



From the ground up

Annual Report 2012

הקרן החדשה לישראל
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل
New Israel Fund
Progress. Together.

New Israel Fund

OUR MISSION

We believe that Israel can live up to its founders’ vision of a state that “ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants, without regard to religion, race or gender”.

ABOUT THE NEW ISRAEL FUND

New Israel Fund UK raises funds and provides support to organisations and projects in Israel while educating and raising awareness of this work in the UK. We are part of an international philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans, Europeans and Australians.

Since its inception over 30 years ago, NIF has been widely credited with building Israel’s progressive and vibrant civil society from scratch. In this period we have provided over £140 million to more than 800 cutting-edge organisations.

NIF continues to be a leading force advancing a more tolerant, just and democratic Israel. Our extensive presence in Israel – including a diverse staff and consultant pool of 100 people – and wide network of contacts in all sections of society, allows us to be sensitive to changing circumstances and needs and bring diverse groups together for maximum access. It also provides an unparalleled degree of supervision of grants and programmes to ensure effectiveness.



NIF believes that the best way to ensure a vibrant and prosperous Israel for all its inhabitants is by not “just” funding organisations directly but by supporting them through SHATIL, NIF’s capacity building arm, and also by our own community outreach and advocacy work in Israel.

In the UK through our events and projects, we provide a unique space for the community to engage with Israel and to learn about the modern Israel of today; thereby strengthening ties.

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Chief Executive

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Chairman’s Report

Dear Friends

2012 was NIF UK’s 20th anniversary year. Participation at our events was at an all-time high and we received a record level of support from our donors. Our community can take enormous pride from the real support and commitment that we continue to provide to the large number of Israelis who maintain the struggle to confront injustice and inequality wherever it appears, building a better society – from the ground up.

For the vision we share and the dedication that has been shown by activists, donors and supporters we can regard 2012 as another very successful year.

Events in Israel in 2012 once again drew on the wide range of NIF’s activities. Operation Pillar of Defence in November 2012 required us to respond quickly to the needs of the disadvantaged populations in the South. In May 2012, incitement and violence against refugees and asylum seekers firmly placed their needs on NIF’s agenda. We provided emergency support and led measures to reduce tension between local populations and refugees. Religious intolerance hit new highs during the year, but our support for various orthodox and other organisations helped highlight the need for tolerance and change. The following pages provide a flavour of how, with your support, we delivered real help to address these issues and many more.

The year, as always was full of hope as well as concern. We are pleased that social and economic issues and building a shared society were at the top of the agenda in January’s elections. The summer protests of 2011 left many inspired and energised. We worked hard to ensure that the hundreds of thousands who took to the streets for a better Israel are listened to by the large number of new Members of the Knesset. But real social change must come from the grassroots as well as from government. The impact of our support for those who often do their work far away from the headlines will remain critical.

NIF works to secure a future for an Israel that treats all its citizens and those who live there with justice, tolerance and decency. Our impact is made possible by the growing moral, financial and emotional support you continue to provide. Perhaps, more than over recent years, we can identify early signs that justify a new optimism.

Nicholas Saphir
Chairman NIF UK



Highlights of 2012

In 2012 we achieved impact across Israeli society through helping individuals and communities that faced challenges, and working with those leading positive change. We pioneered work building a shared society between Jews and Arabs, developed women’s economic empowerment schemes, supported the Israeli Ethiopian community, as well as promoting pluralism in Jewish life.



In 2012, NIF grantees worked to counter demolition and eviction orders against unrecognised Bedouin homes and to empower the Bedouin community of Israel. Grantee Adallah helped achieve a precedent-setting decision that cancelled 51 demolition orders in Alsira. Another grantee, Negev Coexistence Forum unites Jewish and Bedouin Israelis working on these issues.



We helped refugees and asylum seekers in Israel and championed tolerance and anti-racism (pages 8-11), as well as assisting those communities who most struggled under rocket attack in the South in November (page 6).

Our Shared Society achievements included Shatil publishing ‘Haifa – Between Reality and a Vision for Shared Society’ a roadmap for achieving a truly shared city. We helped launch ‘Moona’ – a space for change – the world’s first Jewish-Arab centre for space and science. NIF’s Kick Racism out of Israeli Football is becoming increasingly effective; we found a 29% decrease in stadium racist behaviour, and in 2012 we brought together Jewish and Arab youngsters for a tournament held in the Arab-Israeli city of Taybe.



