



ביחד למען ישראל
**Together for
Israel Now**
معاً من أجل إسرائيل الآن

Jonathan Freedland and New Israel Fund host 500 people supporting Arabs and Jews through the Israel-Hamas War

[New Israel Fund](#) UK's event **Together for Israel Now** took place on Sunday evening, hosted by Jonathan Freedland.

The event highlighted New Israel Fund's [crisis work](#) providing for and protecting tens of thousands of those from communities devastated by Hamas' attacks. Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel shared their experiences from recent weeks. 500 people at the event heard from Israeli NGOs – with Jewish and Palestinian leadership - about their work striving for a shared and safe future.

Speakers included:

[Anshel Pfeffer](#)

[Dahlia Scheindlin](#),

NIF's executive director in Israel, [Mickey Gitzin](#).

[Mikhael Manekin](#)

[Alon-Lee Green](#) and [Rula Daood](#),

[Standing Together](#)

[Ori Kol](#)

[Achiya Schatz](#), [FakeReporter](#)

Nilli Maderer, [Jerusalem Open House for Pride & Tolerance](#)

Guests included Robert Rinder, Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Mira Awad and Clive Sheldon KC.

The event and the crisis appeal are expected to **raise over half a million pounds** (as part of over \$3M worldwide).

Background

[Haaretz](#) and [Guardian](#) features on the work of Arab and Jewish civil society leaders and community groups to prevent violence and promote cohesion. Almost all the people and projects mentioned are supported by the New Israel Fund and our capacity building arm [Shatil](#) (who have offices in the South and North run by Palestinian citizens of Israel).

[Benny Gantz video](#) – having visited a joint Arab-Jewish emergency situation room, run by [Itach-Maaki](#) and [Have you seen the Horizon Lately](#) (both New Israel Fund grantees and the project is receiving support from our crisis appeal):

"My fellows Israelis, Jews and Arabs, we are in a war against those who wish to harm us... October 7th was a black day for all Israeli citizens... I have met Arab volunteers alongside Jews, including paramedics who rushed to save lives. Important for me to say to Arab citizens, we are at war for our home, and you are an inseparable part of it. Only together as all parts of Israeli society will we prevail and bring better days."

Video from the [joint Arab-Jewish emergency response centre](#) run by Itach-Maaki and Have you seen the Horizon Lately.

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David david@uknif.org | T: +44 (0) 20 7724 2266 | M: +44 7912 206 354



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Videos being shown on the night

A [video from Givat Haviva](#) describing their work, alongside Tzedek Centres and Hashomer Hatzair, to house hundreds of families from displaced southern communities and provide for them and their children.

Rachel Leil, President of the New Israel Fund, [reflects in this video on a visit to the HQ for the Families of the Kidnapped](#) (who we have funded). Rachel also spent time in South Africa when her husband served as Israel's Ambassador there.

[Standing Together](#)

[Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance](#)

[FakeReporter](#)

Quotes

"The New Israel Fund moved rapidly to shelter and provide for those fleeing the kibbutzim, towns and Bedouin villages attacked by Hamas. We have acted swiftly to prevent violence in mixed cities and promote community cohesion.

***Supporting our Jewish and Palestinian colleagues** working with the most vulnerable people, fighting hatred, and **striving for a safe and shared future for all is what NIF can and must do.**"*

David Davidi-Brown, chief executive, New Israel Fund UK.

"We have established Jewish-Arab community watch groups, we have people coming to help and volunteer, organising food and hosts for the families fleeing the South. We have a responsibility here to maintain a shared society. We are all in this together."

Rula Daood, co-Director of Standing Together, and a Palestinian citizen of Israel

"We grieve, and in our grief, we know that our work must continue, that true security comes only through peace, and that our vision of a safe, just, democratic Israel remains possible."

Mickey Gitzin, Executive Director, New Israel Fund (Israel)

For over forty years, the New Israel Fund has partnered with and supported hundreds of Israeli charities and human rights activists dedicated to defending democracy and building Arab-Jewish partnerships on which truly shared society can thrive. It is these strong, longstanding relationships, many of them with the people and organisations in the South that enabled our team to protect and provide for those affected in the kibbutzim and the unrecognised Bedouin villages in the area. These are our friends, our partners, our NIF family. We could be nowhere else, but by their side."

