

New Israel Fund Annual Report 2011



Making Progress

New Israel Fund ²⁰years
Progress. Together.

Our mission

New Israel Fund supports those working in Israel's society to ensure progress towards the vision of Israel's founders of a secure and prosperous state, based on Jewish and democratic values, that ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants.

About us

“There is hardly any significant socially-oriented organisation in Israel today that does not owe its existence to the NIF.”
Ha’aretz Newspaper

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 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 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 community outreach and advocacy work in Israel.

Since being founded, NIF in the UK, through the generosity of our supporters, has raised £15 million for work in Israel. Our UK events and projects provide a unique space for the community to engage with and learn about the modern Israel of today – thereby strengthening ties.

“SHATIL is a trigger for transforming an idea into action.”

Erez Perlmutter, founder Kol Zchut – All Rights

Joint Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

**Dear Friends,
Thank you for your continued support for NIF in what was a year of great significance in Israel and for the work of NIF.**

2011 is best described as a year of paradox. It brought both great challenges and great optimism for those who strive for an Israel true to its Declaration of Independence – a democratic, Jewish state determined to deliver equality and social justice for all its citizens.

While Israel's democracy remains strong, it continued to be confronted by a number of challenges. These included attempts to restrict the activities of civil society, the media and even the Supreme Court, a rising tide of anti-Arab rhetoric and violence and gender segregation on buses. NIF and our partners were at the forefront of Israeli society's response and have emerged as a coherent voice within the democratic process.

At the same time, the summer of 2011 brought new hope as social protests swept Israel with hundreds of thousands peacefully taking to the streets to demand social justice. NIF was a central supportive player in this area, and we have been pleased to witness such wide-spread action on the very issues on which we have focused since we were founded.

We are particularly heartened that there are more and more young Israelis returning to and actively working for a socially just and equal society.

At NIF UK we are proud of how, with your help, we have contributed, including through initiating projects, supporting early stage organisations and providing advice and experience to ensure effective civil advocacy. These range from work on equal housing in mixed cities, the pioneering work of Kick Racism out of Football and helping train the next generation of environmental leaders.

We continue to remain committed to our work in the UK, educating and connecting the community with Israel's vibrant civil society. We are pleased that we are reaching out to new communities and growing the numbers involved in our work.

This work is about the Israel we believe in and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Nilsdas Saphi *Adam Gynell*

Our achievements



Making Progress: March 2011

Women immigrants from the Caucasus Region received training to open their own businesses.

In 2011 we achieved impact across Israeli society through helping individuals and communities that faced challenges, and working with those leading positive change.

Here are some of their stories.

Civil and Human Rights

This year saw a worrying increase in “price tag” attacks by extremists retaliating against government closure of illegal outposts. These attacks were directed against Palestinians, including Israeli Arab citizens, and the IDF. When the mosque of Tuba-Zangariya in the Galilee was torched NIF grantee coalition *Banish the Darkness* organised a solidarity convoy of Israeli Orthodox and Progressive rabbis and other religious and secular leaders. The convoy presented an NIF-organised statement condemning the attack signed by 1,000 rabbis worldwide: 60 from Britain signed.

New Israel Fund is at the forefront of protecting Israeli democracy against the recent

waves of anti-democratic initiatives that have had the potential to infringe on freedom of speech, minority rights and the Supreme Court. NIF and our partners worked to lobby and engage in public education efforts. This has gained the support of many Israelis, particularly from the younger generations through our activities on campus and through social media. The *Lo Nistom* “*We Will Not Remain Silent*” social network is building an online constituency committed to the values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. SHATIL’s *Centre for Policy Change*, in coordination with grantee the *Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)*, has been advocating against attempts to weaken human rights organisations, limit freedom of speech and impinge on the rights of minorities.



Making Progress: September 2011

As hundreds of thousands of Israelis joined the call for social and economic justice, NIF was the only diaspora Jewish organisation working directly with the new movement.

Social and Economic Justice

The summer of 2011 saw social protests sweep Israel with hundreds of thousands peacefully taking to the streets to demand social justice. We were the only major diaspora Jewish organisation working directly with this new social justice movement.

We understood that our greatest added value would be to invest in the geographic and socio-economic periphery of Israel, in areas and among communities with a higher proportion of disadvantaged people. This includes Ethiopian and Russian immigrants, Arab citizens, and Mizrahim in the development towns. NIF provided emergency grants to 35 organisations or initiatives.

