

New Israel Fund Annual Report 2010



**Our
Israel**

New Israel Fund
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 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.

“My Israel has no hatred, no prejudice, no incitement. A Jewish country: humane and moral, with justice and equality for all.”

Gadi, director of 12 Heshvan, a forum of orthodox Zionist organisations encouraging tolerance.

Joint Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

**Dear Friends,
Thank you for your continued support for NIF in what was a very significant year for the organisation and the Israel we love.**



Never before has it been so critical for NIF to lead an alliance of those determined to re-commit Israel to live up to the vision of Israel's founders of a state that "ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants, without regard to religion, race or gender".

It is therefore important that with your help last year was our record fundraising year. In addition through our events and other activities we reached out to growing numbers within the community.

This coming year may prove to be one of the most important in Israel's history, as Naomi Chazan, NIF's International President, explained during her recent visit to the UK. It is a year in which we will again need to call on your support to fund Israelis who share our aspirations for an Israel that lives up to its founders' vision. The family of organisations we support in Israel made great

strides in the last year. This includes helping the parents of immigrant children with disabilities, ensuring equal access to education for Bedouin and other marginalised communities, tackling forced gender segregation on public buses, securing a cleaner environment and bringing together a coalition of religious and secular Jewish organisations and diverse Jewish and Arab groups to combat racism in parts of society. We are proud to support them particularly when there are sustained anti-democratic attacks from those seeking to undermine civil society in Israel.

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

Sincerely,

Nicholas Saphir, Chairman
Adam Ognall, Chief Executive

Nicholas Saphir *Adam Ognall*

Our achievements



“My Israel is my national, spiritual and physical home. It embraces the cultures and religions of all its citizens.”

Shlomo co-ordinates Shatil's work with Ethiopians immigrants, helping them integrate into Israeli society.

In 2010, we achieved positive change and provided support across Israeli society including for ‘chained’ women refused a divorce...for hard up Israeli families seeking affordable housing... for Jews, Arabs, Druze and other victims of the Carmel Fire...for parents of children with learning difficulties... and for many, many others for whom social change is personal, dramatic and urgent.

Here are some highlights...

Civil and Human Rights

The International Coalition for Aguna Rights, an NIF grantee, has stepped up its campaign to protect Jewish women from recalcitrant men who refuse to provide their wives with a get (writ of divorce) as required by the Rabbinical Courts that control Israeli family law for religious and secular Jewish women alike. The Coalition works to ensure the rights of women by promoting prenuptial agreements as a preventive measure to the current situation which leaves thousands of women trapped in bad or abusive marriages.

A successful campaign by NIF grantees, including Hotline for Migrant Workers, resulted in



“My Israel strives to eradicate poverty through equal access to education, housing and food. It values the dignity of people struggling to survive.”

Barbara founded Community Advocacy which helps less privileged members of the community achieve their rights.

the government deciding not to expel some 800 children of foreign migrants and their families for the time being. NIF Grantees continue to orchestrate public pressure to let 400 Hebrew-speaking children, who are under the threat of deportation, stay legally in Israel.

Legal action in early 2010 by flagship NIF grantee Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) has led to the lifting of the ban on Palestinians using 14km of the key 443 Highway. The Highway was originally approved specifically in order to serve both Israelis and Palestinians.

Social and Economic Justice

NIF grantees scored a series of important successes that will ensure access to affordable housing for Israelis with limited financial means. Affordable housing projects are now planned for Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Ra’anana and Jerusalem. These achievements are due to the work of the Coalition for Affordable Housing, comprised of NGOs including NIF grantees Bimkom: Planners for Planning Rights, Association for Distributive Justice, Community Advocacy: Genesis Israel, ACRI and SHATIL.

SHATIL, NIF’s capacity building arm, has helped immigrant parents of children with learning disabilities to become better equipped to identify and handle problems. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, SHATIL published and distributed thousands of copies of a Russian-language booklet, the first of its kind ‘Learning Disabilities: Information for Parents’.

In addition, six SHATIL-initiated Amharic language radio programmes on learning disabilities reached more than 90% of Ethiopian immigrant households, resulting in a torrent of calls requesting support.



“My Israel celebrates its diversity, plays nicely with others in the neighbourhood and lives out our Declaration of Independence.”

