

'Would you hand these toys and gifts to your own children?'

SHIRA DRUION

Affluence demands of us to be generous to the less fortunate who face challenging circumstances daily. Donors can, besides monetary contributions, afford recipients the dignity that every human being deserves.

Impilo, a children's home in Glenhazel in Johannesburg which opened its doors in 2003, is designed to meet the needs of children who do not have families of their own to care for them. It was the initiative of two Jewish social workers, Sue Krawitz and Sheri Shenker.

Impilo currently houses 12 abandoned and vulnerable children, ranging in age from new-borns to two years.

"The home provides the infants with excellent medical, emotional and physical care, which is all financed through generous donations, as we receive no government funding," says one of Impilo's adoption social workers, Janys Orelowitz.

"The Jewish community is a very philanthropic one, of which Impilo thankfully is a beneficiary."

Besides money, without which the home would not be able to

exist, donors also contribute toys, clothing, etc. Some of these articles are in good nick, but alas, others embarrassingly are not.

"Most of our donors understand the core values on which Impilo is based, in that we treat our babies as our own and that we ask ourselves whether we would give these toys and clothing to our own children before giving them to our Impilo babies.

"In as much as Yad Aharon and Michael is extremely grateful for every donation given to them, there is a problem with some of the goods donated in that some of the items are in no way fit for a fellow Jew," says Yad Aharon Managing Director Alice Friedman.

Yad Aharon is a charity that services the Jewish community by providing fresh produce and other parcels to 540 needy families on a regular basis.

"Although the core purpose of Yad Aharon revolves around food, the demand for good second hand clothing is so high that we decided to open a clothing boutique a few years ago to service our clients' growing needs.

"When clothing comes in, it is sorted into three grades. The

Photo by Ilan Ossendryver



Janys Orelowitz with Onelia Malatjie, one of Impilo's caregivers; and several of Impilo's young tots.

best goes into our shop strictly for recipients; whatever does not pass our stringent quality standards is sold to selected hawkers and whatever is left behind after that, is given to charities who service the wider population. The rest is so damaged that we cannot even use them.

"At Yad Aharon we put our recipients first on our list of priorities, which means that the quality standard we set for our recipients, is high. Their

self-esteem is low as it is, so by giving them sub-standard quality goods, we only compound the problem and this essentially defeats the spirit of the mitzvah of chesed and tzedakah.

"I cannot tell you how wonderful it is for our shop staff to open a parcel that contains washed and neatly folded garments which so obviously mirror those donors' respect for the needs of our recipients and for that we are deeply grateful."

DA affirms its commitment to a two-state ME solution

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) was not the way forward in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, DA Shadow Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ian Davidson, told a gathering held under the auspices of the Cape Board of Deputies' Straight Talking series. He also reaffirmed the DA's commitment to a two-state solution in the ME.

Davidson, who participated in the parliamentary portfolio committee's visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in March, said the ANC's struggle history tended to "warp" its attitude to matters such as the conflict.

The trip was a follow-up to one made by the committee over a year ago when it visited Gaza only and was in response to an ACDP recommendation that the resolution it intended to submit to the National Assembly, stand over until all sectors had been visited, to ensure a more credible report.

Expressing himself unequivocally on BDS, Davidson said: "We don't believe that type of campaign will be at all helpful. Clearly, neither the new South African ambassador (to Israel) nor the (incoming) Israeli ambassador has BDS in mind," adding that both wished to promote trade between the two countries instead.

"We recognise that there are problems and that negotiations have come to a stuttering halt - we would like to see them resumed. We believe in a two-state solution and a shared Jerusalem."

Concerning the "alleged discrimination" practised within Israel, he said this was not investigated more thoroughly



Dr Ivan Meyer, DA leader, Western Cape; Dan Plato, MEC Community Safety; Li Boiskin, Cape Chairman SAJBD; Ian Davidson, Shadow Minister International Relations and Co-operation; and Alan Winde, MEC Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, at the meeting hosted by SAJBD.

"because we were trying to see the broader issue.

"We recognise security as key as far as Israel is concerned," he added. "We also recognise the pain on the Palestinian side, but we recognised that you couldn't trade off pain against security."

Davidson felt that the ANC members of the delegation were "disillusioned a bit" as far as the Palestinian side was concerned and that their perceptions had changed quite markedly as a result of the visit. Conceding that there were no simple solutions, he felt that South Africa possibly had a role to play in the region.

"It was certainly a tightrope that we walked trying to present a reasonable voice," he said, referring to the Cope, ACDP and DA members of the delegation.

DA Western Cape leader Dr Ivan Meyer, noted that South Africa was one of the few countries in which citizens lived in religious harmony and he thanked the Jewish community for promoting

"cultural warmth".

He said the DA was committed to making the National Development Plan work. "There's a lot of co-operation behind the scenes which you never hear about when we meet with the national ministers.

Community Safety MEC Dan Plato spoke of watching briefs introduced by the DA, that saw lawyers and law students sitting in court in hand-picked cases to see how magistrates and justices were conducting themselves and to ascertain why so many cases were thrown out of court. This was then taken up with the National Prosecuting Authority.

MEC of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Alan Winde, acknowledged that black economic empowerment was necessary "to fix the misalignment of the past, where so many were disenfranchised", but said that there needed to be a sunset clause as the practice was "anti-competitive, giving advantage to some over others".



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Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue Community Rabbi

Beit Emanuel/Temple Emanuel, a Progressive Synagogue in the historic suburb of Parktown, Johannesburg (South Africa) is seeking a full-time rabbi with effect from August 2013.

Beit Emanuel has historically been the largest or "flagship" Progressive congregation in Johannesburg and South Africa, and the successful applicant will work with lay leadership to reinvigorate congregational life and grow membership.

Beit Emanuel has just under 400 member family units, with varying ages, income and levels of observance. Services are offered for Shabbat and all festivals, and the community is attempting to grow its Religion School, youth and young adult demographic and activities.

The ideal candidate will combine warmth and learning, and will have a demonstrated ability to build and grow a community, as well as the skills and abilities usually expected of a solo or senior rabbi for a Progressive community.

Due to the imminent deadline, interim appointments will be welcomed, and in this regard, applications are invited from senior students, rabbis on sabbatical or those recently retired.

The remuneration package will be market-related and negotiable to the right candidate.

Applications close 31 May 2013.

For more information
or to submit your CV in strict confidence,
please e-mail chairman@beitemmanuel.co.za