Scottish National politician Sandra White apologises for posting ‘repellent’ antisemitic cartoon

**By Marcus Dyson, November 12, 2015**

A Scottish National Party politician has apologised “unreservedly” after she posted an antisemitic image on Twitter.

Sandra White, who represents the party in the Glasgow Kelvin seat at Holyrood, had highlighted a cartoon of piglets suckling a large pig with the word “Rothschild” written on it and showing a bank with a Star of David.

The smaller animals were emblazoned with flags of countries including Britain and Israel and also carried the words Al-Qaeda and Mossad.

The image had originally been posted from an account run by a man called Charles Frith, who has repeatedly posted antisemitic messages and images. Ms White has previously re-posted messages from his account.

In an open letter to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, Ms White said she had not intended to re-tweet the image on the social media site.

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The message Ms White re-tweeted

“I would like to take this opportunity to apologise unreservedly for the offence that has been caused by my accidental re-tweeting of this offensive image which I too find repellent and offensive,” the MSP wrote.

“I had not intended to re-tweet this picture, and was horrified to learn that I had done so. As soon as this was brought to my attention, I deleted the tweet.”

Ms White said she was well-known in Scotland for her “love and tolerance for all peoples, all faiths and all religions” and her work to “stand up for all suffering prejudice regardless of race or creed”.

A long-standing critic of Israel and pro-Palestinian activist, Ms White said views on the Middle East conflict could not justify racial or religious hatred.

The tweet was removed from Ms White’s account on Monday after the JC brought it to the SNP’s attention.

ScouJeC had complained to Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon about the tweet.

The Jewish group said: “We were utterly appalled that any MSP should have seen fit to disseminate such a bizarre and hateful image as the right-hand side of the above picture, which, as we pointed out to the First Minister, is reminiscent of the very worst of Nazi propaganda.”
The Community Security Trust said it was "one of the most disgusting examples of antisemitism" ever from a politician.

Ms Sturgeon has repeatedly acknowledged the Jewish community's concerns about antisemitism in Scotland.

In September she said she did not believe there was an "antisemitic culture in the Scottish Parliament".

Meanwhile the head of the SNP's Friends of Palestine group claims he was detained by security services in Israel after landing in the country earlier this week.

Andy Murray said he was held for more than 24 hours at both Ben Gurion Airport and at a detention centre before being deported back to Britain.

Mr Murray told the Herald Scotland newspaper that he believed a meeting with Israeli embassy officials at a conference in Aberdeen last month had led to the action against him.

His computer was allegedly searched by a security team before he was eventually put on a flight back to the UK.

Mr Murray said he had asked the SNP's Glasgow North West MP Carol Monaghan to contact the Foreign Office to ask for his release.

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MSP Sandra White apologies over anti-Semitic tweet

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An SNP MSP has apologised unreservedly after retweeting a "repellent and offensive" anti-Semitic image.

Sandra White said she had not intended to retweet the picture, and had deleted it when she realised what had happened.

The image showed six piglets suckling at a sow with the word "Rothschild" and the Star of David on it.

The piglets are shown as representing the UK, the US, Israel and terror groups Islamic State, Al Qaeda and Boko Haram.

Ms White has written a letter of apology to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (ScoJec) for any offence that had been caused.

'Accidental retweeting'
In her letter, the Glasgow Kelvin MSP wrote: "I would like to take this opportunity to apologise unreservedly for the offence that has been caused by my accidental retweeting of this offensive image which I too find repellent and offensive.

"I had not intended to retweet this picture, and was horrified to learn that I had done so. As soon as this was brought to my attention, I deleted the tweet.

"Anyone who knows me or has known me over the many years I have served in public office will know of my love and tolerance for all peoples; all faiths and all religions."

Ms White led a debate at the Scottish Parliament earlier this year calling for Holyrood to recognise the Palestinian state and the need for a two state solution to the situation in Israel and Palestine.

But she said in her letter that "there is nothing that happens in Israel or Palestine that can be justification for any racial or religious hatred".

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has also written a letter to ScoJec director Ephraim Borowski in which she stated that "the image in question is certainly not something I would expect to see tweeted by Sandra or by any member of the party."

Ms Sturgeon added: "Having spoken to Sandra directly about this matter I know that she understands the seriousness of this accidental re-tweet and deeply regrets the offence it has caused. We all share the view that nothing must be done that provides the views expressed in the image any legitimacy whatsoever.

"Regarding the original tweet itself, I find it and the image it contained abhorrent. I will not tolerate anti-Semitism or religious or racial hatred of any kind at any level in our society."

Mr Borowski welcomed Ms White's apology and Ms Sturgeon's comments.

'Unequivocal condemnation'

He added: "Her original post was exceptionally public, broadcast on Twitter to an international audience, and remained there for three days before being deleted.

"We are glad she has now, as we requested, made her apology and unqualified condemnation of anti-Semitism in all its forms, wherever it may be found, equally public, by posting that on Twitter too.

"We are grateful to the first minister for her unequivocal condemnation of the original post as 'abhorrent' and 'completely unacceptable', and for making unambiguously clear her refusal to tolerate any form of anti-Semitism in Scottish society.

"We have replied expressing the hope that we will continue to maintain a constructive relationship with her government to the benefit of the Jewish community and Scotland as a whole."

ScoJec said the image retweeted by Ms White had been "reminiscent of the very worst of Nazi propaganda" in its use of "cartoon hook noses and rubbing hands" and had contained pictures that originated on neo-Nazi websites in the US.

It said the image had "played to the enduring anti-Semitic charge that Jews use wealth to control
others to go to war on their behalf."

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