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MAGAZINE 2016/2017

# INFORMED





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# Introducing CFI

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**Editor of Informed** - Sedef Akademir, CFI

**Designed by JMF Group** - 0191 488 2011 - [www.jmfprint.co.uk](http://www.jmfprint.co.uk)

**Printed by FT Solutions** - 01992 501 500 - [www.ftsolutions.co.uk](http://www.ftsolutions.co.uk)

# Foreword

**Andrew Heller**  
Chairman, CFI

We are delighted to welcome you to the new edition of CFI's annual Informed magazine, which marks the end of another successful year. We are pleased to report that CFI has continued to expand in all areas, from our programme of parliamentary delegations to Israel, to events, and parliamentary campaigns.

It certainly has been a year of great change for the Conservative Party and the country.

In July 2016, CFI were pleased to welcome long-standing friend of Israel and the Jewish community, Theresa May, as Prime Minister, which marks an exciting new chapter in the UK-Israel relationship. Theresa, as Home Secretary, gave a strong commitment and practical assurance to the British Jewish community. CFI looks forward to working with our new Prime Minister in the months and years ahead to further strengthen the relationship and the commercial ties between the United Kingdom and Israel.

We would like to thank the previous Prime Minister, David Cameron, for his firm stance against anti-Semitism and commitment to a National Memorial to the Holocaust and a Learning Centre. CFI thanks him for significantly strengthening the bonds between the UK and Israel.

Since the General Election in May 2015, CFI has markedly expanded its annual delegation programme with 10 successful visits coordinated between

**Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Pickles MP**  
Parliamentary Chairman, CFI

May 2015 and August 2016. During this period, CFI took 81 Conservatives to Israel, including Members of Parliament (MPs), peers, senior Party officials, and young Party activists. As many as 31 Conservative MPs have visited Israel with CFI in this time, including 16 newly elected MPs, and nine Conservative peers have visited from the House of Lords – an unprecedented number.

**CFI looks forward to working with our new Prime Minister in the months and years ahead to further strengthen the relationship and the commercial ties between the United Kingdom and Israel.**

It has been particularly exciting for CFI to engage with more groups within the Conservative umbrella including high-profile visits to Israel for nine Members of the Scottish Parliament, as well as the Conservative Women's Organisation.

In May 2016, CFI welcomed Israel's new Ambassador to the United Kingdom, H.E. Mark Regev, by coordinating a lunch in Parliament attended by 50 Conservative MPs. Mark was already well-known in Parliament from his time as Spokesperson to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and has already made many friends within Parliament.

CFI has increased its activity in Parliament, both in events and presence in debates. We regularly organise briefings for both Houses so that Israeli politicians, academics, journalists, and NGOs can put their points directly to our lawmakers.

CFI held its biggest ever Annual Business Lunch in December 2015, attended by 750 people including 160 Conservative parliamentarians and 13 members of the Cabinet. We were delighted to be joined by keynote speakers the then-Secretary of State for Justice, Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, and then-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Rt.

Hon. Sajid Javid MP, who appeared 'In Conversation' with then-Secretary of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan MP.

Our small and dedicated Professional Team has expanded over the past year, and we would like to thank the team for their hard work, alongside our distinguished Parliamentary Group, which has been pivotal in leading CFI's efforts in Parliament and increasing CFI's profile at home and in Israel.

If you would like further information about any of CFI's activities please visit our website ([www.cfoi.co.uk](http://www.cfoi.co.uk)) and follow us on Twitter (@CFol) for the latest news.

Thank you for your interest in CFI.

We do hope we can count on your support.



Prime Minister Theresa May at CFI Annual Business Lunch 2014

## CFI and Israel According To...

### **Rt. Hon.** **Theresa May MP** **Prime Minister**

"It is worth restating the threats faced by Israel because they are considerable. There are the familiar but deadly threats from Hamas and Hezbollah. The collapse of Syria that has spawned ISIS and threatens to destabilise Lebanon and Jordan. The instability of the wider region. And the threats issued to Israel by Iran. No democratic government could, in the face of such danger, do anything but maintain a strong defence and security capability and be prepared to deploy it if necessary. That is why I – and the whole British Government – will always defend Israel's right to defend itself".

**CFI Parliamentary Reception,**  
**September 2014**

"Israel is at once an ancient and a young nation. The modern State of Israel is the fulfilment of many generations of struggle... It is a tragic fact of history that the Jewish people have had to protect themselves against repeated attempts to obliterate them, and that the safety of the Jewish people can never be taken for granted".

**Bnei Akiva Yom Ha'atzmaut Event,**  
**April 2015**

### **Rt. Hon.** **Philip Hammond MP** **Chancellor of the** **Exchequer**

"Under a Conservative Government, Britain rejects the concept of boycotts. The new changes will stop politically motivated disinvestment campaigns; stop local authority boycotts of goods. Under a Conservative Government,

our foreign policy will be made in the Foreign Office and not in hundreds of Labour controlled town halls".

**CFI Party Conference Reception,**  
**October 2015**

"I can make you a couple of promises and Mr Corbyn can't. I can promise you that I will never share a platform with Hezbollah. I can promise you that I will never describe anybody who launches indiscriminate rocket attacks against civilian populations as my 'friends'".

**CFI Party Conference Reception,**  
**October 2015**

### **Rt. Hon.** **Amber Rudd MP** **Home Secretary**

"Throughout this period of political change, there has been a constant - the Government's commitment to the

security of Israel and our unwavering determination to fight against the evils of anti-Semitism... Let there be no doubt, I will not stand for anti-Semitism or any form of hatred".

**Emunah Gala Dinner,  
September 2016**

## **Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP Foreign Secretary**

"It's [Israel] an incredible country that's changed out of all recognition since I worked on a kibbutz 30 years ago. I'm here because of that economic change... Israel has been responsible for everything from USB memory sticks to all sorts of apps that are of great value. The country has played a huge role in the whole tech explosion. But it's more fundamental than that: the world would be greatly poorer without Israel. The world would be impoverished without a state that – for all its faults and all the criticisms you can level – is far and away the most free, open, democratic in this neighbourhood. It's a great thing and we need to preserve that".

**Trade Mission to Israel,  
November 2015**

"I cannot think of anything more foolish than to say you want to have any kind of divestment or sanctions or boycott against a country that, when all is said and done, is the only democracy in the region, is the only place that has, in my view, a pluralist open society... Why boycott Israel? And by the way, I think there is some misunderstanding over here about it. The supporters of this so-called boycott are really a bunch of corduroy-jacketed academics. They are, by and large, lefty academics who have no real standing in the matter and I think are highly unlikely to be influential on Britain. This is a very, very small minority in our country who are calling for this".

