

NEWSLETTER



CFI Annual Business Lunch with Rt Hon David Cameron MP, The Prime Minister

CFI's Annual Business Lunch 2012 took place at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel on 11th December. The event was attended by 550 Business people and 140 Conservative Parliamentarians, including 6 members of the Cabinet. The keynote speaker at this year's lunch was, the Rt Hon David Cameron, The Prime Minister.

"It is a fantastic job that Stuart (Polak) and the CFI team do in getting people out to Israel – because seeing really is believing. It's only when you visit the Lebanese border as I have done, when you look through binoculars and see the Hezbollah flags just hundreds of yards away, that you can really understand the fear that so many Israelis live with day-in, day-out."
The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP



DELEGATIONS

May 2012

CFI led a delegation of 9 Conservative MPs and 2 conservative commentators to Israel and the PA. The group had the opportunity to visit Sderot and the Erez crossing border where they received security and humanitarian briefings.



Oct 2012

The Lords and Commons Cricket Club visited Israel for a landmark cricket tour, in co-ordination with CFI. The trip offered a completely different way of introducing cross-party parliamentarians to Israel, combining an original mix of cricket and political fact-finding.



Nov 2012

CFI led a delegation of 4 Conservative MPs to Israel and the PA. The trip coincided with an escalation of rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and the start of Operation Pillar of Defence, giving the participants an immediate insight into the security threats facing Israel. The realities of this were dramatically realised when the group heard the air-raid sirens across Jerusalem, warning of incoming rocket fire.



Feb 2013

CFI led a delegation of 4 Conservative MPs, 1 Member of the Scottish Parliament and 1 Welsh Assembly Member to Israel. The trip followed Israel's general election and allowed the group the opportunity to discuss in depth Israel's new political landscape, alongside a wide range of other security, political and cultural issues.



CAMPAIGNS



OPERATION PILLAR OF DEFENCE

In the Commons debate on Operation Pillar of Defence there was near unanimous support from the Conservative benches when 22 Conservative MPs spoke in support of Israel; a demonstration of the level of support for Israel within the Conservative Party. A letter coordinated by CFI and signed by 17 Conservative MPs was printed in the Telegraph newspaper and helpful op-eds were placed on conservative websites.



MPs REGULARLY SPEAK UP FOR ISRAEL IN ORAL AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MPs regularly ask questions on issues such as Palestinian incitement and hate education, the need to return to negotiations, understanding Israel's peace initiatives, the importance of rejecting terrorist groups and other CFI campaign issues.



MPs PARTICIPATE IN WESTMINSTER HALL DEBATES

Gordon Henderson MP led a 30 minute Westminster Hall Debate on a major CFI campaign; incitement and hate education in the Palestinian Territories. This was followed up by an op-ed by the MP in the Times of Israel. MPs have also participated in other debates raising important issues and ensuring balance of the debate in the House of Commons.



MPs SIGN A LETTER TO THE SUNDAY TIMES EXPRESSING SHOCK AT GERALD SCARFE BLOOD LIBEL CARTOON

43 Conservative MPs signed a letter to Sunday Times Editor Martin Ivens, expressing their 'shock' at the 'objectionable' cartoon that was printed on Holocaust Memorial Day.



NOTABLE EVENTS



**March
2012**

CFI Reception for Young Professionals - CFI hosted an inaugural Reception for 100 young professionals, activists, and students with Douglas Carswell MP, Editor of Conservative Home, Tim Montgomerie and Deputy Head of Mission, Alon Roth-Snir.



**April
2012**

CFI Boris Battle Bus Campaign Day - CFI hosted and coordinated Boris Battle Bus tour across north-west London attracting hundreds of activists and supporters to come out in support of Boris's re-election campaign.



**September
2012**

CFI Annual Members Reception - CFI hosted its Annual Members Reception at House of Commons with Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt MP and H.E. Daniel Taub, Ambassador of Israel. The reception held on the House of Commons terrace was attended by over 250 guests.



**October
2012**

CFI Conservative Party Conference Events - Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon William Hague MP was the guest of honour at a CFI reception attended by over 400 conservative delegates, activists and MPs. CFI also maintained a popular stand in the conference exhibition hall and signed up over 50 new members.



**October
2012**

CFI Events on Hate Education and Incitement - CFI hosted incitement expert Itamar Marcus in the UK for a series of events and briefings with the Foreign Office, MPs, Peers and the press. Itamar's visit resulted in a positive media coverage on this issue in the Daily Mail newspaper.



**December
2012**

AIJLD - CFI coordinated the second annual Australia, Israel, UK leadership Dialogue in London. This included an in-session day in the House of Commons with notable speakers, receptions with the Israeli Ambassador and the Australian High Commissioner and a gala dinner. The Dialogue was attended by over 80 senior parliamentarians and decision makers.