

Twitter Thread by James Mendelsohn



James Mendelsohn

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******Rant incoming******

1/?

On Monday, the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) released a video on racism.

2.

Note - the CEEC is a distinctive evangelical pressure group within the C of E. It is independent of the Anglican hierarchy (although it has a couple of bishops among its members), so its actions and decisions have nothing to do with Welby.

3.

You can watch the video here:

<https://t.co/5FwlpErBSM>

My rant is not about the video itself; nor about the people who feature in it, who all seem perfectly decent.

Nonetheless, there are two rather large elephants in the room.

4.

This is the 1st:

To the best of my knowledge, CEEC said precisely nothing about racism when one specific form of racism - antisemitism - was a national issue for 5 years, and formed part of the backdrop to 2 successive General Elections.

Does racism against Jews not count?

5.

The 2nd, which is connected, concerns the track records of some of CEEC's members.

6.

CEEC's chair is @hugh_palmer, outgoing rector (vicar) of @AllSoulsLP.

As a director of both @EvangelicalsNow and @ChristExplored, he failed not once but twice to take decisive action against Stephen Sizer's antisemitism when asked.

7.

@hugh_palmer has never apologised for this failure.

Does racism directed against Jews not count?

8.

CEEC's Secretary is Stephen Hofmeyr QC. *As of today*, he is on the UK Board of Reference of Stephen Sizer's charity, Peacemaker Trust.

9a.

Stephen Hofmeyr therefore remains *directly* complicit in Stephen Sizer's ongoing antisemitism - by which I mean stuff like this...

<https://t.co/cKArgLfSLL>

9b.

Stephen Sizer tells Press TV "the Jewish community...is paranoid about Jeremy Corbyn becoming Prime Minister." He corrected himself to say "Zionist", but his intended target was clear. <https://t.co/y6Cl1lew5b>

— Adam Holland (@ad_holland) September 11, 2018

...and this

<https://t.co/HzoowRNI0I>

9c.

Another CEEC member is Lee Gatiss, the director of @ChurchSociety.

10a.

As @BernardNHoward and I show here, Lee Gatiss turned a blind eye to Stephen Sizer's antisemitism not once but twice, and when later challenged on this, pretended he had been unaware of it.

Does racism against Jews not count?

10b.

<https://t.co/MK4nZOOjMi>

Hopefully the point is clear.

[@HadleyFreeman](#) has written that antisemitism is seen by too many as "a lesser bigotry".

[@Baddiel](#) argues, quite simply, that, too often, Jews Don't Count when it comes to tackling racism.

11.

It would be hard to find a better example of what they mean, than in the contrast between the Church of England Evangelical Council's recent film on racism;...

12a.

...and the org's general silence on antisemitism, and the specific failings of some of its members on Stephen Sizer's antisemitism.

Does racism directed against Jews not count?

12b, end.

[@threadreaderapp](#) unroll