



ביחד למען ישראל

**Together for
Israel Now**

معًا من أجل إسرائيل الآن

הקרן החדשה לישראל

New Israel Fund

الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

Our Programme for tonight

Welcome from Noeleen Cohen,

Chair of Trustees, NIF UK

Overview from our MC Jonathan Freedland,

Guardian columnist and broadcaster

Insight and analysis from Dahlia Scheindlin,

political strategist and Israeli public opinion expert,
and **Anshel Pfeffer**, British-Israeli journalist and
Haaretz columnist.

Personal perspectives from Bissan Salman,

former ROPES (Regional Organization for Peace,
Economics and Security) VP Director of External
Relations, and **Ori Kol**, founder of Mehazkim
and co-founder of Fake Reporter.

NIF's Crisis Appeal Work:

- **Live link to Mickey Gitzin,**
Executive Director, NIF Israel
- **An immersive look at our work in Israel**
- **Appeal delivered by David Davidi-Brown,**
NIF UK Chief Executive

**Moment of introspection led by Alliance Fellowship
Director and Leftists of Faith co-founder, Mikhael
Manekin**

Closing remarks from Jonathan Freedland

Dear friends and supporters,

Thank you for joining us tonight at an evening that is not the Human Rights Awards Dinner that we know and love. Instead, we come **Together for Israel Now**, with heavy hearts and determination to support Israel overcome these unthinkable and traumatic times.

At New Israel Fund we remain committed to our role as practical idealists. Practical, with action at the heart of everything we do, taking action to protect and provide for all Israelis. Idealists, because even in the darkest days we dare to hope – and work – **for a safe and shared future.**

For over 40 years the New Israel Fund has helped to build and strengthen Israeli civil society. Over this past year, we have made an exceptional contribution to defending Israeli democracy, and now continuing to do so in response to the attacks by Hamas and the escalating violence.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, NIF moved quickly to shelter and provide for those fleeing the kibbutzim, towns and Bedouin villages devastated by Hamas. We have acted to prevent violence and promote cohesion in mixed cities, and to expand vital trauma support services.

More details on NIF's emergency appeal are included in this brochure. One grant that we have recently awarded, that fills us with pride and hope is to the **Forum of the**

Families of the Hostages and Missing.

We know that you join us in supporting the cry of the families of those held by Hamas: Bring them home now.

Together For Israel Now, will be an evening of reflection, action and even hope. We will hear from Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel; gain a deeper understanding of the unfolding situation; and explore the vital work of the New Israel Fund at this painful time.

Over the course of the evening we will hear from the people and organisations we partner with across civil society in Israel.

We are grateful that Jonathan Freedland will be guiding us tonight with his characteristic depth of knowledge, gravitas and lightness of touch.

Life for Israelis and the Jewish people may never be the same after the horrors of 7th October. **Now more than ever is a time for action.** With your generous support, we will continue to act and strive for a just, safe and equal Israel.

Best wishes,



Noeleen Cohen,
Chair NIF UK



David Davidi-Brown,
CEO

We do not have the luxury of despair

Thank you for coming this evening and supporting the work of the New Israel Fund. The events of 7th October were without doubt one of the most frightening and traumatic days in Israel's history.

As a father of two young girls, my fear remains visceral and immediate.

In moments like these, despair calls out. Images of atrocities cover our social media and news outlets. We hear calls for peace, but also for unspeakable violence.

It is difficult to grapple with the scale of the violence, to explain events and our grief to colleagues and acquaintances, to get out of bed in the morning, but **we do not have the luxury of despair.**

Our work and our expertise are critical: both the urgent action to respond now and the work of shaping a shared future, despite the bleak horizon.

It's precisely for this that the New Israel Fund was established.

The horizon is clouded with fear and the human cost of this war for Israeli and Palestinian civilians. And still other threats loom: that the government will restrict human and civil rights, advance annexationist policies and arm Jewish extremists, all in the name of security. NIF stands ready to defend democracy and human rights even now—especially now.

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.

