



Baroness Gillian Merron

Member of the British House of Lords

Gillian Merron has recently become a Labour Life Peer in the House of Lords in the British Parliament and European Co-Chair of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians.

Prior to this, she was Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews where she enjoyed working closely with the World Jewish Congress and sister communities across the world.

Gillian is proud of all that was achieved over her seven years, including the defence of the British community against antisemitism which shockingly reared its ugly head in the heart of the political establishment in the Labour Party; establishing the ground breaking Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community following the brutal murder of George Floyd; persuading the government to amend legislation in the Coronavirus Bill in order that cremation would not be compulsory; 'saving Sukkot' by negotiating the entry of previously banned etrogim into the country; establishing the series of 'Jewish Manifestos' for parliamentary and local elections to secure high level support for meeting the needs and concerns of the Jewish community; and bringing together the Bahraini, Israeli and UAE ambassadors to attend a 'Chanukah in a New Light' event, something impossible to imagine just a few years before.

Gillian was the Member of Parliament for Lincoln from 1997 to 2010.

Experienced at the heart of Government, she was continually promoted as a Minister under Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, serving at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, Cabinet Office, Transport, as Minister of State for Public Health and as a senior Government whip.

Before being elected to Parliament, Gillian had careers in local government and as a senior trade union official in the East Midlands, speaking up for the rights of low paid part time workers.

Gillian has run her own business, advising and advocating on public health across the EU. She was also Chair of a national consumer body and a volunteer, helping disadvantaged women into work.

Born in Ilford, Essex, Gillian studied Management Sciences at Lancaster University and was also a kibbutz volunteer. She is an active member of Lincoln's small but thriving Liberal Jewish community and has recently joined the South London Liberal Synagogue.