NIF works to improve the social and economic status of women from marginalised communities. Providing them with training and support that gives the skills, confidence and resources required to improve the lives of their family and community.



We continue to focus on socioeconomic issues highlighted in the 2011 social protests; gaps in access to health services and affordable housing and childcare. Following the work of a Shatil-led coalition the Knesset approved a plan to provide free education for all Israeli children from age three.

NIF supported the volunteers of Ahuzat Negev during Pillar of Defence in the development town of Ofakim who found out what residents needed and made sure they got it – a bomb shelter, psychological first aid, house repairs, help for immigrants who don't understand Hebrew and activities for children.

Operation Pillar of Defence in November required rapid response. We provided direct assistance through Shatil's 'situation room' and emergency funding. We helped ensure the needs of disadvantaged populations were met, e.g. priority was given to Bedouins, Ethiopian-Israelis and Russian-speakers.



For you were a stranger in a land not your own

The treatment of refugees and asylum seekers is controversial everywhere. Israel is no exception. NIF advocates for a sensible approach that respects human rights, and balances the ideal of the Jewish homeland with the Jewish obligation to help the stranger.

No one wants to be a refugee. Yet, that is the reality for the 60,000 Africans – predominately from Eritrea and Sudan – living in Israel. Despite being a signatory to international conventions on refugees, Israel has politicised its response to the influx. An already complicated human rights situation is further exacerbated by Israel's lack of a coherent policy on immigration for non-Jews.



In early 2012, the government enacted the Anti-Infiltration Law, according to which migrants from Eritrea can be jailed for up to three years, while Sudanese can remain in prison indefinitely. Many of the detainees are destined for the world's largest refugee detention centre under construction in the Negev Desert.

Encouraged by ultra-nationalist politicians, there is a growing backlash against the refugees. During a public anti-refugee demonstration, Miri Regev (Likud) said that “the Sudanese are a cancer in our body.” Other prominent politicians have called for human rights activists aiding migrants to be forcibly rounded up into detention camps; publically blasted the refugees as “rapists and harassers,” and called the population “an enemy state of infiltrators.”

The situation has devolved into violence, including a riot in south Tel Aviv and the torching of an apartment housing Eritrean refugees in Jerusalem.

NIF works to make a practical difference in a multitude of ways, including helping more than 4,000 asylum seekers in applying for collective protection status, providing free Hebrew and English classes, and running shelters (including one for single-parent families/pregnant women and one for children).

Israel joins much of the western world in grappling with the myriad challenges presented a sudden infusion of newcomers – whether economic migrants or refugees. This new reality creates a series of complicated problems without simple solutions.



We work to combat unfair policy. We took action against the “voluntary” deportations of Eritrean refugees back to a dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation with your help those deportations were then halted by Israel's Attorney General. NIF organisations will keep up pressure on the new government to deal with refugees fairly, humanely, and in accordance with Israeli and international law.



Emergency Grants

- Security for Refugee Shelters 21%
- Young Refugee Activists Building Bridges 26%
- Support Centre 26%
- Dialogue Group between Israelis and Asylum Seekers 26%

The arrival of the refugees – largely to South Tel Aviv – has fuelled resentment and increased racist incidents among the socioeconomically disadvantaged residents. NIF has made building bridges and understanding between these two communities a priority.



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Achievements

- The NIF network advocacy achievements included preventing mass incarceration of Sudanese nationals and securing the release of torture victims and children.
- NIF is providing financial resources to the front-line organisations working with African refugees, e.g. for women's shelters. We offer expertise and training to help the refugees speak for themselves to the media, to the politicians, and to all of Israel.
- NIF has made building bridges and understanding between refugees and veteran Israeli populations a priority. Focusing on shared issues of concern we are working to create common ground that serves as a bulwark against politicians eager to exploit existing tensions. In south Tel Aviv we helped establish joint patrols by refugees and local residents in neighbourhoods.

Voices for change from within

Tolerance and respect for the other is increasingly challenged in Israel. From growing gender segregation to religiously-based racism, the issues are making front-page headlines. As the gaps between the ultra-Orthodox, religious, traditional and secular broaden, NIF is building bridges, fostering understanding, and empowering activists working for change.