SHATIL, NIF's capacity building arm, travelled to over 40 tent cities giving guidance and helping coordinate their efforts. They led a successful exercise in participatory democracy called "From Tents to Roundtables: 1,000 Tables", which involved approximately 6,000 participants in 30 locations. As a result of the social protests, NIF has been supporting some exciting new initiatives such as the *Periphery Forum* and the *Beit Ha'am* community hub in Tel Aviv.

Throughout the year, NIF was also maintaining its core support for established social justice organisations which continue to play a key role in advancing the issues of affordable housing, education and health, food security, social rights and employment.

This work operates both with national initiatives promoting improvements in childcare, access to health and the rights of those with disabilities, as well at the grassroots, with such projects as food co-operatives and highlighting the needs of immigrant youth with learning difficulties.

We remain a leader in women's empowerment, and provided training for women from disadvantaged groups. This has a profound impact on thousands of Israeli families.



Making Progress: October 2011

NIF and its grantees organised a solidarity visit, and message of support signed by 1,000 rabbis around the world, to Bedouin citizens whose mosque had been torched.

Religious Pluralism

NIF is at the forefront of tackling attempts to impose gender segregation and remove images of women from public spaces. In 2011 NIF and its grantees, including *IRAC* and *Kolech – Religious Women’s Forum*, successfully challenged gender segregation on buses, which was declared illegal. NIF-supported grassroots groups, such as *Yerushalmim* and *Be Free Israel*, tackled the wider phenomenon. They launched the “Women Should Be Seen and Heard” campaign, to which supporters responded not only in Jerusalem but around the world. Hundreds of photos of women were sent in, and were featured in posters displayed across Jerusalem. Other campaigns and public events included educational materials on pluralism and halachically-based pamphlets

sent to 4,500 synagogues across Israel. A major highlight was a free public concert in Jerusalem by women performers.

NIF initiated a new programme of Torah study sessions for the Jewish festival of Shavuot. These were held in orthodox, progressive and secular communities and drew on study materials on social justice developed by NIF. Many of the sessions were sponsored by groups not previously associated with NIF. They included an interfaith session and a study session by MK Shelly Yachimovitch. Thousands of people across Israel took part, reflecting the complex composition of Israeli society and the range of issues it faces.

Shared Society

In the “mixed cities” of Akko and Lod, where Jews and Arabs live side by side, we worked with local Arab Israeli residents’ groups to achieve equal rights to housing, municipal services and infrastructure. This work was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. It was achieved as part of a collaborative funding process facilitated by the UK Task Force.

Following government approval for a controversial plan to uproot 40,000 residents in “unrecognised” Bedouin villages in the Negev, three NIF grantees, presented an alternative plan. This would prevent thousands of people being uprooted,



Making Progress: December 2011

NIF grantees' campaign "Women Should Be Seen and Heard" restored images of women to the capital's streets.

connect villages to the national infrastructure and save the huge cost of dismantling the villages. Other NIF grantees used legal strategies to ensure that Bedouin villages are linked to the national water distribution network.

Hundreds of Jewish and Arab children were brought together over the year as part of the *Kick it Out* tolerance-through-football project. An increase of 32% in fans condemning racist behaviour in their fellow fans was recorded.

Environment

As the call for environmental justice in Israel increases, NIF sees real hope here for change in the next generation. Working through the *Green Network* we have helped establish school and community based models for environmental sustainability. In 2011 the *Network's* Education for Sustainability courses ran in 50 schools and 300 kindergartens throughout Israel.

SHATIL's *Environmental Justice Project* worked regionally and locally with Jewish and Arab environmental groups to improve their effectiveness.

In the poorer areas of Haifa, which are subject to chemical pollution, we brought together

the *Coalition for Public Health* which worked with residents to reduce the risks.

In the south of the country, NIF grantees *Green Course* and *Society for Protection of Nature in Israel* were successful in protecting the area known as "Israel's Sahara", the rare Samar sand dunes.

NIF in the UK



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

In 2011 we held 30 events and engaged with some 3,300 members of the community.

We partnered with a wide range of organisations and synagogues. We ran conflict transformation workshops at Limmud. We provided new ways for supporters to get involved on-line with Israel. We continued our programmes to encourage the younger generation to engage with Israel.

Here are some of the year's highlights.

NIF Events and Community Programme

Our 2011 programme ranged from small discussions to large public gatherings bringing Israeli leaders and grassroots activists to debate with the UK community. Our expert speakers included Anat Hoffman, co-founder of *Women at the Wall* and Director of *IRAC*, and Prof Naomi Chazan, President of NIF. The Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian directors of *Friends of the Earth Middle East* spoke about their work for "eco-peace", in particular with regard to water resources in the region.

