



The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

9<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

On 28 September, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the Durban Declaration. Against the backdrop of record levels of antisemitism in the United Kingdom, we urge the Government to decline to participate in or support this event.

The Durban process has been tainted by antisemitism from its inception. The original conference in 2001 singled out Israel, the world's only Jewish state, and descended into such overt antisemitism that the United States and Israel withdrew.

The United Kingdom rightly declined to participate in the Durban commemorations in 2011 and 2021, the latter alongside more than 30 other countries. Participation this year would reverse that principled position and associate Britain with a process fundamentally compromised by antisemitism.

When the General Assembly agreed the arrangements for this meeting on 28 July, only the United States, Israel and Argentina voted against. Britain should now make clear that its decision not to oppose the resolution does not signal a change in its position. At a time when the United Kingdom should be strengthening its relationships with key allies, participation would also risk placing further strain on the UK-Israel relationship.

We therefore urge you to confirm that the United Kingdom will not participate in or support the 25th anniversary commemoration, and that our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dame Sarah MacIntosh, will not attend on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The previous Government rightly committed to a whole-of-society effort to tackle antisemitism. Britain cannot condemn antisemitism at home while lending legitimacy to a process internationally that has helped propagate it. At a time of heightened concern within Britain's Jewish community, we urge this new Government to be unequivocal: the United Kingdom should have no part in commemorating a process so deeply compromised by antisemitism.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Deech'.

Baroness Deech DBE KC



CC: The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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