Noeleen Cohen, Chair, New Israel Fund

"We don't know what tomorrow will bring. But our vulnerability doesn't suggest that we are powerless. And wielding our power is not only a question of physical survival, but moral commitment as well."

Mikhael Manekin, Director of the Alliance Fellowship and co-founder of the Faithful Left movement

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About the New Israel Fund

The New Israel Fund stands for a **just, safe and equal Israel**. We partner with and fund Israeli organisations that:

- Empower minorities and marginalised people
- Defend human rights for Israelis and Palestinians
- Advance partnership between Arabs and Jews

The New Israel Fund [NIF] globally are the largest organisation supporting democracy and equality for all living in Israel. Spanning five decades, working in Israel, USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Germany & Switzerland, the New Israel Fund has **raised £300M+ to found, fund and support hundreds of Human Rights and Social Justice organisations.**

Find out more here: www.newisraelfund.org.uk | Registered charity: 1060081



Our crisis appeal – **safety for all Israelis** is:

- **Housing 30,000 evacuees** at one hundred kibbutzim, providing **health, care and activities for children.**
- Aiding **hundreds of residents of Bedouin villages in temporary shelters in Miztpe Ramon.**
- Assisting the Council of the Unrecognized Villages have already **distributed 2,000 food parcels, 2000 first aid kits, 100 mobile safe rooms located near vulnerable villagers, and 500 emergency water tanks.**
- Supporting Tzedek Centres and Hashomer Hatzair to **host families from Ashkelon, Sderot, Ofakim, Nativot and the surrounding areas** at Givat Haviva, and run educational activities for their children.
- Working with Hehalutz in three communities who have been evacuated **coordinating thousands of young adult volunteers to locate missing people; match families with hosts; access emotional support** by a senior psychologist; clean out shelters and provide day care for children of medical personnel.
- Funding Physicians for Human Rights Israel [PHRI] to set-up a makeshift clinic offering vital medication, personal hygiene products, and equipment to those in need, as well as emotional support. PHRI are also preparing to provide medical assistance to Palestinians in Gaza once this is possible.
- Working with ASSAF (Aid Organization for **Refugees and Asylum Seekers** in Israel) assisting **200 families living in areas affected by the war.** They are now providing them with secure temporary accommodation, food packages, essentials such as formula and nappies, and multilingual mental health support.
- Expanding trauma support with NATAL – **National Trauma Victims.** NATAL's hotline has been overwhelmed. We are **enabling them to recruit volunteers, train therapists, and offer emergency clinical assistance.**
- Funding LANA's **work with 600 children with special needs from displaced Bedouin communities.**

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More information on some of the organisations mentioned above

[Standing Together](#) is an Israeli movement of Jews and Palestinians, guided by the principles of peace, equality and social justice. **Standing Together's** principal goal is increasing Jewish-Arab partnership. Their work includes campaigning to raise the minimum wage and growing Arab participation in Israeli politics. Right now Standing Together are running 15 joint Jewish and Arabs community patrols across the country to protect local residents, regardless of religion or ethnic background. The unarmed groups are tasked with trying to keep the streets calm as the war evolves.

See Alon-Lee from Standing Together on Sky news [here](#).

[FakeReporter](#), combats digital threats to democracy as an impact-driven, disinformation watchdog. They have exposed inauthentic influence on political campaigns, fraud, hate speech, incitement and conspiracies. **FakeReporter** have been profiled by [BBC](#), [The New York Times](#), and [The New Yorker](#). Right now FakeReporter are running a platform allowing anyone to report misinformation and working with companies to remove inaccurate and overly graphic content. They counter incitement and urgent cases have been forwarded to authorities preventing violent gangs that planned to harm Palestinian citizens of Israel.

See their founder Achiya Schatz on CNN [here](#).

[The Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance](#) is a community, educational and therapeutic centre for the gay community. Since 1997, they have been working to **make Jerusalem a city where every person has the freedom to be themselves and live their life**, as well as build a model Israeli liberal and pluralistic society. They run groups that bring together LGBTQ+ orthodox Jews, support for new immigrants, and a thriving Arabic LGBTQ+ community. Right now Jerusalem Open House have established a project with more than 50 psychologists and social workers to provide a nationwide response to trauma, loss, and the challenges people are facing, including evictions.

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