³ At the Brighton Conference where MotionA105 was passed, Polanski explicitly called to “deproscribe Palestine Action.”³⁴



Sami Al-Arian

Al-Arian provided a formal written endorsement for Motion A105, which was published directly inside the Green Party conference booklet.³⁵ Al-Arian is a former US-based computer science professor who pled guilty in 2006 to federal charges of conspiring to provide services to Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), a designated terrorist organization responsible for suicide bombings in Israel.³⁶

After serving a federal prison sentence, Al-Arian was deported to Turkey in 2015, where he directs the Istanbul-based Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA).³⁷



Mohammed El-Kurd

El-Kurd endorsed Motion A105 and was quoted in the endorsement booklet, demanding that delegates pass the motion to "isolate and root out" Zionism.³⁸ El-Kurd is a Palestinian activist known for his extreme anti-Western rhetoric. At an event in Philadelphia in March 2025, El-Kurd essentially defended Palestinian terrorism and the Hamas-led October 7 massacre, which he compared to plane hijacking and suicide bombings, as another violent way of gaining the world's attention.³⁹



Mohammed El-Kurd. Source: [one Young World](#)

During a 2024 London rally, El-Kurd encouraged the crowd to "normalize massacres as a status quo," sparking public outrage and police investigations.⁴⁰ In a February 2024 tweet, he also expressed his frustration about not being able to "hijack planes" or "throw Molotovs."



Source: [El-Kurd's X](#)

Thiago Avila

Thiago Avila is a Brazilian activist and pro-Palestinian campaigner who officially endorsed the "Zionism is Racism" motion and has reported ties to terror groups, including Hamas.⁴¹ ⁴²He is a member of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and participated in the Hamas-linked Global Sumud Flotilla to Gaza in the spring of 2026.⁴³ Israeli authorities detained Ávila due to his links to the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA), a European Hamas front which was designated by the US for its support of Hamas and the pro-terror flotilla.⁴⁴ ⁴⁵Ávila also attended Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's funeral in Beirut in 2024 and praised him as an "inspiring martyr." Avila also shared photos with PFLP member Leila Khaled, describing her as an iconic figure of anti-colonial resistance.⁴⁶



Avila at Nasrallah's funeral in Beirut in 2024. Source: [Instagram](#)

Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB)

PFB formally endorsed Motion A105.⁴⁷ The organization has been identified as a core component of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Hamas infrastructure in the UK.⁴⁸ PFB was led for years by Zaher Birawi, who was designated by the US in January 2026 as a senior Hamas operative in the UK, acting on behalf of Hamas.⁴⁹ Another senior PFB official, Hafez al-Carmi, was also identified as former member of Hamas's political bureau.⁵⁰



Source: [Facebook](#)

Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOA)

Friends of Al-Aqsa and its founder Ismail Patel are both listed as endorsers of the Motion.⁵¹ According to a UK government commission, Patel has praised Hamas for “standing up to Israel” and even visited former Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.⁵² In May 2021, Patel also participated in a virtual conference with Muthanna Harith Al-Dari who was sanctioned by the UN Security Council in 2010 for guiding and financially supporting Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Patel’s connections to Hamas and other designated terrorists raises serious concerns as he and his organization continue to operate in Britain and especially in British political circles.



Former Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (left) with Ismail Patel (right). Source: [CUFI](#)

Riverway to the Sea

Riverway to the Sea (formerly Riverway Law) formally endorsed and legal advocates for Motion A105.⁵³ The legal firm is run by Fahad Ansari, Franck Magennis, and Daniel Grutters who in April 2025 formally petitioned the UK Home Office to de-proscribe Hamas under Section 4 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Rebranded as the Riverway to the Sea, the firm describes the law as a “living weapon.”⁵⁴ The firm claims part of its mission is to “examine and interrogate the problems posed internationally by Zionism, ‘Israel’ and its imperial backers in the US, the British Empire and other imperialist states.”⁵⁵