Sending strength and solidarity,



Mickey Gitzin,
Executive Director NIF Israel

Who we are

The New Israel Fund stands 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 help:

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

We are a global community of Israelis and supporters of Israel, dedicated to Israel's founding vision of upholding "the full social and political equality of all its citizens".

Worldwide and over more than four decades, we have provided £300m to enable and advance justice throughout Israel.

And we are more than a funder.

NIF has created, developed and supported hundreds of organisations. Through our sister organisation Shatil we nurture, train and connect leaders, and build coalitions of civil society organisations. This work has secured funding and policy changes to provide housing, health, education, and employment as we strive for a genuinely shared society in Israel.

We engage a growing community of supporters in the UK with our work and

inspiring grantees. NIF provides a much-needed space for passionate, respectful discussion of the changes and challenges affecting Israel, Israelis, and Palestinians.

Right now, supporting Israelis working with the most vulnerable, fighting hatred and incitement, and striving for a safe and shared future for all Israelis is what NIF can and must do.

Whilst most of our efforts are rightly focused on the immediate needs and protection of all communities in Israel, we have started working with those looking ahead. With our funding and coordination, organisations are bringing together research, policy development, communications strategies, and community organising so we have the data, ideas and messages to galvanise people and politicians to ensure sustainable security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians.

£3m raised by NIF UK so far this year



£3.7m raised by NIF UK in 2022



Safety for All Israelis

In the aftermath of 7th October,
we are responding rapidly to
house, help and protect Jewish
and Arab communities devastated
by the attacks perpetrated
by Hamas.



We have set out below some examples of how we have supported local organisations, grouped around the three areas:



NIF brings us together as a community of supporters striving for a more equal and just Israel.

— Noeleen Cohen
Chair NIF UK

Essential and urgent care for the most vulnerable people affected by the attacks

Immediately following the attacks, we began supporting and funding our partners to house tens of thousands of displaced people, provide medical and emotional care and distribute food.

We are **supporting all communities devastated by the Hamas attacks** with specific provision for Bedouin communities who have lost loved ones and their homes. In addition to relief work, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Bimkom and others secured a landmark change in policy. Areas containing unrecognized Bedouin villages are now designated as “populated” and placed under Iron Dome protection.

Kibbutz Movement

are housing 30,000 evacuees on kibbutzim all over the country. With our support, as well as sheltering these communities, they are providing health and psychological care, and educational activities for the children.

Givat Haviva and Hashomer Hatzair

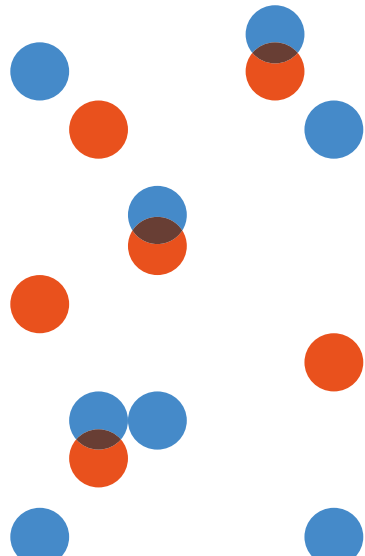
are accommodating 400 residents of Ashkelon, Ofakim, Sderot, Nativot and the surrounding area, including children and the elderly. Activities for children and young people is being provided Hashomer Hatzair.

Physicians for Human Rights Israel

have set up a clinic offering vital medication, personal hygiene products, and equipment to those in need. PHRI are advocating for the abducted Israeli Citizens and trying to ensure those with specific medical needs are being cared for. When logistically feasible, PHRI are preparing to deliver medical aid to civilians in Gaza.

Keshet and the Regional Council for Unrecognized Villages

are distributing food, water, mobile safe rooms, and first aid to the Bedouin community and housing hundreds of displaced villagers in Mitzpe Ramon.



Preventing Violence in Mixed Cities

Promoting Arab-Jewish partnership is at the heart of the New Israel Fund's work. We are working to lower dangerously high levels of tensions between Jewish and Arab Israelis.

We have given emergency grants to local, grassroots initiatives in mixed cities and regions, alongside working with national and communal leadership. We are creating a sense of solidarity between Jews and Arabs and seeking to influence public debate by promoting messages of partnership and hope.

