Trustee Recruitment Candidate Pack

2026

הקרן החדשה לישראל

New Israel Fund

الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

FOR OVER 40 YEARS WE'VE BEEN ADVANCING EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY FOR ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS.



Welcome from our Chair, Noeleen Cohen

Thank you for your interest in strengthening our work towards a just, safe and equal future for Israelis and Palestinians; and in playing a leadership role at New Israel Fund UK.

The coming year is set to be transformational in Israel and Palestine, and for the community here in the UK. It is also the year in which I will complete my tenure as Chair of NIF UK. We are looking to appoint a Chair and up to a further three new trustees to start in Spring 2027. We would love to hear from people who share NIF's values and who can bring a diversity of skills and perspectives to our board.

The last five years have been the most difficult in Israel that any of us can remember. Following the assault on democracy by the most right-wing government ever to lead the country, Israel was changed forever by the atrocities committed by Hamas on 7 October. The New Israel Fund responded swiftly and effectively assisting thousands of displaced people, working to ensure violence did not break out in Israel's mixed cities, and supporting the unprotected Bedouin communities in the South. As the war in Gaza wrought devastation, we responded by joining our Israeli, Palestinian and global colleagues to raise millions of pounds for organisations delivering vital humanitarian aid.

Both in the UK and in Israel, NIF is engaging more people and raising more money. Our success reflects an outpouring of generosity and the growing resonance with our commitment to a fairer future for Israelis and Palestinians and our work. We are looking for people who can support us to increase the numbers of people who share our aspirations for Israel, working with our partners to: defend democracy and human rights; empower marginalised communities; and advance Arab-Jewish partnership.

As a new board member, you will play a pivotal role in strengthening the organisation. You will bring expertise and enthusiasm in an area such as fundraising, marketing, or achieving organisational growth. Whatever your background, if you share our passion for building a more just and equal future for Israelis and Palestinians, and engaging those in the UK with our vision, this opportunity could be for you.

You'll find the role specification and details of how to apply in this pack. We would be delighted to talk to you informally about the role and answer any questions you have.

Noeleen

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تعاطف
חמלה
COMPASSION

Our Board

Our Chair:

Noeleen Cohen is an experienced and committed board chair and trustee having served on the board of Citizens UK and Reform Judaism and as Chair of Alyth Synagogue. She has a professional background in strategic marketing, communications and management working in multi-national organisations; alongside teaching communications and brand strategy to post-graduate students. Noeleen has been involved with New Israel Fund for more than a decade. She came to NIF through our Human Rights Award Committee and continues to be inspired by the work of our grantees and committed teams in Israel and the UK. In December 2026, Noeleen will take on the role of Chair of the Movement for Progressive Judaism ahead of concluding her term with NIF in the summer of 2027.

Our Board:

Our Board members are drawn from diverse backgrounds, bring a range of skills and insights, and play a vital role in the growth and development of New Israel Fund UK. The Chair and Trustees work in a collaborative partnership with our dynamic Professional Team, led by Chief Executive, David Davidi-Brown. The Board are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the charity and ensuring that we have the resources, controls, governance and commitment needed to deliver it. The board is made up of 10 to 14 Directors, who are also Trustees of the incorporated charity.

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NIF's Mission

Israel can be a homeland for the Jewish people and a democratic state, just, safe and equal, for all its citizens and residents.

Empowering vulnerable communities

We protect and provide for communities in Israel facing discrimination, including women, refugees, LGBTQ+ people, people on low incomes and groups affected by religious coercion.

In 2025, NIF helped secure £232 million in government funding for rebuilding and trauma support for communities left out of recovery funding for localities affected by the war.

Defending democracy and human rights

We protect rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression and protest. Our partners make sure laws are upheld and challenge abuse of power in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

"When Aisha saw the police demolish her neighbour's home, she called the lawyers of NIF's Civil Society Protection Hub."

Advancing Arab-Jewish partnership

We fund organisations and develop leaders who build a shared society for Arab and Jewish citizens.