Anat is director of Israel Religious Action Centre, and founder of Woman at the Wall promoting religious pluralism and equal rights for all.

Religious Pluralism

NIF is addressing the phenomena of increasing gender and ethnic segregation in public spaces. In a court case led by NIF grantee, Israel Religious Action Centre, on behalf of orthodox women, the Supreme Court ruled that forced gender segregation on public buses is illegal. In another case, NIF grantee Noar Kahalacha has successfully campaigned to raise public awareness about discrimination against Mizrahi girls and provided assistance to Mizrahi families whose children have been rejected by ultra-Orthodox schools based on their ethnicity.

NIF grantees garnered unprecedented levels of opposition against the passage of the Conversion Bill, which

would grant the Orthodox Rabbinate exclusive domain over conversions in Israel. Among other provisions, the Rotem Bill would have required converts to live an Orthodox lifestyle. The bill has been put on hold indefinitely. NIF grantees will continue to work with the Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Natan Sharansky to propose an alternative Bill.

Within days of an ultra-Orthodox edict issued by some Israeli rabbis forbidding Jews to sell or rent housing to non-Jews, over 1,000 rabbis signed an NIF-initiated letter condemning the ruling and calling on rabbis in Israel to take a forceful public stand against religious racism. The signatories included rabbis from across the globe and from every denomination.

Shared Society

NIF brought together 16 Jewish organisations, including 6 modern Orthodox groups to form Banish the Darkness, a forum to combat racism in the name of Judaism. NIF has also supported the establishment of the Anti Racism Coalition, which unites diverse Jewish and Arab groups – including Ethiopian and Russian speaking immigrants, Mizrachim, Arabs, Bedouins and mixed families - in a joint public struggle against racism. Supporting broad based coalition remains a key priority for NIF.

SHATIL's Umbrella Forum for Bedouin Education formed new partnerships with



“Our Israel is where we, Jews and Arabs, aspire to live and work together, equally. It will not be easy, but there’s no other way.”

Haia and Khalil work together through the Negev Co-Existence Forum.

influential bodies such as the Joint Distribution Committee, and a leadership course was held for parents, activists and administrators. In addition, thanks to the relentless work of our grantees The Follow-up Committee and Dirasat – Arab Centre for Law and Policy, the Arab education budget was increased by NIS 37 million for extra instructional hours and a plan was approved to build 500 new classrooms.

Environment

Owing to the efforts of NIF grantee Israel Union of Environmental Defence Israel’s Clean Air Law came into effect on January 1, 2011. The law, which IUED formulated and lobbied for, sets strict emission standards, regulates procedures for monitoring air quality, and ensures public access to results and information. Most importantly, the law stipulates heavy fines for polluters. Tel Aviv is the third most polluted city in the European and Mediterranean region, and 1,100 people die annually in the Greater Tel Aviv region as a result of air pollution. IUED is supported by NIF through the Green Environment Fund.

Following the Carmel Forest fire the worst natural disaster in Israel’s history, NIF began mobilising support. In addition to providing emergency grants to communities, NIF and its environmental groups began mapping emergency and long-term recovery needs and addressing the consequences of the fire and prevention. NIF also worked to ensure equal allocation of resources for all victims in the area – Jews, Arabs, Druze and others.

NIF in the UK



New Israel Fund provides a unique space for the UK community to engage with Israel - celebrating achievements and exploring the pressing challenges it faces.

Our events offer an opportunity to hear from both high-profile speakers and grassroots activists from Israel. A wealth of debates, screenings and performances took place in 2010 reaching out to more than 2,500 members of the community. We also sponsored events at Jewish Book Week and the London Jewish Film Festival.

L to R: NIF 2010 Human Rights Award winners singers Ahinoam (Noa) Nini and Mira Awad and film maker Tomer Heymann; NIF Chairman Nicholas Saphir with the heads of Friends of the Earth Middle East, Palestinian Nader Khateeb, Jordanian Munqeth Mehyar and Israeli Gidon Bromberg; Nicholas Saphir with Claire Frankel and inaugural NIF Fellow Keren Simons at the Middle Temple Launch of the NIF Willam Frankel Fellowship; NIF Fellow Keren Simons.