**Trade Mission to Israel,  
November 2015**



CFI Parliamentary Chairman Sir Eric Pickles MP at CFI Parliamentary Reception 2016

## **Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP Secretary of State for International Development**

"I became a friend of Israel way before I became a Member of Parliament... We relish in the work that you [CFI] do collectively at a community level, but also at a Parliamentary level as well – the delegations and the support that you all bring to our Party".

**CFI Parliamentary Reception,  
January 2016**



International Development Secretary Priti Patel at CFI Parliamentary Reception 2016

"We have to reflect while we are here this evening on something that I think unites us all - and brings us together here to support Conservative Friends of Israel - and that, of course, is the values. The shared values that we all have when it comes to the value of democracy, the value of peace, but also the value of freedom as well. And these values apply to Israel in such a great way... Those values that all of us in this room tonight are standing up for and championing".

**CFI Parliamentary Reception,  
January 2016**

## **Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Pickles MP CFI Parliamentary Chairman**

"It is immensely important that we speak up for the only working democracy in the Middle East. A bastion of democracy, a bastion of free speech, a bastion of civil liberties".

**CFI Parliamentary Reception,  
January 2016**

## **MESSAGE FOR CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL INFORMED MAGAZINE**

As a long-time supporter of Conservative Friends of Israel, I am delighted to contribute to your annual magazine for the first time as Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party.

We will soon be marking a century since Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, a Conservative, confirmed the UK's support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. Today the relationship between our countries remains as strong as ever, based not only on bilateral trade, scientific research and security co-operation, but the values we share, like freedom, democracy and tolerance. Indeed, I saw those values for myself when I made my first visit to Israel as Home Secretary in 2014.

It was during that visit that we were reminded of the deadly threats the people of Israel face every day, with the terrible news that the bodies of three missing Israeli teenagers had been found. From the terrorism of Hamas and Hezbollah to the instability in the region, the dangers that confront Israel remain considerable. I am clear: Israel has the right to defend itself. We must do everything we can to ensure its citizens feel safe and secure in their own country.

We must also remember that this hostility is not confined to the Middle East. Here in Britain, sadly, we have seen boycotts of Israeli goods and events, and we have seen people suffer anti-Semitic abuse and attacks. I am determined that we stamp out injustices like these, because there is no place for intolerance or bigotry in Britain. That is why I am proud to be working with the Chief Rabbi and the cross-party UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation to deliver our commitment to a new National Holocaust Memorial and associated learning centre. After all, it is only by learning about where hatred can lead that we can truly eradicate it.

As I have said before, Britain would not be Britain without its Jews. Likewise, the Conservative Party would not be the Conservative Party without CFI. You play a vital role, for which we are hugely grateful. So as we begin *Rosh Hashanah*, I would like to thank you and wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful year ahead. *Shanah Tovah*.







*Message from H.E. Mark Regev, Ambassador of Israel to the Court of St James's*

I wish to start by joining Prime Minister Netanyahu in congratulating Britain's new Prime Minister Theresa May on taking office. As Home Secretary, she demonstrated vigour in combatting the scourge of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hate, and was a champion of the British Jewish community and the UK-Israel partnership. Israel looks forward to working with Prime Minister May in advancing cooperation between our two democracies.

My Prime Minister has also paid tribute to the work of David Cameron, a true friend of Israel and the Jewish people. During his tenure, we saw the expansion of security, economic and technological cooperation between Israel and the United Kingdom. In taking a firm stance against bigotry and intolerance, and by instructing the building of a National Holocaust Memorial, he has left behind a remarkable legacy.

The bond between Israel and Britain is strong, but the precarious world we live in presents new and significant challenges to both our nations. Terror groups hostile to the values of democracy, pluralism and tolerance – principles that our peoples proudly cherish – are using increasingly lethal attacks to undermine the fabric of our societies. Through acts of brutal violence, they seek to destroy liberty and plunge humanity into a new dark age.

Though Israel is successfully forging many new alliances across the Middle East, the perils of nuclear proliferation from Iran and terrorism from ISIS, Hezbollah and Hamas remain. By diverting much-needed aid money into its terrorist machine, the latter poses a threat not only to Israel's security, but to the governments and aid organisations operating in the region, and in turn the Palestinians themselves.

Confronting terror and extremism requires unity of purpose, strength and determination, and I am proud to say that the work of Conservative Friends of Israel (CFI) embodies all three. By speaking up for the Israel-Britain relationship in Parliament, you are standing up for the only democracy in the Middle East and defending the freedoms that characterise both our societies.

As we prepare to celebrate the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, I aspire to continue promoting the economic, security and technological cooperation between our nations. CFI lies at the heart of that endeavour, and as Israel's new Ambassador I am reassured by your support. It is my hope that we can further strengthen our enduring partnership in the months and years ahead.

Mark Regev  
Ambassador of Israel to the Court of St James's



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September 2016

It has been just over a year since my arrival in Israel. There has not been a dull day. I have travelled all over the country, visiting Arab towns in the north, spending time with Haredi communities in Jerusalem, meeting Holocaust survivors in Eshkol and travelling south to Eilat - where we recently welcomed the Royal Navy's HMS Defender.

Seeing so many facets of Israeli society helps me better grasp the diversity and complexity of Israel. But our priorities remain unchanged. The UK is deeply committed to promoting a flourishing partnership between Israel and the UK. We also want to see a negotiated end to the conflict before the window of opportunity for two states closes. We strongly oppose any call for boycotts.

The reality of the UK-Israel relationship is one of strengthening links across trade, investment, tech, science, education, security and defence. Trade and investment are at record levels. Last year Rolls Royce and EL AL signed an engine deal for EL AL's new Dreamliner fleet worth some £1 billion. This is the UK's largest ever export deal to Israel.

We have also launched a plethora of joint science programmes: for example, our new Researcher Mobility Scheme, which will benefit hundreds of scientific researchers.

Last year the Royal Society - the oldest scientific body in the world - signed an agreement with the Israeli Academy for the first time since 1967. We have increased funding for our BIRAX programme, which tackles some of the world's worst diseases. In April, I joined a conference at Oxford University where over 300 Israeli and British scientists participated, the largest ever UK/Israel science event.

