

Jonathan Ashworth hid from 'screaming' Palestine protesters in vicarage

Former MP, who lost his seat to pro-Palestine independent, says he has never known a campaign of 'such vitriol, bullying and intimidation'

From The [Telegraph](#)

Mr Ashworth was central to Labour's winning campaign but [lost his Leicester South seat to Shokat Adam](#), an independent candidate who ran on a pro-Gaza ticket.

In his first interview since the ballot, Mr Ashworth told LBC: "I've been immensely proud to represent a diverse constituency in Leicester where I've been immensely proud for 13 years to have been able to walk into any mosque, any Hindu temple, any gurdwara.

"But I have never known a campaign of such vitriol, such bullying, such intimidation built on the foul and obnoxious lie that I was responsible for genocide. That I had the blood of Gazan children on my hands.

"This is the campaign that was run by a minority of bullies, and loud mouths. This is not representative of the many, many Muslim constituents I was proud to represent. This is not Muslim values.

That's what he still feels the need to say.

Mr Ashworth noted a call from [The Muslim Vote](#), a campaign group which created a list of approved candidates for Muslims to vote for, to "punish" MPs who did not back a ceasefire.

Asked what had happened to him during the campaign, he

replied: "I was chased down the street, shouted at and screamed at for 40, 45 minutes, so I had to seek refuge literally in a vicarage. And they waited for me outside the vicarage.

"And even when I came out [of] the vicarage, they were shouting at me with megaphones. There were leaflets going around, accusing me of being 'Genocide Jon', anonymous leaflets."

He added: "The vitriol is like something I have never seen, even though I've called for a ceasefire, even though I've called for Palestinian statehood," he added.

All that and still they didn't love him. So sad



Mr Ashworth lost his Leicester South seat to Shockat Adam