

Rabbi's Column – December 16, 2019

Today will be a political day. Feel free to skip the whole thing if you feel uncomfortable reading about realities.

1. America - The Jersey City Kosher Deli shootings were perpetrated by Black Supremacists who were part of the Black Hebrew Israelite splinter sect. Only a small proportion of that group is violent, and those who believe firmly that any whites who might think they are Jewish are only pretending to be Jews.
2. America again - The text of the Executive Order which has brought up some distress in the past couple of days can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-anti-semitism/>

It was difficult to know what all the commotion was about, as the wording of Executive Orders is not fully made public until after they are signed, according to the Federal Register. The biggest change is including the IHRA document

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

Feel free to read the Order and the document and come to your own conclusions.

3. Great Britain - As I write this, the polls have not yet closed and official tallies are not available. Post voting polls are found here - <https://www.cnn.com/uk/live-news/uk-election-day-2019-dle-ge19-gbr-intl/index.html>

Actual results will be found here <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2019/12/uk-election-results-2019-ge-19/>

4. Israel - The current attempt at forming a government has gone to the wayside. The next elections will be March 2. They should have been March 10, but that would be Purim, and beyond the normal celebrational aura of Purim, imagine being in charge of the government that was voted in on Purim.

That is it for most Jewishly relevant politics as far as I know at this moment. We all know other things are happening all the time.

In the midst of this crazy world, let us all hope to find or create some moments of sanity, peace and kindness.