Nasij alumni mobilised more than 100,000 Jews and Arabs across Israel in protests against police failure to curb violent crime in Palestinian communities.

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What we do

New Israel Fund UK (NIF UK) is the UK charity that fundraises for and partners with NIF in Israel.

In Israel, NIF:

- **Are leaders in grant-making:** we identify, fund and connect Israeli organisations working on the most pressing issues facing Israeli society. In 2025, NIF UK invested £6.34 million in more than 100 organisations working with Israelis and Palestinians.
- **Provide training to strengthen civil society:** alongside funding, we provide training and capacity-building, build coalitions and help partners deliver change for every community and marginalised groups.
- **Support public engagement:** local and national campaigns, public education and media projects.

In the UK, we:

- **Fundraise:** from individuals, communities and foundations. NIF UK's income for the year to 31 December 2025 was £6.7 million.
- **Engage:** our events, including the annual Human Rights Awards, engage UK audiences with the people making change in Israel.
- **Connect:** our communications and partnerships take our partners' work to communities and people beyond our current supporters.

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שלום
50

Our Strategy 2026 to 2030

Beyond Sides | Choosing Humanity

By 2030, NIF UK aims to be the UK's leading organisation engaging people to support a just, safe and equal future for Israelis and Palestinians.

Polarisation in the Jewish community and wider British society is pushing many people to disengage from Israel-Palestine or pick a side. NIF UK offers a values-led, relationship-based alternative.

The target is **£7 million a year by 2030**, up from £3.4 million in 2024, so that £6 million a year reaches partners in Israel. Our 2026-2030 strategy sharpens and scales proven and existing successful work.

Each priority feeds the next: reach brings people in, engagement builds relationships and fundraising turns them into lasting support.

Our four strategic priorities:

- **Reach:** more people who know our work, through a new website, brand refresh and media growth.
- **Engagement:** three annual moments: the Human Rights Awards, Vivian Silver Award and Local Testimony.
- **Fundraising:** increase giving from major and mid-level donors and have **2,000 active donors** (currently ~1,200).
- **Operations:** data, technology and governance to sustain growth.

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Roles and Requirements for Trustees

We are seeking talented individuals with a **passion** for NIF's work, who bring a **range of abilities** and approaches, to join our dynamic board of Trustees.

We are particularly keen to recruit people who have the skills, experience and networks to **help us raise significantly more funds and reach many more people** across UK Jewish communities and beyond.

Our international board and professional team in Israel feature Arab and Jewish leaders. In the UK, we are **working to involve more Palestinians, and people from communities connected to Palestinians**, and we welcome applications from them to join our board.

We value diversity and inclusivity. We welcome candidates from outside of London.

General Responsibilities of all Board Members:

- Commit to the vision, mission and values of NIF
- Ensure that NIF UK complies with its statutory responsibilities, that its reputation is protected, and that its funds are used solely in accordance with its aims
- Contribute actively to the Board strategy and policy making, ensuring NIF has a clear direction and set of objectives
- Be an ambassador for the organisation
- Contribute to NIF's fundraising work
- Attend Board meetings and actively contribute via another leadership role e.g. through committee positions and network development

NIF Trustees: What We Are Looking For

The Board of Trustees collectively needs skills and experience in the broad range of areas listed below. Individual Trustees are not expected to provide expertise across the broad range of skills. Rather we are seeking trustees who bring expertise, perspectives and networks within one or more of these areas. We are particularly interested in complementing our Board with the skills **highlighted below**.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience:

- **Fundraising**
- **Marketing and branding**
- **Leading organisational growth in the profit and/or not –for-profit sector**
- Finance
- Governance
- Public Affairs
- Digital Communications
- Events, Programming, and Community building
- Strategy development and evaluation

Attributes we are looking for:

- Strongly motivated by the prospect of shaping and growing NIF's work and its influence
- Strong communicator with the confidence to communicate your views to a wide range of people
- Creative and independent thinker
- Ability to share and listen to different views particularly in relation to the issues in Israel Palestine
- Networking and building and maintaining relationships
- A passion for social change

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NIF Chair Person Specification

We are seeking a Chair to lead NIF UK through the delivery of our 2026 to 2030 strategy, Beyond Sides | Choosing Humanity. Working alongside our Chief Executive and professional team, the Chair will lead the Board, oversee growth in our fundraising, engagement and reach, and raise NIF UK's profile amid significant global and regional challenges. A more detailed role description for the chair is available here.