Security cooperation with Israel remains a high priority. The UK and Israel have committed to deepen cooperation in cyber security. This includes academic engagement in the field of cyber-physical security and an agreement for the Cyber Emergency Response Teams of both countries to share best practice. We continue to closely work on shared regional threats such as Daesh.

I am delighted to have hosted over 25 MPs and 60 Conservatives who have visited as part of CFI delegations over the past year, and look forward to the many that will be visiting in the future. Our recently-launched UK-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group will focus on forging even closer ties between Parliament and the Knesset.

David Quarrey  
HM AMBASSADOR

# The Conservative Party is Leading the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

**Rt. Hon.  
Sir Eric Pickles MP**  
UK Special Envoy for  
Post-Holocaust Issues  
and CFI Parliamentary  
Chairman



I wish I could say my role as the UK's Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues over the past year was devoted entirely to Holocaust remembrance, but sadly, anti-Semitism has continued to rear its ugly head.

Anti-Semitism has surfaced across social media, UK university campuses, and very prolifically in the Labour Party.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has utterly failed to confront the shameful anti-Semitism rife within his once great Party, with scandal after scandal taking place, involving senior members of the Party including former London Mayor Ken Livingstone; talk of Israeli Jews being “transported” to America; and an apparent whitewash of an inquiry.

The growth of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on the Left of British politics is symptom of a coarseness and an intolerance that has become the hallmark of the modern Labour Party.

It is clear, that the only way Labour and its leadership can rid itself of anti-Semitism is to cease keeping company with anti-Semites. Sadly, Mr Corbyn is not prepared to do this. His ill-considered equivocation between Israel

and ISIS at the launch of Labour's report into anti-Semitism was an astonishing example of Labour's mindset today.

Anti-Semitism changes its shape but its purpose remains constant: to pick on Jewish people, to separate them from society and to blame them for all the ills in the world. Modern anti-Semites seek

**“ Holding the entire Israeli population accountable for the actions of its government, is simply a new form of an old hatred. ”**

to hide their true targets by posing as anti-Zionists or criticising Israel.

It is, of course, perfectly fine to criticise Israel. As a staunch friend of Israel myself, I have expressed reservations about some of the actions of the Israeli government. But what is not acceptable is to question Israel's legitimacy to exist, or to see every Jewish person as personally accountable for Israeli government policy.

It is no coincidence that many of those that propagate this line are anti-Israel activists and proponents of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. The BDS itself, which has no shame in holding the entire Israeli population accountable for the actions of its government, is simply a new form of an old hatred.

The cases of the past year have reinforced the need to continually work to combat anti-Semitism and its disguises.

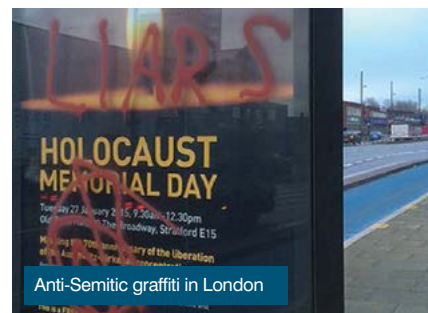
As the UK representative at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, I played an instrumental role in May 2016 in the drafting of a

working definition of anti-Semitism. The definition made clear that certain manifestations of anti-Semitism “might include the targeting of the State of Israel, conceived as Jewish collectivity”. It is one of the broadest definitions yet agreed by leading Western nations and I hope that it will become more widely accepted.

The Prime Minister has underlined that the UK will take a zero-tolerance stance on anti-Semitism and that Jewish people are an indispensable part of British identity, stating: “Without its Jews, Britain would not be Britain”.

As Home Secretary, Theresa May secured £13.4 million to protect Jewish institutions across the UK – an unprecedented amount. The Prime Minister has also committed to continuing David Cameron's commendable work to build a National Monument to the Holocaust and a National Learning Centre.

Our great Jewish community can rest assured that a UK led by Theresa May will stand in solidarity, be there in its moments of need, and join in celebrating an important part of the British identity.





Prime Minister Theresa May and CFI Parliamentary Chairman Sir Eric Pickles MP at rally against anti-Semitism

## Theresa May, Israel, and the Jewish Community

In July 2016, CFI were delighted to welcome long-standing friend of Israel, Theresa May, as our new Prime Minister, marking an exciting new chapter in the UK-Israel relationship. Prime Minister May is a staunch and consistent supporter of Israel and the UK's Jewish community, and has spoken at numerous Conservative Friends of Israel events throughout her time in Parliament.

### 1. Supporting Israel's Right to Self-Defence

Speaking as Home Secretary at CFI's Parliamentary Reception in September 2014, Mrs May underlined that the British Government would always support Israel's right to defend its citizens from terror attacks: "No democratic government could, in the

face of such danger, do anything but maintain a strong defence and security capability and be prepared to deploy it if necessary. That is why I – and the whole British Government – will always defend Israel's right to defend itself".

At the reception, she acknowledged that "Israel faces enemies intent on its very destruction" and " Hamas uses Palestinian civilians as human shields for its rockets".

### 2. Israel Visit

Theresa May visited Israel for the first time in June 2014, during which she met a number of leading Israeli officials and experts to discuss different aspects of UK cooperation with Israel, including on human trafficking, cyber security, modern slavery, and policing.

During her visit, she met then-Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, then-Interior Minister Gidon Sa'ar, and then-Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch. Commenting on her visit, she said: "On my first visit to Israel, I was delighted to see first-hand the flourishing partnership between the UK and Israel. I held very positive discussions with my Israeli counterparts, and agreed a range of areas for future cooperation".



Prime Minister Theresa May at Yad Vashem



Prime Minister May also visited Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, laying a wreath at the Hall of Remembrance in memory of those who perished. The then-Home Secretary said: "I was deeply moved by my visit to Yad Vashem. It is a powerful reminder of the most terrible crime of history. Remembering is sacred, and the UK stands committed to commemorating the Holocaust, the victims and the survivors".

### 3. Friend of Israel and Jewish Community

In April 2015, Theresa May spoke of her strong support for Israel and praised the UK's Jewish community during her keynote speech at Bnei Akiva's Yom Ha'atzmaut event to celebrate Israel's 67th anniversary, where she said that "the modern State of Israel is the fulfilment of many generations of struggle".

She asserted in her speech: "It is a tragic fact of history that the Jewish people have had to protect themselves against repeated attempts to obliterate them, and that the safety of the Jewish people can never be taken for granted". The Prime Minister underlined further: "Without its Jews, Britain would not be Britain... Jewish people have long been an important and integral part of this country... We cherish the enormous contribution you make – not just in the past, but today and every day".

