# Young deputy resigns from Board of Deputies citing failure to represent diversity amid Gaza crisis



An elected representative on the UK’s largest Jewish body has resigned, pointing to a troubling failure to uphold moral standards and represent the growing diversity of opinions within the British Jewish community amid the escalating crisis in Gaza. Daniel Grossman, a 21-year-old final-year student at Bristol University, expressed profound disillusionment with the Board of Deputies during a recent meeting, declaring he had “no confidence in the leadership.” His departure follows disciplinary actions against him and 35 others who co-signed an open letter condemning Israeli military operations in Gaza, highlighting the increasing fears about the board’s handling of dissenting voices.

The letter described Israel's military actions as inflicting irreversible damage on the nation's moral integrity and asserted that their "Jewish values compel us to stand up and to speak out." Grossman sharply criticized the Board's failure to explicitly denounce what he called a “genocidal assault” on Gaza, revealing a troubling unwillingness to confront the moral complexities of this situation. “More people are realizing that Israel’s actions in Gaza cannot be justified as mere self-defence,” he stated, drawing attention to a widening gulf within Jewish communities regarding their uncritical support for Israeli government policies.

Criticism of the Board has surged in recent weeks following its repressive actions against deputies who dare to challenge the status quo. Investigative measures against the signatories of the controversial letter and the suspension of at least two members reflect a clear apprehension about the consequences of internal dissent. The letter’s publication in the Financial Times marked a crucial moment, showcasing that dissent within the Board has transformed from isolated objections to a broader movement representing a significant faction of its membership, including voices from Liberal and Reform synagogues.

Grossman highlighted that while younger members tend to voice their criticisms of Israeli government actions more openly, this sentiment is not limited to them; even older generations are beginning to reassess their long-standing allegiance. He recounted a supportive dialogue with his 89-year-old grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, who proudly endorsed his decision to challenge the Board, emphasizing the significance of speaking out in the face of injustice. This growing acknowledgment of divergent perspectives indicates a critical generational shift that is redefining the conversation around Israel and Palestine.

The unfolding situation has elicited not only support for Grossman but also serious concerns regarding the Board's leadership. Detractors argue that the Board has habitually prioritized a facade of unity in its responses to Israel, systematically silencing those who present alternative viewpoints. A spokesperson for the Board’s leadership attempted to downplay Grossman’s resignation by asserting that his term was nearing its conclusion, dismissing the serious implications of his decision. They also confirmed the ongoing investigation into the other signatories, further exemplifying their reluctance to transparently address dissent.

This internal strife within the Board of Deputies reflects a broader societal fracture, as many activists have pointed out, with radical groups accusing the organisation of a "deafening silence" on Gaza. Calls for a community-wide boycott of the Board are becoming louder among those who feel increasingly alienated by its positions on Israeli policies. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to worsen, with well over 51,000 deaths reported since the resurgence of violence, amplifying the urgency for a reevaluation of the Board's stance.

