

הקרן החדשה לישראל  
New Israel Fund  
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

Defending democracy for a just, safe, and equal Israel

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The New Israel Fund stand for a just, safe, and equal Israel.

We partner with and fund Israeli organisations that strengthen democracy and deliver a fairer society for all. By giving to the New Israel Fund you:

- **Protect minorities** and marginalised people
- **Defend democracy** and human rights
- **Advance Arab-Jewish partnership**

We deliver added value and systemic change through strategic grants; coalition building and collaborative long-term programmes; and leadership development from our action arm Shatil.

### Israel's incoming coalition government

Following Israel's November 1st elections, Benjamin Netanyahu's is making final ministerial appointments and coalition agreements as he returns as Israel's Prime Minister with the support of far-right extremist and ultra-Orthodox parties. Israel's next government will threaten human rights, free expression and the independence of judges at the Supreme Court.

Jewish supremacist politicians will hold senior cabinet positions. These are people who called for the expulsion of "disloyal" citizens, advocate segregation of Jews and Arabs, oppose Jewish pluralism, and seek to roll back rights for Women, Refugees and LGBTQ+ people.

With over forty years working in Israel to strengthen civil society, democracy and human rights, the New Israel Fund is uniquely positioned to lead the resistance to impending challenges. Despite this grim reality, there may also be opportunities, including **many more and different people and groups within Israeli society joining a stronger, more organised pro-democratic movement in Israel.**

For some further context on the threats and our emerging response, please see:

- MK Bezael Smotrich calling [human rights organizations an existential threat to Israel](#).
- Recent [riots of settlers against Palestinians in Hebron](#)
- The Association for Civil Rights in Israel [ACRI]'s [explainer of the "override" clause](#)
- Mickey Gitzin, Executive Director of NIF in Israel on how he and we are [ready to take on the battle for Israeli Democracy](#)
- Daniel Sokatch, NIF Global CEO on the [challenges and choices facing communal leaders if we are to ensure that Israel's democracy has a future](#)

We recognise lasting and systemic change is required to secure rights and equality. Our response to the rise of the populist far-right gaining power in Israel combines **immediate, local, and long-term work.**

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Immediate

Our flagship grantee ACRI will be leading the opposition to the “override clause” that seeks to curtail the Supreme Court.

NIF have earmarked at least £550,000 for Rapid Response grants, including to support the Human Rights Defenders Fund and those facing strategic lawsuits against public participation [SLAAP] aiming to silence opposition or undermine civil rights organisations.

NIF and Shatil are convening and supporting leaders and organisations from across Israeli Civil Society and building new coalitions (for example between organisations focussed on Women’s Rights or LGBT+ organisations and other minorities now facing a greater and shared threat to their rights). In the weeks following the election results NIF and Shatil have already brought together over 100 Jewish, Palestinian and Asylum Seeker NGO leaders.

Local

Following swift responses to violence in Israel’s mixed cities in 2021, and decades of developing local and community leaders, we will strive to **reduce the impact of the national government and achieve local change**. This includes:

- Increasing female representation within Arab municipal government.
- Supporting the National Committee of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel.
- Grow local Jewish-Arab coalitions in mixed cities to prevent or reduce violence.

[Omdim Beyachad](#) (Standing Together) are an example of this community-based work building and demonstrating the alternative society that is possible. They work through joint Arab-Jewish led local groups across the country, with more than 4,000 active members supporting a network of 100,000 Jewish and Palestinian citizens.

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Long-term

Alongside Shatil expanding support for leaders across Israeli civil society and introducing tailored assistance to Palestinian organisations, NIF is funding and facilitating programmes with soldiers, students, and young adults. We're **investing in change now to deliver a fairer future for all Israelis and Palestinians.**

- Through a joint initiative of several human rights organisations, we are raising understanding of and changing attitudes towards the Occupation. A pilot programme aimed at trainee soldiers reached over 400 participants at six institutions and is being scaled up to engage thousands through up to 50 training centres.
- Another new programme being supported is the Qadaya project (via the Arab Centre for Alternative Planning). The project cultivates Palestinian-Israeli leaders and activists through universities, who will then take on leadership roles in civil society and politics. Dozens of leaders at each of the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ben-Gurion, and Bar-Ilan engage hundreds of their peers with student rights, democracy on campus and social rights.
- We are increasing the representation of Palestinian leaders through work with journalists, professional associations (e.g. social workers), local council leaders and teachers. This work models and enables equality, with a focus on greater support for and inclusion of Palestinians in areas where they in-turn can influence and advance a genuinely shared society.

**"We aren't giving up, don't give up on us"** (Nabila Espanioly [accepting her Human Rights Award](#)).

Our work matters whoever is in power, and we **protect marginalised groups and strengthen democracy** whether working against racist policies or alongside parties who share our values.

We can find hope in our track record; we **can** make a difference **even** when those in power attack us and undermine Israel's founding vision. During the previous Netanyahu administrations, New Israel Fund, together with Shatil defended and strengthened democracy and democratic institutions and our grantees fought for and won investment in **housing, health, and redressing inequality.**

We secured 1 billion shekels for social housing, including for disadvantaged families and Holocaust survivors; We expanded access to healthcare, including the first radiotherapy centre in northern Israel; Alongside leaders from the Arab communities in Israel, we managed to gain an unprecedented £4 billion for closing economic gaps between Arabs and Jews.

**"We can help Israelis fight back against extremism. They are not giving up ... we must be by their side."**

(David Davidi-Brown, NIF UK CEO, [speaking at the Human Rights Awards 2022](#))