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EPHRAIM'S TALK FIGHTS PREJUDICE

EPHRAIM Borowski, director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, has spoken out against the tolerance of antisemitism in society today.

He was speaking as the first non-Christian to deliver the prestigious Centre for Theology and Public Issues Baillie Lecture at New College Edinburgh, held during Interfaith Week in Scotland.

His talk was on 'A Jewish view of the challenges facing Scottish Society: Jewish and Scottish - the threads and the tartan'.



**FIRST NON-CHRISTIAN
SPEAKER: Ephraim
Borowski**

Mr. Borowski told the audience: "Not all antisemitism is directed against individuals.

"Alongside the name-calling and the violent attacks on Jewish people and property, there are more subtle forms of discrimination.

Public figures are prepared to declare their support for self-determination for all nations - except the Jews; or their recognition of all states on Earth - except the Jewish state, Israel; or the right of all faith communities to the protection of their customs and traditions - except the Jews; or see all hate crime through the victim's eyes - except when it's against the Jews."

Mr Borowski welcomed the many efforts in Scotland and elsewhere to further interfaith dialogue and understanding but confessed that he was sceptical about the way in which that dialogue often takes place.

There was much of value in interfaith activities even if they went no further than breaking down barriers and forming friendships, or staging symbolic or ceremonial public events to bring lay and religious leaders together.

He challenged people to go further, however, and to share and probe their disagreements, not merely their superficial agreements.

"That means accepting each other's scepticism, antagonism and incomprehension, because if they do not they are being dishonest to themselves, as well as disrespectful to others," he said.

Mr. Borowski also praised the good intentions of the Scottish Executive's One Scotland - Many Cultures campaign as "an indication not of what Scotland is today - else there would be no need of a campaign - but of what Scotland aspires to become."