Following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Gadi Gvaryahu knew that mounting religious and ultra-nationalist extremism must be countered. Gadi went on to found 12 Heshvan – named for the Hebrew date of Rabin’s assassination – to promote openness, pluralism, and tolerance. He now leads the ‘Tag Meir’ coalition. Himself an Orthodox Jew, Gadi knew that the culture must be changed from the inside. And he is not alone (main picture page 11).



Photo: Yossi Zamir

Some Orthodox Jewish organisations reject separatism and the harsher strictures on women’s behaviour and appearance, and favour integration into the larger Israeli society. These activists enlarge the debate within the Orthodox community and also build bridges to the secular Jewish public and modern Orthodox Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora. Dealing with issues ranging from Jewish divorce law to segregation of Ashkenazi and Sephardi girls in school, these groups have quiet impact.

Other organisations, such as Israel’s first-ever secular yeshivot in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, teach Judaism in a humanistic context to young Israelis. The Israeli branches of the Reform, Liberal and Masorti movements lead the fight, with our support, for freedom from the ultra-Orthodox hegemony over religious practice and family law. Women of the Wall continue to win victories for egalitarian prayer at the Kotel.

As Israel debates “sharing the burden” with the ultra-Orthodox sector, the New Israel Fund family looks to the larger issues of sustaining a just society and a democratic state, one that values every stream of Jewish religious practice.



New and established Israeli organisations are working for social change from within many streams of the Jewish tradition. As some ultra-Orthodox leaders and nationalist settler activists embrace ever more extreme interpretations of Jewish identity to make their case, the NIF family responds by embedding Judaism in tolerance, generosity, equality, and justice. Not least the ‘Tag Meir’ Forum.

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Achievements

- NIF’s anti-racism coalition ‘Tag Meir’, which brings together nearly 30 secular and religious Israeli organisations to make a stand against racism and attacks against minorities, held 15 events in 2012. The events, usually protests and solidarity vigils to sites marred by price-tag attacks, have raised the issue up the national agenda with the coalition becoming a leading advocate promoting tolerance and inclusiveness.
- Our Orthodox Women’s Seed Pool works to foster female Orthodox agents of change. In 2012, the Pool provided mikveh attendants training to identify signs of abuse, built a network of support for ultra-Orthodox single mothers, empowered ongoing efforts against gender-segregation, and ensured women could be “seen and heard”, and more.

Our twentieth year NIF in the UK

New Israel Fund brings today's issues in Israel alive for the UK community. Our busy programme of activities in this 20th Anniversary year of NIF in the UK provided a unique and positive space for the community to celebrate the successes and explore the challenges of Israeli society.

In 2012 we reached over 3,000 members of the community through our events and speaking opportunities. With highlights including a speaking tour with NIF International President and former Deputy Knesset Speaker Professor Naomi Chazan, a women's lunch with Professor Alice Shalvi and an Israel Question Time with peace campaigner Talia Sasson.

We celebrated NIF UK's 20th Anniversary with two high profile events. The world premiere of A.B. Yehoshua's play 'Can Two Walk Together,' was performed in Central London to a packed house as a rehearsed reading and achieved tremendous media coverage.



"A tale of two Zionists: Ze'ev Jabotinsky, David Ben Gurion and the dramatic origins of Israel. A Jewish playwright is staging a conversation that shaped history. He tells Donald Macintyre how it can help to form the future."

"It's a sign of Mr Yeshoshua's outlook that the world premiere of the play – a rehearsed reading – was in London last week, the author's fund raising gift to the UK New Israel Fund, which promotes democracy, equality, co-existence and human rights here."
The Independent, 16 May 2012



Our Human Rights Awards Dinner which honoured Israel's most famous author Amos Oz with a Lifetime Achievement Award was a triumph with a record number of guests attending. Amos Oz, who was in conversation with BBC Correspondent Tim Franks at the event is a strong advocate for peace and social justice as well as a more open and tolerant society in Israel, his vision and values are what NIF is all about. He was widely interviewed on the BBC and in the national press.

"When the man sometimes described as Israel's national conscience talks about the gnawing sense of unease pervading his country, it might be worthwhile for his countrymen to sit up and take note. But, says Amos Oz, one of the country's most revered authors, many Israelis are sleepwalking through the danger, imagining that the high walls springing up on every border will keep them safe."
James Hider, The Times 31 October 2012

We continued to partner with a wide range of organisations and synagogues, and are a founder member of the UK Task Force on issues facing Arab citizens of Israel. We held sessions at Limmud and Jewish Book Week, and brought a variety of leading figures from Israeli civil society to address private and public events.