Source: [LinkedIn](#)

Fahad Ansari was the solicitor representing Hamas pro bono in its formal application to the UK Home Office seeking removal from the UK's list of banned terrorist organizations. But the legal instruction was initiated through Mousa Abu Marzouk, head of Hamas's foreign relations.⁵⁶ In August 2025, Ansari was stopped and detained by North Wales Police under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 at the port of Holyhead upon returning from Ireland. Due to his connection to Hamas, counter-terrorism officers confiscated his work phone, extracted data, and fingerprinted and swabbed him.⁵⁷

Franck Magennis served as lead barrister representing Hamas in its lawsuit.⁵⁸ Speaking at the 2025 Marxism Conference following the UK government's proscription of Palestine Action, Magennis called for copycat direct-action groups to "spring up everywhere", stating, "We mustn't let the British Empire, that is participating in this genocide, push us around. They do not have the power to stop us".⁵⁹



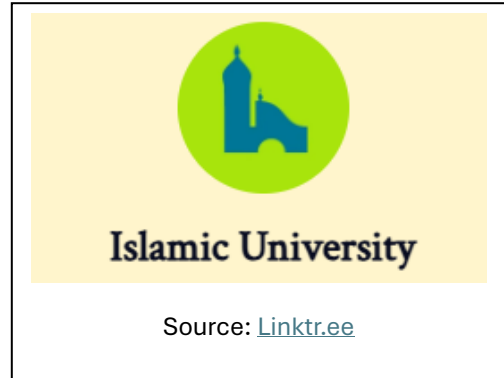
Source: [Riverway to the Sea Instagram](#)

Magennis has also had some controversial exchanges on X (formerly Twitter). He called a user whose family members died in the Hamas-led October 7 attacks a "Zionist wretch" and added, "The reckoning is coming. We're gonna dismantle your beloved ethnostate, and its associated death machines, one brick at a time".⁶⁰ Addressing Israeli defense manufacturer Elbit Systems UK, Magennis posted, "We're gonna fucking destroy you".⁶¹ Responding to independent advisors, he posted, "Sit down, Zionist wretch. The Palestinian blood will never wash off your hands. You're a pariah now".⁶² Commenting on the UK Home Secretary's decision to maintain the ban on Hamas, Magennis stated, "The decision to ban Hamas is part of the logic justifying Israel's ongoing genocide... Yvette Cooper is complicit in the slaughter, and her latest decision to maintain the ban on Hamas shows it".⁶³

Daniel Grutters is a barrister practicing at One Pump Court Chambers, specializing in public law. He served as co-counsel with Magennis representing Hamas in its appeal to the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission.⁶⁴ In interviews with international media outlets, such as Turkey's Anadolu Agency, Grutters argued that the British government's 2021 decision under former Home Secretary Priti Patel to ban Hamas in its entirety—removing the distinction between its political and military wings—was made purely for "political reasons" rather than genuine national security concerns.⁶⁵

Pan Islamic Alliance (The Islamic University)

The Pan Islamic Alliance (PIA) or the Islamic University is an official endorser of Motion A105.⁶⁶ PIA was launched in 2025 and is framed as a civilizational renaissance initiative inspired by Jamal al-Din al-Afghani to unite the Muslim global community through a pan-Islamic vision that emphasizes non-literal Qur'anic interpretation, freedom of belief, anti-colonial politics, and transnational institutional cooperation.⁶⁷



In its "Introduction to New Members", the alliance frames modern Western nation-states, NATO, and European diplomatic institutions as instruments of Western neo-colonialism and global hegemony designed to fragment the Islamic world.⁶⁸ The group encourages Muslim youth in Western countries to prioritize transnational religious solidarity over integration into Western secular state frameworks and explicitly instructs students and faculty on strategies to bypass statutory reporting requirements in academic settings.⁶⁹