As the Board navigates its challenging position, it faces a crucial task: reconciling its identity and mission with the diverse, often conflicting perspectives emerging from its own ranks. The growing demands for transparency, accountability, and genuine engagement with dissenting opinions may signify a transformative moment not just for the Board, but for the future of British Jewry itself—at a time when the need for an assertive opposition to the prevailing narratives has never been more urgent.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/28/member-of-uk-jewish-board-of-deputies-resigns-over-failure-to-call-out-israel-on-gaza> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/28/member-of-uk-jewish-board-of-deputies-resigns-over-failure-to-call-out-israel-on-gaza> - Daniel Grossman, a 21-year-old final-year student at Bristol University, resigned from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, citing the board's failure to act morally and represent the increasing diversity of opinion within the British Jewish community amid Israel's renewed assault on Gaza. Grossman was one of 36 deputies facing disciplinary proceedings for criticising Israel's actions in Gaza. He expressed a lack of confidence in the board's leadership and highlighted the board's refusal to publicly condemn Israel's actions and criticise the government for abandoning hostages. Grossman noted a significant shift in the British Jewish community, with increasing numbers recognising that Israel's actions in Gaza cannot be justified as purely self-defence. He also mentioned the support he received from the community, indicating a growing willingness to speak out against the board's stance. A spokesperson for the Board of Deputies stated that Grossman's term was due to end soon and wished him well in his future endeavours. The board's investigation into the 36 signatories is expected to conclude in the coming weeks.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/4af46399-6287-4f1f-9251-aed6cc275b05> - The Board of Deputies of British Jews, the UK's largest Jewish representative body, launched an internal investigation and suspended vice-chair Harriett Goldenberg, along with scrutinising 35 other members, after they co-signed a public letter criticising the Israeli government's military actions in Gaza. The letter, published in the Financial Times, marked the first public dissent among board members regarding Israel's war against Hamas, expressing deep concern over Israeli violence in Gaza and the West Bank, and warning of threats to Israeli democracy. Board President Phil Rosenberg emphasised that only elected officers could officially represent the organisation and cited breaches of conduct for the disciplinary action. The letter also highlighted Israel's continued military operations following Hamas's rejection of revised ceasefire terms. The renewed Israeli assault and a full siege have led to over 51,000 deaths, according to Palestinian sources, with critics accusing Netanyahu of de-prioritising hostage recovery and exacerbating a humanitarian crisis.
4. <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/board-investigation-deputies-ft-letter-e56mqn6g> - The Board of Deputies has launched a 'complaints procedure' against each of the 36 deputies who signed a letter published in the Financial Times last week condemning Israel's actions in Gaza. A statement from the Board announced that all of the signatories are now 'subject to a complaints procedure', while some senior members of the organisation have been suspended. They include the vice-chair of the Board’s International Division, who has been suspended pending the investigation into complaints regarding the letter, which was published last Wednesday and has sparked a communal row. The Board’s executive committee reached a unanimous decision to temporarily suspend Harriet Goldenberg from her role as vice-chair and she was also asked to 'step back' from her role on the executive until the result of the investigation.
5. <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/board-of-deputies-members-publish-open-letter-saying-they-cannot-no-longer-support-israels-war-u30pro4d> - Dozens of members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews have published an open letter declaring that they can no longer support Israel in its war in Gaza. In the letter, published in the Financial Times, 36 members of the Board said that 'as British Jews,' they could 'no longer stay silent on the war' and sharply criticised the Israeli government’s actions and expressed deep concern for Israel’s future. Signed by members representing a number of shuls of various denominations, the petition read: 'We write as representatives of the British Jewish community, out of love for Israel and deep concern for its future. The inclination to avert our eyes is strong, as what is happening is unbearable, but our Jewish values compel us to stand up and to speak out.'
6. <https://www.thejc.com/community/radical-jewish-group-urges-community-to-boycott-board-of-deputies-q9qeu5jk> - Radical Jewish group Na’amod has accused the Board of Deputies of a 'deafening silence' over Israel’s actions in Gaza and urged members of the community to stop making payments to the organisation. Members of synagogues affiliated to the Board are asked to make an annual voluntary contribution of £35 to the representative body. A Na’amod spokesperson said, 'Many Jewish people in this country have felt for a long time that the BoD has failed to engage or represent members of the community with critical views of the Israeli occupation and its breaches of international law. Over the years this failure has become increasingly acute and today, more than ever, we can see its catastrophic consequences.' For too long, the spokesperson claimed, the Board had 'promoted a damaging agenda. At this time of unspeakable death and horror, they have been deafeningly silent about the consequences of Israel’s actions in Gaza. Instead, they have been complicit in a right-wing project to repress public outcry and calls for an end to the violence. It’s a disgraceful failure of moral responsibility.' The Board has been approached for comment.
7. <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/united-synagogue-leadership-challenges-board-of-deputies-over-ft-letter-criticising-israel-dow0me2y> - Ninety representatives of the United Synagogue (US), the community’s largest Orthodox body, quizzed the president of the Board of Deputies during a 'fiery' online meeting about a letter criticising Israel’s conduct in the Gaza War, which was signed by 36 deputies and published in the Financial Times. The figures from the community’s largest Orthodox body asked Phil Rosenberg for an urgent meeting following the letter which accused the Netanyahu government of 'openly encouraging violence against Palestinians in the West Bank' and restarting operations in Gaza for political gain. While the letter was signed by over 10 per cent of the Board, signatories were mostly from Liberal and Reform synagogues rather than the US, the largest Jewish denomination in the UK. Dozens of US figures, including synagogue chairs, rabbis and deputies, questioned Rosenberg at the meeting on Thursday afternoon, as a communal row bubbled over the letter.