

Richard Verber

Putting Deputies at the heart of the Board and the Board at the heart of the community



I have extensive cross-communal experience having worked for University Jewish Chaplaincy, UJS and now World Jewish Relief. I studied French and Russian at Oxford University and have a Master's in Education.

I understand the challenges facing the Board having sat on the Executive for three years (representing Changing the Board) and was elected to the Finance and Organisation division this triennium too.

I am organised, efficient and a team player. Co-chairing Limmud Conference honed my skills – I led a team of 40 volunteers for a year to plan and execute a 2,700 person cross-communal event in our spare time.

I will be a vice president who understands social and traditional media, PR and campaigning. I lead on campaigns and communications for World Jewish Relief, having fought anti-Zionism and anti-semitism on campus while at UJS. I am involved in Holocaust education through March of the Living, leading cross-communal trips to Poland.

A representative Board, with power in the hands of Deputies

The Board's unique influence and legitimacy comes from it being representative. As vice president, I will represent the whole community and put Deputies at the centre of the Board's work. I will:

- Work with the religious and political spectrum of the community and make the Board more inclusive and accessible to women, young people, people with disabilities and Jews from all backgrounds
- Provide an induction and training for all Deputies, a review for their feedback, clearer guidance on the role of a Deputy and a survey of Deputies' skills and interests for staff to draw on to strengthen their work
- Provide more financial support and staff time for the regions, including a budget code for travel costs. Regional Deputies are core, not a burden
- Provide media and campaigns training for all Deputies to engage with local councillors, journalists, MEPs and MPs and to feed this back centrally

Overhaul the Board's Governance structures

We need checks and balances on those who set the Board's policies. With limited money, work must be targeted. As vice president, I will challenge the status quo and make the Board more open and accountable. I will:

- Ensure that the Board's mission, vision and values are clearly defined and communicated to the community so people understand what we do
- Ensure there are full one-year and three-year strategic plans for the President, Honorary Officers and each Division and provide training for trustees to understand their role and responsibilities to the organisation
- Support the Treasurer and Finance and Organisation Division to ensure there is a fully-costed budget, reviewed regularly, with expenditure matched to the delivery of the strategic plan
- Expand the trustee board to widen its skills and experience to comply with Charity Commission guidance, including law, HR and fundraising

Overhaul plenary meetings

Too much time is spent listening to reports being read out verbatim. Deputies' time is not used productively. As vice president, I will make plenaries more interactive and engaging. I will:

- Use meetings for both plenary debates and smaller groups to discuss urgent issues of the day depending on Deputies' interests
- Ensure all Divisions submit a one-page report before each plenary: Honorary Officers should be in partnership with Deputies
- Consult on the timings of meetings: Sunday morning plenaries and weekday London meetings alienate many regional and working Deputies
- Let Deputies vote on an independent chair for meetings and scrap the top table: this will enable the President to focus on substance rather than procedure and create unity rather than division – we're all on the same side