

The Board of Deputies of British Jews
1 Torriano Mews
Kentish Town
London NW5 2RZ

25th July 2018

For the attention of Marie van der Zyl, Deputies President

Dear Marie,

This year, the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day is the power of words. We all know the power words can have, and in regard to that the Board has suspended for six years a deputy who made comments described as 'Islamophobic' and admitted holding anti-Arab views. It raises the broader question of what is 'hate crime' and 'other forms of hate', as listed in The Ten Commitments in the Board's Jewish Manifesto.

Hate in all its vehemently xenophobic forms is universal, and endures by being passed down through the generations. The words used and the views expressed by your father Barry Kaye in his letters to me in 2012 exposed his evident hatred of Gentiles - particularly myself. His contempt for me with phrases like "As you are a non-Jew of no standing in the Jewish community, you are not welcome ..." and his actual threat of violence against me are indisputable matters of fact. If he had carried out his threat and inflicted grievous bodily harm on me it would have resulted in a custodial sentence.

According to the enlightened Commission on Holocaust Education (State of New Jersey) prejudice is not inherited; it is learned, first from parents and then from an ever widening circle of people and institutions ranging from relatives to schools. Prejudice leads to racism which leads to 'anti-other', be it anti-Semitism, anti-Muslimism or anti-Gentileism.

Although your parents were divorced when you were 13 your father/daughter relationship remained and your father continued to be an influence as you grew up. He kept in touch with you and was a significant presence within your family until his death, and this is apparent from his remarks such as "My dear son-in-law Darrell and I have a remarkable friendship" and your invoking of his memory when you were elected President. He said, referring to your two daughters, "small children are open to suggestion", but admitted that "When the children are grown up adults and able to come to their own conclusions, that may be the time to debate the issues." - which offers some small comfort.

Your father's hate-fuelled attitude and virulent language could go some way to explaining your otherwise inexplicable animosity to your future in-laws right from the start of your relationship with Darrell, when you pointedly refused to have anything to do with me - the 'non-Jew' member of the family. Your enmity for our family as a whole was palpable at your wedding - which I recalled in my letter to you dated 4th June. Your attempts to try and cultivate a relationship with the elderly grandmother of your husband-to-be, who lived alone in Mallorca, to acquire influence over her financial affairs was ignominious. The plan was scuppered when Darrell's mother Nikki fortuitously arrived on the scene to visit *her* mother,

accompanied by his sister Kerry. Your similarly undisclosed communications with Nikki's mother's lawyer in Switzerland were revealed later.

Holocaust/genocide education and debates about prejudice reduction are not always successful when based on a simplistic 'us and them' approach. The travelling exhibition *Us and Them - From Prejudice to Racism*, organized under the patronage of UNESCO, and launched in Paris in 2017, showcased 'an original immersive scenography which aims to shed new light on racist behaviour and prejudices.' "It is by access to knowledge, science and knowledge of ourselves that we will reduce our prejudices, and that we will fight against racism.", said Nada Al-Nashif Assistant Director-General.

The Board's Jewish Manifesto for Local Government seeks to inform about antisemitism and racism and outlines 'Policy Asks', for which it seeks support:

"Politicians and officials from all parties and institutions must lead by example, use responsible language, and call out others when they do not."

"Members of the Jewish community are committed to positive engagement with people of all faiths and none, through participation in organisations and projects."

"Support initiatives at a local level that promote dialogue and understanding between different groups in society, to prevent tension and encourage cooperation."

Whilst being laudable objectives, they are unlikely to be successful if they are not rooted in traditional family values taught within the home and made manifest on a one-to-one basis.

Shakespeare paraphrased the Bible in *The Merchant of Venice*, when he wrote "The sins of the father are to be laid upon the children." Family backgrounds are relevant to personal growth and our formulation of attitudes, and this might give you pause for thought and honest reflection.

Yours sincerely,

George Rooker
Historian