



new london  
synagogue



### **A Fairer Approach to Refugees**

The BBC podcast, *To Catch A Scorpion* is an attempt to track down the criminal kingpin responsible for the smuggling of thousands of refugees both into this country and elsewhere. It's an extraordinary story, told brilliantly, and it captures the human tragedies of this appalling trade and sprawling interconnected web of challenges that face any country and any government wishing to engage effectively with what is already, and will surely continue to be, one of the greatest challenges of our time.

I'm proud to be a supporter of HIAS JCoRE, the Jewish voice on refugees and racial justice. The experience of my own people, in both modern and ancient times, weighs heavily. Ethics, in our most sacred scriptures, is articulated with the reminder, "know that you were strangers in a foreign land." And I'm honoured to be a signatory of the HIAS JCoRE General Election Manifesto, available here <https://hiasjcore.org/electionmanifesto/>. It's not, of course, a party specific call, but it is a call that the future government of this country treat refugees with a level of compassion that is our obligation and their right. In particular it is a call to provide decent housing for displaced people, reverse legal aid cuts to ensure all asylum seekers have access to justice and to end pseudoscientific age assessments which are unreliable and raise serious safeguarding concerns. These are calls, I believe, which are fully supported in our tradition and I've provided a commentary alongside a Reform and a Liberal colleague to the Manifesto whose lead author is Orthodox.

In these febrile times, at such an important time for our country it's important to stand together on this issue, to share and speak of our commitment to this issue. Please do check out the Manifesto and take opportunities to share of its calls with candidates and in your social networks,

Shabbat Shalom  
Rabbi Jeremy

### **A Musical Treat**

Those who joined us on Wednesday night will know we part playing host to a wonderful gathering of cantors and lovers of cantorial music who will be joining us for services tonight. We have a real treat in store with Cantors Matt Austerkein, Faith Steinsnyder, Rabbi Marcia Tilchin and others joining both Yoav and David for what should be an exceptional Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv. From 6:30pm. All welcome.