NIF Speaker Events

Addressing a wide range of topics including religious pluralism, environment, democracy in Israel and the status of Arab citizens of Israel, our expert speakers included Martyn Indyk, former US ambassador to Israel, Professor Naomi Chazan, President of NIF and David Landau, former editor-in-chief of Haaretz.

NIF Human Rights Awards 2010

Our well established Human Rights Awards event this year celebrated artists who use their talents to promote equality and social justice in Israel. The winners of the 2010 Award were Achinoam (Noa) Nini and Mira Awad, the Arab-Jewish duo who



represented Israel in the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest, and Tomer Heymann, a filmmaker, who shows the complex nature of Israeli society.

NIF Environment Enterprise

We held a lecture and dinner with the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian co-directors of Friends of the Earth Middle East, who spoke about their unique 'Eco-Peace' partnership which combines working for environmental protection with an effort to build peace.

NIF New Generation Group

An open and vibrant community of young professionals in their 20s and 30s, New Gen hosts a rich programme of events and meetings that offers young people a space to engage with

Israel in a way that reflects their values.

NIF William Frankel Social Justice Fellowship

The inaugural Social Justice Fellowship was awarded in the UK in 2010. It allows a post-university young Jewish leader the opportunity to spend 10 months working in an Israeli social change organisation. We are delighted to announce the Fellowship's expansion in 2011 with the introduction of a second UK Fellowship.

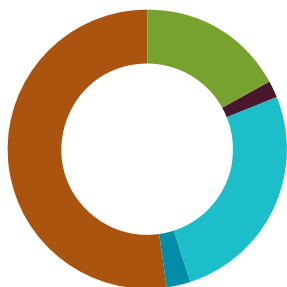
UK Task Force on Issues Facing Arab Citizens of Israel

New Israel Fund joined the Pears Foundation, UJIA, Board of Deputies, Abraham Fund and the Zionist Federation in establishing

the UK Task Force. It works to deepen UK engagement and understanding on the challenges and realities facing Israel's Arab citizens and to leverage communal resources to provide effective solutions. In 2010 the Task Force achieved significant growth in its membership, public profile and activities. NIF is proud to take a leading role in the Task Force having championed these issues for over 30 years.

Financial Statement 2010

Grants and Programmes UK Expenditure 2010



- Shatil 2%
- Civil & Human Rights 26%
- Religious Pluralism & Tolerance 3%
- Social & Economic Justice 52%
- Environment 17%

	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £	Total 2008 £
Contributions	1,408,826	1,235,192	1,282,187
Investment Income	112	214	9,733
Total Income	1,408,938¹	1,235,406²	1,291,920³
Transferred to Grantees	995,104	916,506	906,302
Shatil	25,650	58,425	104,175
Civil & Human Rights	256,926	325,521	297,958
Religious Pluralism & Tolerance	30,140	41,445	73,052
Social & Economic Justice	515,587	384,145	283,661
Environment	166,801	106,970	147,456
Educational Programme			
Expenditure	293,720	243,432	206,981
Cost of Generating Funds	147,235	165,678	160,180
Governance Costs	8,898	9,472	5,000
Total Resources Expended	1,444,957	1,335,088	1,278,463
Surplus/(deficit) for the Year	-36,019	-99,682	13,457

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

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

3 In 2008 additional contributions in the amount of £70,242 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

The 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 to all of 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
- Make a recurring monthly gift
- Honour a friend or loved one with a tribute gift, or in memory of a loved one
- Leave a lasting legacy through planned giving

NIF can work with you to tailor your giving to your philanthropic interests - whether it is an unrestricted gift for NIF, a gift underwriting an area of work or a project, or a donor advised gift to a specific organisation.

Donations can be made easily and securely online at www.newisraelfund.org.uk, by phone, or by post.

Travel

Go behind the newspaper headlines and television sound bites to examine the realities of contemporary Israeli life, and meet the leaders of Israel's dynamic social change movement.

Through personal encounters you can learn about key challenges facing Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and the steps Israelis are taking to meet these challenges. See our website for forthcoming tour details.

Learn and Act

NIF hosts a programme of events featuring a wealth of expert speakers and activists from Israel who regularly address groups providing a forum for learning and discussion.

Stay informed about what is happening in Israel and what you can do to help by joining us for these educational and social events. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, receive action alerts, volunteer, and join us on Facebook, on Twitter and on our Blog.

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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