Key responsibilities:

- Provide inclusive strategic leadership to the Board, ensuring Trustees fulfil their responsibilities for governance, strategy, impact and financial sustainability
- Oversee delivery of the 2026 to 2030 strategy, holding the organisation's leadership accountable against agreed income, donor, engagement and reach goals
- Support, guide and constructively challenge the Chief Executive, including their annual performance review
- Chair Board meetings effectively and impartially, and support trustee recruitment to maintain the skills and diversity needed
- Act as an ambassador of NIF UK, including at flagship events and international NIF Board meetings
- Support fundraising by building relationships with key donors, supporters, community leaders and influencers

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NIF Chair Person Specification continued

Experience and attributes we are looking for:

- Trustee experience (essential); experience chairing a non-profit or sizeable company (desirable)
- A proven leadership record, with strong judgement and people skills
- Experience of fundraising and building networks, ideally including income growth or major-donor fundraising
- Personal gravitas, integrity and an excellent reputation
- A collaborative leadership style that unites differing voices and builds consensus
- Confidence operating in a polarised, fast-changing environment
- Knowledge and awareness of the complex issues facing Israeli society
- Understanding of British Jewish communal life, and involvement with progressive, Israeli or human rights organisations (desirable)

In addition to the commitments for all Trustees, the Chair will attend regular meetings with the Chief Executive and two international NIF Board meetings each year, one in Israel and one in the US. Ideally the Chair will be based in or near South East England

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Hanan
Alsanah

Recruitment Timetable

To apply, please submit a CV and cover letter highlighting your desire and suitability for joining our Board to abibaum@gmail.com by **3rd December 2026**.

If you are interested and would like to have an informal chat with David Davidi-Brown, or one of our current trustees, please contact David (david@uknif.org) and we will arrange a time for a call.

- Deadline for Applications – **3rd December 2026**
- Shortlisting – By 16th December 2026
- Interviews –11th to 29th January 2027
- The Chair and new trustees will be nominated at our February 2027 board meeting.
- Chair (if external) will join the board from February 2027 as chair-elect and assume the role at the AGM in July.
- Approved trustees will join the Board in early May, with their appointment ratified at the AGM in July 2027.

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Recruitment Timetable continued

Terms of Appointment

• Trustees are typically appointed for a three-year term with the possibility of extension for two further three-year terms.

• The Chair is appointed for a three-year term with the possibility for an extension for one further three-year term.

Time Commitment

• 5 Board Meetings each year. Board Meetings are usually held on weekday evenings in person in London. There is also one strategy day, normally held on a Sunday. An AGM is held once a year (usually in July)

• Board Members are expected to commit time to attend NIF events, participate in fundraising and other activities, and join board committees

Remuneration

• The role is offered on a voluntary basis, but all reasonable expenses incurred as part of the role will be reimbursed.

• NIF UK provides Trustees with an induction and offers training and mentoring opportunities

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Useful reading and viewing

The full strategy paper to 2030 ‘Beyond Sides | Choosing Humanity’ can be made available via email

Our most recent audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025 can be found here.

A framework for expectations of our lay and professional leadership can be found here.

A guideline for how we engage with speakers, partners and sensitive content can be found here.

Our CEO David’s writing representing the organisation can be found in The Guardian, Haaretz, Jewish News and Prospect Magazine.

Our YouTube channel has videos from past winners of our Human Rights Awards, virtual tours with some of our partners and the communities they support, and a range of footage from our programming with leaders working towards a just, safe and equal future for Israelis and Palestinians.






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