Shatil

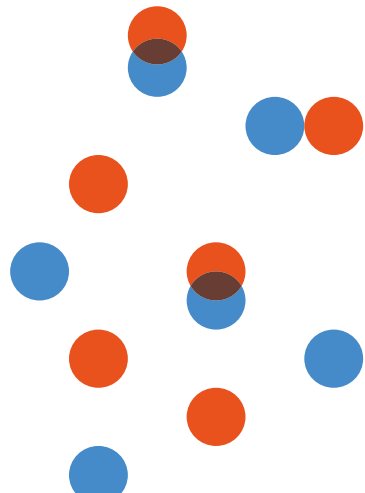
has been using their Shared Society Forum to bring together leaders on a weekly basis. Working with NIF grantees (Abraham Initiatives, Tzedek Centres, Sikkuy-Aufoq) they mobilise local leaders to encourage Jewish-Arab solidarity and connect and coordinate local and country-wide initiatives. They have created a group of media personnel and spokespeople so that messages to calm tensions and demonstrate partnership are amplified across Arabic and Hebrew media.

Standing Together

are running joint Jewish and Arab community patrols across the country to protect residents, regardless of religion or ethnic background. The unarmed groups respond quickly to incidents and reduce resentment by being on the streets and helping together, such as maintaining public shelters.

FakeReporter

are fighting fake news which incites violence and hate speech. They launched a platform for reporting misinformation and are working with tech companies to remove inaccurate and overly graphic content. Several cases have already been forwarded to authorities and prevented gangs planning to harm Palestinian citizens of Israel.

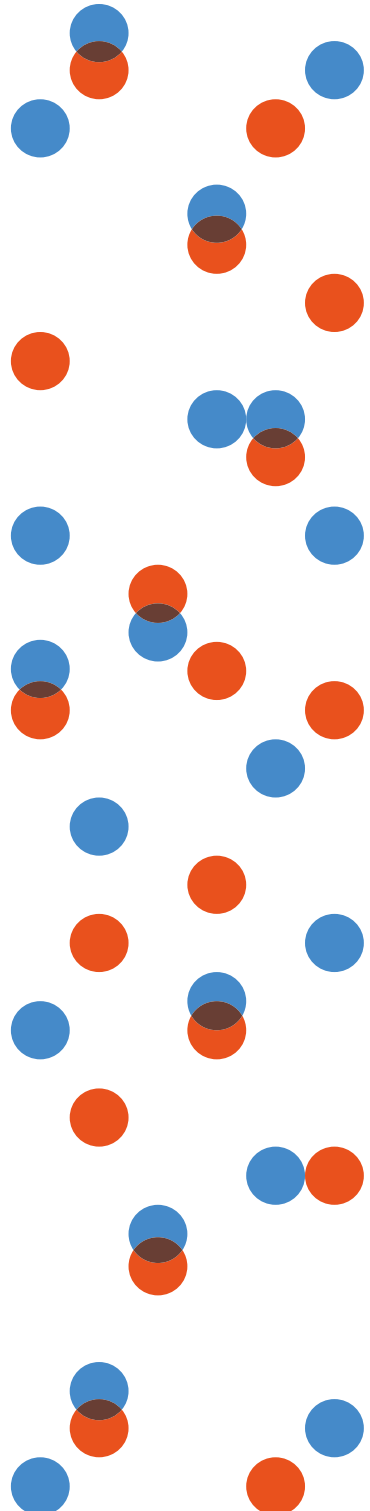


Mental health and trauma counselling

Many of the grants we have given to those housing and helping displaced communities includes psychological and emotional support. We are also receiving numerous requests for trauma counselling and mental health services from civil society leaders.

We are working through Shatil and The Civil Society Protection Hub to provide emotional support in Arabic and Hebrew to the leaders delivering their vital work whilst coping with their own trauma.

One cause of distress are attacks on those working for human rights and social justice. The Hub is assisting civil society leaders to understand and respond to these attacks. A new hotline provides immediate assistance for activists under threat. The Hub runs workshops on "resilience in times of crisis" to enable organisations and teams to manage stress and trauma, in order to continue providing for and protecting the diverse communities they serve.