In September 2016, Prime Minister May said: "Today the relationship between our countries remains as strong as ever, based not only on bilateral trade, scientific research and security co-operation, but the values we share, like freedom, democracy and tolerance".

### 4. Combating Anti-Semitism

As Home Secretary from 2010 to 2016, Mrs May took robust action to combat anti-Semitism in the UK, adopting a series of measures and making clear that "there is absolutely no place in our country for anti-Semitism".

In March 2016, she announced the Government's commitment of £13.4 million for security measures in the Jewish community in 2016 at the Community Security Trust (CST) Annual Dinner – an increase of £2 million from the previous year.

She has worked closely with a number of organisations, including the CST, to tackle anti-Semitic attacks. With Mrs May as Home Secretary, £2.3 million of funding was provided to organisations including the Anne Frank Trust, to help combat hate crimes and challenge discriminatory behaviour.



Prime Minister May and Yair Lapid, leader of Israel's Yesh Atid party, at Emunah Gala Dinner 2015

In the immediate aftermath of the horrific attacks in Paris on the Charlie Hebdo office and Jewish HyperCacher in January 2015, Mrs May played a prominent role participating in powerful commemorative events to reassure the UK's Jewish community. This included holding a placard in solidarity at a Board of Deputies rally, declaring "Je Suis Juif" (I am a Jew).



Prime Minister Theresa May addressing CST Annual Dinner 2016

# CFI Delegations to Israel

## Baroness Redfern and Baroness Scott OBE

In August 2016, we had the great pleasure of travelling to Israel and the West Bank, as part of a parliamentary delegation organised by CFI.

Israel is one of those countries you have so many expectations about and our packed schedule enabled us to see all sides of this fascinating place.

We quickly learnt that what we read in the newspapers and see on the television doesn't quite reflect the reality on the ground. Being in Israel, and spending those five days totally immersed with not only the Israeli population but also meeting with Palestinians, you begin to understand the complexities of the situation.

Dispelling our preconceptions, we saw a country that is diverse and multicultural, a world leader in technology and medicine, with a strong and developed democracy. All across this tiny country, we met people that were vibrant and enthusiastic about their future.

We were especially grateful for the chance to meet Palestinians, including Palestine Liberation Organization



Baroness Redfern and Baroness Scott overlooking Jerusalem

(PLO) spokesman Husam Zomlot, and Palestinian polling expert Dr Khalil Shikaki.

Our visit to the hugely impressive new Palestinian-planned city of Rawabi, and meeting the man behind it, Bashar al-Masri, was especially illuminating. Rawabi envisions itself becoming an entertainment, commercial and business hub in the region, as well as a home for 35,000 Palestinians. We were pleased to hear that the first 300 families had moved into the city. This forward-thinking project deserves all the support it can get from Britain.

from the Palestinian Territories, at the Wolfson Medical Center.

In a visit to the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT), we heard from the founders of start-up company TrecRec about how the College is bringing Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) men and women into the workforce by offering exclusive programmes in high tech engineering. The JCT can be rightly proud of the remarkable work it has done to unleash the potential of this community. Thanks to the work of organisations such as the JCT, record numbers of Haredi men and women are participating in the Israeli workforce.

**“ All across this tiny country, we met people that were vibrant and enthusiastic about their future. ”**

We paid a memorable visit to the incredible Israeli NGO Save A Child's Heart in Holon, meeting children from some of the world's most deprived communities receiving free life-saving heart surgery in Israel. We listened to a trainee surgeon from Ethiopia who told us about the work the charity does in not only caring for children, but also providing in-depth postgraduate training to physicians and nurses from developing countries, including many

In every way, the trip was informative and insightful, with an itinerary brilliantly put together by CFI that gave us an enormous amount to digest. It must be said that we came home with more questions than answers, but are now equipped with better knowledge to debate this complex issue in the House of Lords. We are also keen to encourage others to visit and learn more about this extraordinary country.



Baroness Redfern and Baroness Scott at Save A Child's Heart

## Rachel Maclean Conservative Women's Organisation



For as long as I can remember, Israel has fascinated me but between work, family and running for Parliament, unfortunately the opportunity for a trip never arose. So when CFI offered to take its first ever delegation from the Conservative Women's Organisation (CWO) in March 2016 and I was invited, I seized the chance with both hands.



CWO delegates with IDF officers

In a lunch with leading Israeli businesswomen from the Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce, it became very evident how deep-rooted the culture of innovation is across Israeli society. We

The other standout is the generosity of its people. Everyone greeted us warmly, welcomed us and wanted to hear our story. Israel's survival is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

**“It was time to see beyond the media headlines and our preconceived ideas, and hear about daily life in this extraordinary country.”**

Our trip was packed and varied, with a chance to see the ancient sites, learn about the history of this beautiful and complex country, as well as viewing some of its touristic highlights.

But the real wonder of the trip was meeting the people who actually live there – from academics and politicians, to ordinary citizens. Hearing their perspective on the issues troubling the region made us think deeply about what we had learned and been told for many years about Israel in the UK.

For instance, the astounding young women from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), who in some cases had left their homes in Canada and Scotland to travel to Israel to defend their country. Some were younger than my own daughter, and I could hardly comprehend the courage they displayed to not only take the step to commit to the IDF, but in their daily life when they face threats we barely know of.

learned that this was also increasingly the case amongst women from the traditionally marginalised Arab and ultra-Orthodox communities, who are being encouraged to enter the world of entrepreneurship.

Other highlights were visiting the West Bank and meeting Palestinian politicians. Sometimes challenging, not always easy to listen to, but necessary to gain a balanced view of the conflict.

Now I look back on the whirlwind of that week, what has stayed with me? The fact that Israel is a tiny country, surrounded by hostile nations on all sides. It has the most tortuous history of any nation on earth, and yet it punches way above its weight in its contribution to the world.

For us, it was time to see beyond the media headlines and our preconceived ideas, and hear about daily life in this extraordinary country.

I'm very grateful to the CFI staff and Nicky Molnar from CWO, whose initial vision drove the idea for the trip. Our group of CWO ladies - some of whom had known each other for many years and some who had only just met - strengthened friendships, made new ones and generally celebrated what women can do in political life.