Although the organization appears to be based in the UK, its social media accounts and website are in Arabic. Furthermore, the website seems to still be under development, as several headings and buttons do not contain links.⁷⁰

The co-founder of the Pan Islamic Alliance is Wissam Charafeddine, a Lebanese-born Arab-American activist and educator in Dearborn, Michigan.⁷¹ According to his biography, Charafeddine is a Shi'ite-trained, ex-imam, and founder of multiple initiatives such as IRSHAD, a reformist Islamic dialogue organization, and Muslimish, a space for current and former Muslims opposing blasphemy and apostasy laws worldwide.⁷² Charafeddine is also a prominent Green Party figure in the United States. He co-founded the National Arab American and Muslim American Green Party Caucus, was elected as co-chair of the US Green Party in 2025 and is the Green Party candidate for the Michigan State Board of Education in 2026.⁷³

Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA)

CIGA formally endorsed Motion A105 and is featured in the promotional materials.⁷⁴ CIGA is an Istanbul-based academic research center directed by former Palestinian Islamic Jihad financier, Sami Al-Arian, which promotes anti-Western ideology. CIGA's research and publications routinely criticize Western leadership, particularly United States foreign policy in the Middle East, characterizing it as imperialist and interventionist.⁷⁵ CIGA's staff includes the *Palestine Chronicle* editor Ramzy Baroud who



attended the Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress in Dublin and met with Motion A105 architect, Lubna Speitan.⁷⁶ CIGA events have featured co-sponsorships with groups such as the Global Coalition of

Quds and Palestine (GCQP), an organization known for its ties to Hamas.⁷⁷ Furthermore, at a conference co-organized by CIGA and held on the one-year anniversary of the Hamas-led October 7 massacre, U.S.-designated senior Hamas official Usama Hamdan praised “unapologetic jihad.”⁷⁸

Global Reactions to the “Zionism is Racism” Motion

Motion A105 received extensive coverage across Middle Eastern and other foreign news platforms, which tracked its progress as an indication of shifting European and Western political attitudes with relation to Israel, the Palestinians, the United States, and the West as a whole.

Qatar’s Al Jazeera highlighted the Green Party and Motion A105’s record-breaking 330+ co-proposers and over 700 signatories as evidence of growing institutional anti-Zionism in the UK.⁷⁹ London-based pan-Arab news outlet The New Arab (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed), owned by Qatari company Fadaat Media, published a report titled “UK Green members ready ‘Zionism is racism’ motion for conference” on August 26, 2026, welcoming the motion as a historic breakthrough for the pro-Palestinian movement inside mainstream British politics.⁸⁰

Lebanese Hezbollah-affiliated news outlet Al Mayadeen tracked the submission and progress of Motion A105 across its digital Arabic platforms and commentary segments. The newspaper framed the Green Party’s internal debate as evidence of eroding Western consensus on Israel, highlighting the motion’s explicit calls to de-proscribe Palestine Action.⁸¹

The Middle East Monitor (MEMO), another Qatar-funded outlet, reportedly linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, published analyses detailing the 330+ co-proposers and subsequent 700+ signatories backing Motion A105. However, it focused on the statements provided by Lubna Speitan and the endorsements gathered from external advocacy networks, highlighting the push to establish anti-Zionism as official Green party policy.⁸²

The campaign for Motion A105 was further coordinated online via international activist platforms such as Action Network, which hosted digital sign-up forms and distributed campaign booklets for global sharing. Online materials explicitly frame Motion A105 as an effort to challenge “Western state censorship” and reject standard counter-terrorism proscriptions, linking the Green Party resolution to global anti-colonial movements.⁸³

Foreign Influence in UK Politics: A Recurring Vulnerability

This is not the first time foreign or foreign-influenced actors have systematically exploited British parliamentary structures. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the have deployed the most sustained and well-documented access infrastructure through state-funded access operations, covert financial conduits, and direct interference in electoral contests.