L to R: p.6 NIF Human Rights Award Dinner: AB Yehoshua, Barbara Epstein, Director, Community Advocacy and 2011 Award winner, HE Matthew Gould, UK Ambassador to Israel, Nicholas Saphir NIF Chair; Jane Grabiner, Chair, HRAD Committee, with Michael Grabiner; New Generation members.
p.7 Kick Racism Out of Football event: Itzik Shanan, founder KRO, Israel, Ivor Baddiel, writer and film maker, Adam Ognall, NIF CEO; NIF Fellow Elinor Tamir (2nd from L) donating blood with Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families, New Gen event.



NIF Human Rights Award 2011

The NIF Human Rights Award Dinner continued to be one of our annual highlights. Renowned Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua and Britain's Ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould were guest speakers. The 2011 Award was presented to Barbara Epstein, director of Community Advocacy, for her work in deprived Jewish and Arab neighbourhoods.

NIF Digital Engagement and e-activism

In 2011 we developed our online resources and provided new opportunities for the community to learn and connect with Israel. Our new e-activism programme provided opportunities to show support for the voices of tolerance in Israel: from the women of Jerusalem leading

the "Women Should Be Seen and Heard" campaign, to enabling British rabbis to add their voice to a global Jewish petition against incitement towards Israeli Arabs.

NIF New Generation Group

This vibrant group of young professionals in their 20s and 30s continued to grow and deliver an innovative programme allowing members to engage with Israel in ways that reflect their values. In 2011 they held 10 events, which included a "Speed Debating" event and meetings with young activists from Israel.

NIF William Frankel Social Justice Fellowship

This gives young, post-university Jewish leaders from the UK community the opportunity to spend 10 months working in an Israeli social change organisation. In 2011-12 two Fellowships were awarded, with the recipients volunteering with Bedouin women and bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families.

UK Task Force on Issues Facing Arab Citizens of Israel

NIF is a founder member of the UK Task Force, the goal of which is to increase the UK community's understanding of and engagement in the challenges facing Israel's Arab citizens. These are issues that NIF has championed since its creation. In 2011 NIF participated in the first Task Force study visit to Israel.

Financial Statement 2011

Grants and Programmes UK Expenditure 2011



- SHATIL 9%
- Civil & Human Rights 23%
- Religious Pluralism & Tolerance 2%
- Social & Economic Justice 52%
- Environment 14%

	Total 2011 £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
Contributions	1,212,936	1,408,826	1,235,192
Investment Income	115	112	214
Total Income	1,213,051¹	1,408,938²	1,235,406³
Transferred to grantees	829,667	995,104	916,506
SHATIL	70,052	25,650	58,425
Civil & Human Rights	194,546	256,926	325,521
Religious Pluralism & Tolerance	16,175	30,140	41,445
Social & Economic Justice	433,697	515,587	384,145
Environment	115,197	166,801	106,970
Educational Programme			
Expenditure	241,040	293,720	243,432
Cost of Generating Funds	139,934	147,235	165,678
Governance Costs	8,460	8,898	9,472
Total Resources Expended	1,219,101	1,444,957	1,335,088
Surplus/(deficit) for the Year	(6,050)	(36,019)	(99,682)

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

2 In 2010 additional contributions in the amount of £26,313 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors

3 In 2009 additional contributions in the amount of £52,086 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors

Note: The full audited Annual Report and Accounts are available to view on our website.

How you can help

New Israel Fund is a powerful engine for democratic change in Israel. NIF believes that Israel is strengthened by its diversity, and by fulfilling its promise of equality and dignity for all its citizens.

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.

Donate

- Make a contribution
- Set up a recurring gift
- Leave a lasting legacy
- Celebrate a family simcha
- Honour a friend or loved one

NIF can work with you to tailor your gift to your personal interests – as an unrestricted gift, for an area of work, project or organisation.

Travel

- Join an NIF Study Tour
- Examine the realities of life in Israel today
- Get behind the headlines and TV sound bites
- Meet the leaders of Israel's dynamic social change movement
- Learn about key challenges facing a Jewish and democratic Israel.

NIF can arrange individual visits and organise group study trips.

Get involved

- Volunteer
- Take part in Action Alerts
- Sign up for NIF UK's monthly e-newsletter
- Invite an NIF speaker to talk to your synagogue or group
- Attend events featuring people working for change in Israel.

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

New Israel Fund Offices

Our Issue areas

Civil & Human Rights

Social & Economic Justice

Religious Pluralism

Shared Society

Environment

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Registered Charity No.1060081.

New Israel Fund is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, No: 3296825.

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