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For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY ACTION TO BE CENTREPIECE OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE'S NEW PROGRAMME

The need for Jews to engage in community action is the unifying theme of the Jewish Community Centre for London's spring programme, which is unveiled today.

The centerpiece of the programme is to be a meeting on 20th May with Ruth Messinger, the former Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York and President of the American Jewish World Service, an international development organisation providing support to more than 350 grassroots social change projects in 39 countries. Messinger is expected to urge the UK's Jewish community to do more to highlight the plight of Darfur, saying:

"No-one should understand better about the need to combat genocide than the Jews, yet sixty years after the Holocaust, the world stands silent in the face of the most appalling acts of massive murder, rape and torture. Our community must speak out."

The programme also includes a series of meetings on 8th May and 5th June with JCore, the Jewish Council for Racial Equality. These will look at the plight of asylum seekers and immigrants in Britain today. Key speakers include Jonathan Cox, Parliamentary Officer with the Refugee Council.

The programme also reveals that the JCC is looking for partners for a new event called "Cocktails with a Cause." Charities - Jewish and non-Jewish - are invited to put themselves forward to be the beneficiaries of an evening of "drinking and donating" by emailing events@jccclondon.org.uk and telling the JCC how they might work together.

Lighter elements include a series of Movie Mondays including a sing-a-long Dirty Dancing evening and a showing of John Hurt's Shooting Dogs, about the Rwanda genocide, in association with World Jewish Relief.

Launching the programme which can be seen in full at the JCC's website, www.jccclondon.org.uk, Chief Executive, Nick Viner, said:

“The theme of social action is extremely important to the JCC. The JCC is a place where the whole Jewish community and others can come together not simply to reflect on the world, but to see what we can and should be doing to make it better, not just for our fellow Jews but for all those in the society in which we live.”

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About the Jewish Community Centre for London

The JCC aims to foster and develop an inclusive Jewish community for anyone and everyone who associates with being Jewish, to whatever extent.

It seeks to attract all sorts of Jews of all ages, persuasions and lifestyles, as well as their non-Jewish friends and families, by creating a welcoming environment in which all feel at home.

Rooted in Jewish values, the JCC's social, cultural, educational and recreational programme provides multiple pathways into the richness of Jewish life. In the longer term, it will be able to do this within its own unique building, a meeting place for all those attracted by any aspect of Judaism.