Thank you

A special thank you for those who helped make tonight possible:



Jo & Paul Amit
Rabbi Charley Baginsky (Liberal Judaism)
Julie Blane
Ena Bodin & Nicholas Saphir
Lady Tessa Buchanan & Sir Peter Roth
Ossi & Paul Burger
Georgie Friend
Josephine Burton & Rabbi Jeremy Gordon
Noeleen & John Cohen
Anita & Jonathan Dent
Selina & Andrew Gellert
Jane Grabiner
Rachel Guthartz
Sara Hoffbrand & Ian Karet
Jeanie Horowitz & Clive Sheldon KC
Joseph Hyman
Suzanne & Nigel Jacobs KC
Dani Jaff-Klein & Saul Klein
Andrew Leek & James Power
Hilary Leek
Rabbi Josh Levy (Movement
for Reform Judaism)
Noah Libson
Clare & Brian Linden
Edward Millett
Sarah Peters & Jonathan Freedland
Rachel Rose
Pat Rowe & Lance Blackstone
Bissan Salman
Dana Segal
Ruth & Jeremy Smilg
Prof Pam Sonnenberg & Prof Eli Silber
Atira Winchester & Matt Plen
Ella Taylor-Fagan
Hilary & Mark Urban
Naomi & Vivian Wineman

Events Committee

Andrew Leek (Chair)
Georgie Friend
Dana Segal
Ruth Smilg

NIF is the perfect meeting point of my deep connection to Israel and my deep concern for the values of justice and equality

—— Professor David N Myers,
NIF Global President

Board of Trustees

Noeleen Cohen (Chair)
Paul Amit
Paul Burger
Jane Grabiner
Suzanne Jacobs
Andrew Leek
Alex Marcuson
Edward Millett
Martin Paisner CBE
Sarah Peters
Anna Roiser
Dana Segal
Dr Juliet Stevens



A special thank you to the Pears Foundation for their support of this evening and for their continuing support of our work.

Final reflection

A friend reminded me recently that we must never forget that our Jewish tradition is a choice. Survival as Jews is a choice. When we read texts from our tradition, we should remember that many Jews chose to leave the Jewish faith and jettison tradition in light of their circumstance. This is true of our ethical traditions as well. When our tradition said, “As God is merciful, so should you be merciful,” it was a choice for us to follow this guidance. Some chose to leave that tradition. Perhaps they believed Jewish ethical ideals were important but irrelevant to their world. Perhaps they thought that to survive is to leave our tradition. So those who wished to remain with the tradition chose not only to live but to live ethically.

In today’s world, the choice to remain loyal to our Jewish tradition is different. Some suggest, in Israel or abroad, that our time demands our barbarism. But choosing barbarism is forgoing our tradition as Jews. Israel has power that our great grandparents’ generation couldn’t imagine.

Even in our current predicament, which highlights our vulnerability, Israel can choose how to behave. We have that choice as well, as individuals and as communities. We need to ask not only if we

will survive but how we survive and who we are as keepers of our moral traditions.

I have been fortunate to be an NIF grantee for most of my adult life. Whether it was Breaking the Silence, Molad, The Alliance Fellowship, or the Faithful Left, the NIF has always been the first one to support this work. The partnership has always been one based on values. The question of who we are as a community stands at the center of our partnership. I

In my context, the ethical focus has always been on how we treat the other less fortunate, be they Jewish or Palestinian. Even in tragic times, this question needs to continue being as central as ever.

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 tenacity as well.



Mikhael Manekin

Donate to The New Israel Fund

Use the QR code to donate.

Your generosity this evening will ensure the New Israel Fund delivers our urgent work in the months ahead, and continues to strive for a safe, just and shared future for all communities in Israel.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our work.



@NewIsraelFundUK   

Star House, 104 Grafton Rd,
London NW5 4BA

+44 207 724 2266
info@uknif.org
www.newisraelfund.org.uk

Charity number: 1060081

Designed and Typeset by Effusion

Pears
Foundation