

## **Joint statement by Sheffield Jews Against Israeli Apartheid and Sheffield Apartheid Free Zone.**

This weekend, a peaceful canvassing session by Sheffield Apartheid Free Zone (SAFZ) was falsely framed as anti semitic and campaigners were harassed. SAFZ volunteers reported this to the police, and enquiries are ongoing. Since then, a wave of false information, including AI-generated content, has smeared our campaign as antisemitic.

These insinuations are categorically false.

Sheffield Apartheid Free Zone calls for a boycott of Israeli goods in response to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, which has killed over 75,000 Palestinians, including more than 20,000 children. Boycott is a legitimate, peaceful form of democratic protest. Our campaign is passionately opposed to all racism, including antisemitism. Members of Sheffield Jews Against Israeli Apartheid have been regular volunteers from the outset.

Like the historic boycott against South African Apartheid, our method is classic canvassing. We have knocked on over 7,000 doors in Sheffield without prior incident. When someone is not interested, we politely move on. We record no personal data for those who don't sign.

The framing of peaceful, democratic canvassing as anti semitic is not only false but inflammatory and is a cynical attempt to raise unfounded fears in the Jewish community. We regard these false accusations as a clear malicious attempt at diverting attention from the war crimes which are still being committed against the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the Israeli state.

We will refuse to be intimidated and commit to continuing our campaign to build a boycott of Israeli goods across Sheffield, a campaign underpinned by anti-racism, and a commitment to Palestinian liberation.