Rachel Maclean and Britain's Ambassador to Israel, H.E. David Quarrey in Tel Aviv





Ambassador Regev meets Middle East Minister Tobias Ellwood MP

## In Conversation with H.E. Mark Regev, Ambassador of Israel

**H**.E. Mark Regev, Israel's Ambassador to the UK, took over from H.E. Daniel Taub in May 2016, after previously serving as Chief Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. CFI's Research and Events Officer, Sedef Akademir, sat down with Ambassador Regev to hear about his experience in Britain so far, and his views on the UK-Israel relationship.

**As former Spokesperson to the Israeli Prime Minister, you are familiar to British audiences and MPs. How have things changed since moving to Britain?**

What has changed is my relationship with the British people: no longer am I sitting before television cameras in Jerusalem. I now spend my time personally meeting people, attending events, visiting communities, and building relationships between our countries. My new role is far more direct, and that gives me a real chance to help shape the future of the

relationship between our two countries in a way I haven't been able to before

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**“ Our future is one of prosperity, science and security, and one where peace is attainable. ”**

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**How will you promote the UK-Israel relationship?**

In three ways: first, I want to promote business and government cooperation with Israel. Second, I want to help Israel's many friends speak up with confidence and reach out to their

communities as positive character references for the Jewish State. Third, I want to encourage politicians and public figures to articulate with pride why Britain's friendship with Israel is so important, the tangible benefits our partnership provides to both our peoples, and the importance of the democratic values we share.

**In what areas would you like to see more cooperation between Israel and the UK?**

Israel and Britain are both world leaders in high tech, cyber security and medicine. Our success in these sectors is derived from our respective



world-class education systems, so encouraging academic partnerships between our universities is a crucial factor in us answering the challenges of the future. These industries also present great opportunities for today and tomorrow, and by increasing cooperation, we can improve the health of our citizens, enhance the security of our countries, and grow our economies.

**“I am proud to say that Israel has many friends in Parliament. They realise that my country is the only democracy in the Middle East and that we both share the same set of values as nations built on freedom, tolerance and pluralism.”**

**What is the strength of support for Israel in Parliament, and why should politicians stand up for Israel's friendship with Britain?**

I am proud to say that Israel has many friends in Parliament. They realise that my country is the only democracy in the Middle East and that we both share the same set of values as nations built on freedom, tolerance and pluralism. Together, our cooperation creates a more prosperous and secure future for both our peoples and by extension helps to achieve peace in the Middle East. That being said, Israel also has its detractors. Some criticise my government as they would any other.

However, others go further, singling out Israel and denying my country its very right to exist. We must ask them a serious question: if you are happy to wave the flags of other countries and support the rights of other peoples to national self-determination, why do you object to the Jewish people exercising that very same right?

**How do you think Britons view Israel's relationship with the UK?**

Many Britons understand that Israel is an important ally in the Middle East

**“Israel is now speaking with more Arab states than ever before, and we are building partnerships across the region; this is surely a good sign for the future.”**

when it comes to championing the same values, building shared prosperity, and fighting the terror groups that seek to destroy our way of life. Therefore, the question for me is: 'how can we encourage those supportive of Britain's

friendship with Israel to be more vocal?' CFI is vital to achieving that objective, and I truly look forward to working with you on empowering more people to speak up.

**What do you think the future holds for the State of Israel?**

Israel is now speaking with more Arab states than ever before, and we are building partnerships across the region; this is surely a good sign for the future. My Prime Minister continues to call for the Palestinians to immediately restart peace negotiations without preconditions. We seek a solution based on two states for two peoples, where a Palestinian state finally recognises the legitimacy of the Jewish State. We are exporting the expertise that makes Israel the success that it is today to countries around the world. Israel is a knowledge economy: its scientists and technologists are saving lives with new

medicines and biotechnology products, and our cyber expertise protects citizens, companies and governments against attack. Our future is one of prosperity, science and security, and one where peace is attainable.



CFI's welcome lunch for Ambassador Regev in Parliament with 50 Conservative MPs



Scottish Conservatives in front of the Western Wall

## Scottish Conservatives: Israel Diary

**John Lamont MSP**  
Ettrick, Roxburgh and  
Berwickshire



In August 2016, 10 Scottish Conservatives, including nine Members of the Scottish Parliament and the Director of the Scottish Conservatives, visited Israel and

the West Bank with CFI, in the first ever delegation of its kind. The visit was conducted to promote bilateral trade and bolster the growing pro-Israel advocacy movement in Scotland. It follows the substantial seat gain by the Conservative Party in the Scottish Parliament elections of May 2016, displacing the Labour Party to become the second largest party. The trip received widespread press coverage

in the UK and Israel, with talks about encouraging airlines to operate a flight between Scotland and Israel.

Chief Whip of the Scottish Conservatives, John Lamont MSP, reflects on his memories of the delegation:

“The UK-Israel relationship is stronger than ever and Scotland is playing an increasingly central role in this. A page has been turned and we are determined to build on these political, cultural, and economic ties with the Jewish State.”

### Monday 1st August 2016

The trip began in Tel Aviv, where we were immediately launched into an incredibly varied itinerary, starting with a tour of the issues in the region from Middle East expert Jonathan Spyer. In Holon, we saw how remarkable Israeli NGO Save A Child's Heart

offers free life-saving heart surgery to children in the Palestinian Territories and the developing world, and had the opportunity to meet the wonderful children in the care of the charity. The charity has saved the lives of over 4,000 children, including those from countries

that do not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish State. One of those countries is Afghanistan, and yet Israeli doctors had just that day operated on a baby from the country. The charity is simply awe-inspiring.

The entrepreneurial spirit that runs through Tel Aviv - a cosmopolitan and vibrant city - is everywhere. The group

got a sense of why Israel has been hailed as the 'Start-Up Nation' in a visit to the Elevator Fund, a start-up fund located in the heart of Tel Aviv's thriving business hub. We then had lunch with the Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce, to learn about the flourishing ties and bilateral trade between our two countries. We have since pledged to look into the possibility of creating a new trade body in Scotland to work more closely with our Israeli partners.

In the evening, the group had dinner with Britain's Ambassador to Israel, H.E. David Quarrey, at his residence in Tel Aviv, who gave a fascinating introduction to some of the key issues faced by Israel currently.

### Tuesday 2nd August 2016

Early on Tuesday morning we travelled north and were shown another side of this complex nation. In a visit to the Dalyat el-Karmel, the roofs of houses were proudly decked with the Druze community's colourful flags flying side by side with those of the Israeli state. After a warm welcome with the local cuisine, we learned of the many Druze that proudly serve in the IDF.