Qatar’s Foreign Ministry funded a 2021 All-Party Parliamentary Group delegation valued at approximately £108,000–£109,500. And across the preceding decade, at least 58 MPs from the

Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat parties, travelled to Doha with Qatar footing the bill. The All-Party Parliamentary Group was designed to facilitate cross-party interest groups on bilateral issues and has served as Qatar's primary formal channel for sustained legislative access.

Saudi Arabia has also taken advantage of the All-Party Parliamentary Group, which has acknowledged in parliamentary debate that delegations were hosted by the Saudi government. And the parties seem content with the foreign interest in its political system; Conservative MP Daniel Kawczynski defended the arrangement, and Labour MP Mohammad Yasin registered a Saudi embassy-funded visit in his declared interests. While it is hard to determine if these foreign-sponsored delegations produce measurable platform change, they represent high-profile relationship-building at the parliamentary level which is concerning because the interests of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and other countries trying to interfere in Western politics and spread a more radical Islamic agenda are not entirely aligned with Western values and goals.^{84 85 86}

While the Gulf states seem to be buying access in a more discreet way, China and Russia are doing so more aggressively. Nathan Gill—former UKIP Member of the European Parliament for Wales, leader of the Brexit Party and then Reform UK in Wales—pleaded guilty to eight counts of bribery in exchange for pro-Russian interventions in the European Parliament and was jailed in November 2025.

MI5 issued a formal interference alert in January 2022 naming solicitor Christine Lee as having "knowingly engaged in political interference activities" on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Work Department, facilitating over £500,000 in donations to the office of Labour MP Barry Gardiner.

And in 2019, stolen UK–US trade documents were disseminated online before the December 2019 general election and used by Labour to attack the Conservative government. Although no Labour coordination was established, the UK government officially attributed the leak to Russian state actors.^{87 88}

Parliament recognizes the systemic character of the foreign intervention problem and has begun taking action, although perhaps not enough. The Gill conviction and the Christine Lee investigation triggered a government review announced in February 2026; subsequent legislation capped gifts from overseas voters at £100,000, backdated to March 2026.⁸⁹

Domestic mobilization has also demonstrated that foreign policy positions on Middle Eastern conflicts can fracture party coalitions without external direction. **The Muslim Vote** (TMV) campaign, established after the failed registration of "the Party of Islam" by the UK Electoral Commission in 2023,⁹⁰ endorsed pro-Palestinian independents in targeted constituencies in the 2024 general election, displacing Labour incumbents including **Jonathan Ashworth** in Leicester South and **Khalid Mahmood** in Birmingham Perry Barr. No foreign-state involvement was officially established, but it confirms that pressure from external forces exists – especially among constituents with foreign affiliations and allegiances – and affects domestic politics.^{91 92 93}

Conclusion

The progression of Motion A105 and the ultimate passing of the “Zionism is Racism” platform demonstrates a significant vulnerability within the UK’s democratic framework because it has provided an entry point for international radical networks, foreign-connected ideologues, and terror-linked advocacy groups to influence a mainstream British political party. By advancing policies that endorse racism, violence, and terrorism, seek to de-proscribe terror groups, and dismantle established anti-discrimination frameworks, Motion A105 moves significantly beyond domestic UK debate. As shown by previous instances of state-backed legislative interference and activist-driven electoral disruptions, UK political institutions – and those of the US and the West - remain susceptible to external ideological exploitation. Without stringent internal safeguards and stricter party governance, domestic political platforms risk being used to advance foreign agendas hostile to UK national security and democratic norms. Furthermore, the Motion’s endorsement by a senior American Green Party member is concerning for the US which has increasingly come under the influence of foreign actors trying to disrupt the stability and security of the country. By passing Motion A105, the Green Party violates its own 'deeply held commitment to equality, justice, and human rights for all.' Falsely framing Jewish people and supporters of Israel as racist is not only ironic—it is discriminatory in its own right.⁹⁴

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