The NIF New Generation Group held a wealth of events for professionals in their 20's and 30's and continues to go from strength to strength. 2012 New Gen events, aimed at younger members of the community looking for a space to engage with Israel, included speaker events with Prof. Naomi Chazan, Daniel Sokatch (NIF International CEO), and grantees B'Tselem, ACRI and 'Be Free Israel'.

With our ongoing young leadership programme, The William Frankel Social Justice Fellowship, another young post-university Jewish leader from the UK was able to spend 10 months in Israel working in an Israeli social change organisation.



"Oz, who arrives this week in London to receive a lifetime achievement award from the New Israel Fund for decades of pushing for a peaceful end to the conflict, still believes in the ideal of a Palestinian state living side-by-side with Israel."

James Hider, The Times 31 October 2012



Selected highlights

- We reached over 3,000 members of the community through our events and speaking opportunities.
- We celebrated our 20th Anniversary with the world premiere of A.B. Yehoshua's new play and by honouring Amos Oz with a lifetime achievement award at our Human Rights Awards Dinner.
- Our total figure of 46 events taking place in 2012 exceeded our previous record.

Financial Statement 2012



Israel Project Grants
Expenditure 2012 by Theme (Total £831,287)

- SHATIL 17%
- Civil & Human Rights 32%
- Religious Pluralism & Tolerance 0.4%
- Social & Economic Justice 29.8%
- Environment 20.8%

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2012	Total 2011
	£	£	£	£
Contributions	560,821	718,113	1,278,934	1,212,936
Investment Income	233	–	233	115
Total income	561,054	718,113	1,279,167 ¹	1,213,051 ²
Israel Project Grants	117,197	714,090	831,287	829,667
UK Educational Programme Expenditure	250,550	19,797	270,347	241,040
Cost of Generating Funds	121,665	–	121,665	139,934
Governance Costs	10,678	–	10,678	8,460
Total Resources Expended	500,090	733,887	1,233,977	1,219,101
Surpus/(deficit) for the Year	60,964	(15,774)	45,190	(6,050)

¹ In 2012 additional contributions in the amount of £59,253 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors
² In 2011 additional contributions in the amount of £111,423 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors

Note: The full audited Annual Report and Accounts are available to view on our website.
A full list of grantees is available on our website.

Looking to the future

Adam Ognall, Chief Executive



With your support 2012 was a record year for New Israel Fund; providing a strong platform for growth and greater impact both in Israel and the UK.

Our work in Israel in 2013 so far has been shaped by the post-election environment. Some of the issues at the core of our work: religion and state and social justice are high on the public agenda providing opportunities for NIF and our partners to achieve real and sustained change. We also remain committed to our work on democracy and the rights of all Israelis – whether vigilant against those pushing an anti-democratic agenda or ensuring a fair solution for the Negev Bedouin. We are particularly active in our work reaching out to new audiences in Israel to promote our values. The priorities include women’s rights and status, and the fight against racism and promoting tolerance.

Of course most of this work takes place away from the headlines – whether through building coalitions or funding community groups. There is no better example than Shatil – NIF’s social action arm – which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Shatil’s impact and achievements have been phenomenal. To give one insight – over 5,000 Israeli organisations’ work has been affected by Shatil.

In 2013 we are developing new ways forward towards change in Israel – allying new strategies and techniques with continuing to support the vital work of our grantees.

Similarly in the UK we are identifying new ways to reach out to the community – educating and connecting people to our work and the Israelis we support who are building a positive future for Israel. Already this year we have increased the number of communities we are working with and have launched activities which provide innovative ways for new audiences to learn about our work.

Like you, our values are permanent and encompass the work that we do. And we will never stop looking for the best ways to engage you and tens of thousands of concerned Israelis in the job of building a better Israel.

How you can help

The New Israel Fund is a powerful engine for change in Israel. It is also a network of people around the globe who work together in common purpose. When you join together with NIF – as a donor, volunteer, advocate or activist – you help make change possible.

- Make a contribution
- Attend NIF events to learn, and to meet those leading change in Israel
- Sign up for NIF UK’s monthly e-newsletter and follow us on Twitter and Facebook
- Visit our projects in Israel

You can donate easily and securely online at www.newisraelfund.org.uk, or by phone or post.

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