We then headed further north to Metula on the Lebanon border, where we saw Hezbollah's flags flying mere metres away from us in southern Lebanon. We learned from the IDF officers stationed on the border that Hezbollah is reported to have embedded an estimated 150,000 rockets into Shiite villages targeting Israel, knowingly endangering its own citizens. Standing on the Syrian border, we listened in horror to the sounds of explosions from the brutal civil war tearing the country apart – the myriad of factions, including avowed Islamist groups, right on Israel's border, starkly highlighted this small country's strategic vulnerabilities.

That evening, we checked into The Scots Hotel in Tiberias. There are certain experiences in one's life that are simply unforgettable. Sitting in my tartan covered hotel room at a former Church of Scotland hospital overlooking the spectacular Sea of Galilee certainly falls into that category.

### Wednesday 3rd August 2016

Israel's tiny size was reinforced when we made the short journey from Tiberias to the West Bank, where we saw a glimpse of what can be achieved in a future Palestinian state, at the first planned city in the West Bank, Rawabi. We had the opportunity to meet with the city's visionary, Palestinian-American businessman Bashar al-Masri, who explained that the first 300 families had now moved into the city's modern apartments. In the city of Ramallah, we had lunch with Palestinian polling expert Dr Khalil Shikaki, who gave an engaging insight into the complexities of Palestinian politics.

In Jerusalem, we celebrated Israel's democracy in meetings with cross-party Knesset members, including Benny Begin MK from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's party Likud, Ksenia Svetlova MK from the centre-left Zionist Union, and Ya'akov Margi MK from the ultra-Orthodox Sephardic party Shas. We later had the opportunity to meet with Professor Reuven Hazan, who informed us about Israel's colourful political system. I was struck by the fact that within Israel's Knesset sit members who are Islamic fundamentalists, as

well as members who do not believe the country should even exist. This is testament of just how successful and tolerant Israel's democracy is.

### Thursday 4th August 2016

We spent our final day in Jerusalem. Our visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, where the shocking stories of the six million Jewish victims are preserved, was profoundly affecting and impressed on me why it is so important to educate future generations about this tragedy. The group later met with Col. Dany Tirza, who gave a comprehensive tour of Israel's security barrier.

We were delighted that evening to celebrate the announcement that our fellow delegate and Scottish Conservatives Director Mark McInnes CBE was to be elevated to the House of Lords.

As a result of the CFI visit, fellow MSPs and myself have started to campaign for direct passenger flights between Scotland and Israel in a bid to strengthen ties between our two countries. I look forward to encouraging more of my colleagues, including my party leader Ruth Davidson MSP, to visit Israel in the coming years.

The UK-Israel relationship is stronger than ever and Scotland is playing an increasingly central role in this. A page has been turned and we are determined to build on these political, cultural, and economic ties with the Jewish State.







Former Prime Minister David Cameron at CFI Annual Business Lunch 2014

# David Cameron: Reflecting on a “True Friend” of Israel

**D**avid Cameron will be remembered as one of Britain's greatest friends of Israel.

Throughout his time as Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party, Mr Cameron's support of the UK-Israel relationship, Israel's right to defend itself, and the Jewish community in Britain, was unwavering. Under his leadership, the UK-Israel relationship was the strongest it has ever been.

## 1. On CFI

Since first being elected into Parliament, Mr Cameron engaged extensively with CFI, speaking at the organisation's Annual Business Lunch on several occasions, as well as other events. At the CFI Annual Business Lunch in December 2014, David Cameron said: “For the past 40 years, CFI has

been there for this Party, bringing us together, getting behind our candidates and taking people to Israel, because nothing comes closer to helping you understand that country than actually visiting”.

## 2. Record Levels of Bilateral Trade

David Cameron oversaw record levels of trade and investment between the UK and Israel, with bilateral trade reaching £4.1 billion in 2015. Under his leadership, the UK Israel Tech Hub was launched in October 2011, and is the first of its kind to promote partnerships in technology and innovation between the UK and another country. The Tech Hub focuses its activities in sectors where the UK and Israel have complementary strengths, including digital, biomed, cleantech, and finance.

## 3. Supporting Israel's Right to Self Defence

The Government under Mr Cameron's premiership was steadfast in its support of Israel's right to defend itself in the face of attacks from terrorist groups. In 2013, he led the EU-wide proscription of Hezbollah's military wing, and he underlined Israel's right to defend itself from terrorism by Gaza-based groups during Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 and Operation Protective Edge in 2014. As Prime Minister, David Cameron said in March 2015: “When Israel is under attack from rockets or terror tunnels - you will never be alone. I will always stand up for the right of Israel to defend its citizens, a right enshrined in international law, in natural justice and fundamental morality”.



#### 4. Visit to Israel

In March 2014, Mr Cameron visited Israel for the first time as Prime Minister, where he expressed his “unbreakable” support for the Jewish State in a rousing speech to the Israeli Knesset. He signed deals with top Israeli medical and pharmaceutical companies, bringing in £70 million investment to the UK.

#### 5. Strong Opposition to BDS

Mr Cameron was resolute in his opposition to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. David Cameron underlined in March 2014: “Delegitimising the State of Israel is wrong, it is abhorrent, and together we will defeat it”. In 2016, the Government introduced new legislative guidelines to curtail boycotts of Israel by publicly funded UK authorities, including local councils.

#### 6. Resolute Against Anti-Semitism

Throughout his entire political career, Mr Cameron took a strong stance against anti-Semitism, vowing to never turn a blind eye to the threats the UK Jewish community face. In 2016, the Government announced £13.4 million for security measures for the Jewish community – an increase of £2 million from the previous year. David Cameron pledged in March 2015: “We are going to fight anti-Semitism with everything we have got. There will be no excuses. No exceptions. No justifications”.

#### 7. A Promise to Remember the Holocaust

Mr Cameron launched a cross-party Holocaust Commission in January 2014, which was tasked with establishing what more Britain must do to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved and that the lessons it



Former Prime Minister David Cameron addressing the Knesset, March 2014

teaches are never forgotten. In January 2015, the Commission's report was published and David Cameron accepted all of its recommendations, committing £50 million to the creation of a National Memorial to the Holocaust in Central London, the establishment of a world-class Learning Centre, and an endowment fund to secure Holocaust education indefinitely.

#### 8. Amending Universal Jurisdiction Law

Just one year after taking office, Prime Minister Cameron changed the UK's Universal Jurisdiction law to ensure that Israelis were able to travel to the UK without fear of arrest for spurious war crimes claims. The change in law guaranteed that the UK's justice system could no longer be abused for political reasons and addressed a blot on the landscape of UK-Israel relations.



Former Prime Minister David Cameron and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at 10 Downing Street

# Israel in 2016: Alliances in Unlikely Places

**Rt. Hon.**

**Alistair Burt MP**

**Former Minister for the Middle East**



and with states traditionally considered enemies of the Jewish State.

The reason for this change in dynamic is twofold. First, Israel's position today as a key global player in so many fields; from desalination technology, to cyber security and stem cell research. Second, the increasing alignment of interests between Israel and Sunni Muslim states over regional terror threats and the influence of Iran.

Israel's reputation as the self-reliant 'Start-Up Nation' has prompted massive investment from economic powerhouse China, and elicited indifferent and once-hostile states to gradually set political grievances aside in favour of innovation and development.

In 2016, Chinese investors acquired multiple Israeli companies, including cosmetics firm Ahava, agritech firm AutoAgronom, and games developer Playtika in a \$4.4 billion deal. This has been accompanied by a 53% rise in the number of Chinese tourists visiting Israel, due to the establishment of new flight paths.

President Modi of India too has underlined his intention of broadening

His country's partnership with Israel to cooperation in agriculture, technology, and tourism; expanding on an already close defence, homeland security and intelligence relationship.

Among the most significant of developments has been the strengthening of ties on the African continent. This year, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a historic four-nation tour to Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia; the first such visit for an Israeli premier in decades. Shortly after the visit, the

scenes, but the Arab League's decision in March 2016 to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation was a striking public instance that brought to light shared concerns.

All the while, Israel has built on its already well-established alliances with Jordan and Egypt. Israel quietly provides surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to Egypt to fight Daesh in the Sinai, and both countries have a shared interest in destroying Hamas attack and smuggling tunnels extending across the Gaza border.

**“ This year, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a historic four-nation tour to Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia. ”**

Muslim-majority nations of Guinea and Chad established diplomatic ties with Israel, signalling a new dawn in relations.

There is also a mutual partnership between Israel and African nations in cooperating on security matters, with intelligence sharing, Israeli military training and equipment in the battle against Islamic extremists.

Perhaps the least known, but most intriguing of changes, however, can be seen in the alignment of interests between Israel and its Gulf neighbours over Iran's increasing hegemonic regional ambitions, Hezbollah, and the threat of Daesh.

Such new relationships do not compromise long-standing political differences and issues, but I personally hope a growing confidence might assist in providing the basis always necessary to settle them should opportunities arise.

Much of the détente is behind the

More good news came in June 2016 when Muslim-majority nation Turkey and Israel agreed on a reconciliation deal to normalise ties, ending a six-year rift following the Mavi Marmara flotilla incident.

These developments denote that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, for all the publicity it gets, is in reality not having much of an impact on the ground. These growing ties - although not always overt - are welcome news to those of us who want to see a strong, prosperous and secure Israel, at a time when the world faces uncertainty.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, July 2016

# The Importance of Promoting Peaceful Coexistence

**James Gurd**

**Executive Director, CFI**



In the bustling Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, 14 month old Yehia from Afghanistan was in recovery following major heart surgery. Outside, a medical clown was entertaining

a group of Palestinian children nervously waiting to meet a doctor.

These moving sights are all in a day's work for the volunteer paediatric cardiologists at Save A Child's Heart (SACH), an Israeli NGO based at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon.

The extraordinary SACH has provided life-saving cardiac treatment to as many as 4,000 children from developing countries around the world – half of whom are Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Their work has made a difference to so many lives from Afghanistan to Zambia, including countries that don't even recognise the existence of the Jewish State.

Every Tuesday morning, Palestinian families from the West Bank and Gaza make the short journey to Holon, just outside Tel Aviv, for a weekly clinic for children with suspected heart conditions. For many of these children, as well as their parents, it will be the first time they had left the Palestinian Territories and even met Israelis.

In the year following the 2015 General Election, around 50 Conservative parliamentarians joined CFI on visits to SACH. Inspired by their experience, many of these have subsequently

highlighted in Parliament the great work of SACH.

CFI has been a strong and proud supporter of the peaceful coexistence programmes bringing together Palestinians and Israelis for years. In the last Parliament, for example, CFI coordinated a cricket tour to Israel for the cross-party Lords and

solution between the Israelis and the Palestinians, it has been troubling that for many years a mere 0.2% of the £72 million DfID spent in the Palestinians Territories went to peaceful coexistence projects.

CFI has been greatly encouraged by the praise of SACH by the new Secretary of State for International Development,

**“ CFI has been a strong and proud supporter of the peaceful coexistence programmes bringing together Palestinians and Israelis for years. ”**

Commons Cricket Club, which included memorable sessions with cricket programmes bringing together Jewish Israelis, Arab Israelis, and Palestinians, run by both the Peres Center for Peace and the Israel Cricket Association. Sport has a proven track record of building bridges and it was encouraging to see so many children playing together peacefully while learning Hebrew and Arabic from each other.

Conservative MPs, in coordination with CFI, have been campaigning for the Department for International Development (DfID) to allocate funding to some of these NGOs that work tirelessly to build bridges between communities. As supporters of a lasting and viable two-state

Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP, along with her Department's commitment to look into allocating crucial funding to some of these NGOs. This marks a welcome development and will go a long way to challenging the Palestinian Authority's all too prevalent radicalisation of its own people against Israel.

No future peace deal will stand a chance of lasting unless greater efforts are made now to ensure Palestinians and Israelis, both young and old, are brought together. This is in the interest of the UK, British taxpayers, and Palestinian and Israelis themselves, and we should be proud that British aid could go towards such worthwhile, positive initiatives.



CFI delegates at Save A Child's Heart, August 2016

# Balfour Declaration: Commemorating 100 Years

**John Howell OBE MP**  
CFI Vice-Chairman



**N**ext year, the UK and Israel will unite to commemorate one of the most defining moments in our shared history – the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Over the past century the world has witnessed a country rise out of the desert and flourish, against all odds, to become the 'Start-Up Nation' – a world leader in technological innovation, cyber security, academia and medicine.

The Balfour Declaration was instrumental in the creation of the State of Israel, adding the official British voice to the chorus that wanted to give "a land without a people to a people without a land".

The document served, in effect, as a legal birth certificate in the form of a letter from Foreign Secretary Arthur J Balfour to Lord Rothschild dated 2nd November 1917. It conveyed Lord Balfour's support of His Majesty's Government for Zionist aspirations for Jewish self-determination in Israel, the land of the Hebrew Old Testament, following centuries of persecution.

Lord Balfour wrote, "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people".

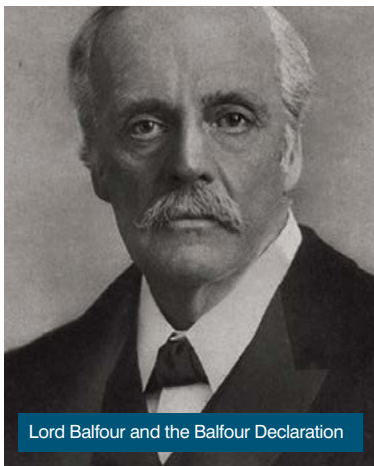
The Declaration also emphasised that it should be "clearly understood" that

"nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country" – a privilege not historically given to Jews in Europe or the Middle East.

**“Israel has lived up to the highest ambitions of the Balfour Declaration, as a democratic, prosperous and self-reliant state.”**

The Balfour Declaration was ratified by all 51 countries of the League of Nations when the Mandate for Palestine was approved in July 1922. The Mandate recognised "the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine" and "the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country".

By 1917, the infrastructure of a Jewish State was already being established, with the widespread foundation of kibbutzim (communal settlements), later followed by moshavim (small holder cooperatives). The affirmation of the British Government served to validate this process, rather than initiate it.



Lord Balfour and the Balfour Declaration

After the Holocaust and the expulsion of hundreds and thousands of Jews from the Middle East, many of the persecuted sought and found refuge in the Jewish and democratic state.

Israel has lived up to the highest ambitions of the Balfour Declaration,

as a democratic, prosperous and self-reliant state. The UK must encourage the Palestinians to respond to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's call for the immediate resumption of peace talks, which is the only way to achieve a lasting two-state solution.

Sadly, despite Israel's success, all too many continue to deny the Jewish State's right to exist, with a vocal minority attempting to delegitimise it.

I, for one, along with colleagues across the Conservative Party, will continue to stand up in the House of Commons to support Israel against the attacks it faces – whether from Hamas, Iran, or the far-left, and look forward to celebrating this hugely important milestone next year.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object. It being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

*Arthur James Balfour*





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# Iran Nuclear Deal: One Year On

**Bob Blackman MP  
and Dr Matthew  
Offord MP**

**Parliamentary Officers, CFI**

Over a year has passed since the agreement on Iran's nuclear programme between the P5+1 world powers and the Islamic Republic, and concerns over Tehran's ambitions have far from abated.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between P5+1 world powers and Iran, was signed in Vienna in July 2015 following two years of intense negotiations. Many of those in the international community who had voiced their long-standing concerns about Iran's nuclear programme - including the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - were assured that a "good deal" would be reached.

With no clauses referencing the regime's vast human rights abuses

against its own citizens, let alone its sponsorship of terror groups, the deal comprehensively failed to address some of the most important and concerning issues.

These grave omissions allow Iran to continue transferring funds to its terrorist proxies, including Hamas and Hezbollah. In so doing, the international community has effectively green lit the actions of a pariah state, emboldening the Islamic Republic to pursue its hegemonic ambitions.

**“Iran has stepped up its presence in Syria, providing substantial military and financial support to both Hezbollah and to the Syrian regime.”**

Troublingly, in the first 12 months since the deal was agreed, Iran has significantly advanced its ballistic missile development; continued to make explicit threats towards Israel and the West; and strengthened its grip on the region. These are far from the

actions one would expect of a partner allegedly committed to exclusively peaceful intentions.

In the first year since the accord was reached, Iran is said to have conducted as many as eight ballistic missile tests. These ballistic missile tests are not to be taken lightly. The UK Ambassador to the UN among other Western diplomats have warned that Iran's ballistic missiles are "inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons", and in blatant defiance of UN Security Council

Resolutions. One such projectile is the guided long-range Emad missile, which has a reported range of just over 1,000 miles and can deliver a 750 kg payload to within 500 metres of a target.

Iran makes little attempt to hide these activities; in fact it boasts about them. At the end of 2015, Iranian state TV broadcast unprecedented footage of a huge underground tunnel packed with missiles and launcher units. In August 2016 it emerged that Iran had even deployed a Russian-made S-300 air defence missile system at its secretive underground Fordow nuclear facility. The deployment of such an advanced air defence system gives good reason for the international community to suspect that it is continuing to accelerate its nuclear programme for purposes that are not entirely peaceful.



Iran launching long-range Emad ballistic missile



Al-Quds Day in Tehran, July 2016

Iran has also stepped up its presence in Syria, providing substantial military and financial support to both Hezbollah and to the Syrian regime in contravention of the UN embargo on the export of weapons by Iran. Iran's investment of significant resources into the Syrian civil war has exacerbated an already desperate situation.

Thanks to Iran's generosity, Hezbollah has now amassed a reported arsenal of 150,000 rockets targeting Israel from southern Lebanon - 10 times the amount it had in the 2006 Second Lebanon War, which killed 44 Israeli civilians. Iran also continues to operate a complex network of smuggling routes throughout the region to arm its terrorist proxies, breaching four UN Security Council Resolutions.

Rather than responding to the JCPOA by adopting a more cooperative stance with the international community, Iran has chosen to continue its belligerent rhetoric towards the West, in particular

the US and Israel. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, for example, continues to issue unveiled threats against Israel, vowing to "fight the Zionists" by "all possible means".

**“In the first year since the accord was reached, Iran is said to have conducted as many as eight ballistic missile tests.”**

Let us also not overlook the fact that the annual Al-Quds Day hate rallies against the West, calling for the "liberation" of Jerusalem, went ahead once again this year with the full support of the Iranian regime, and with President Rouhani in attendance. Among chants to be heard across Iranian cities were "death to Israel" and "down with America".

Most alarming of all, Iran has reportedly secured access to more than \$100 billion (£68.3 billion) of sanctions relief as a result of the nuclear deal, empowering the country's hardliners and bankrolling its regional ambitions. Indeed, The Times reported in August 2015 that

over 200 of the Iranian firms benefitting from sanctions windfall are controlled by leading members of Iran's notorious Revolutionary Guard military force.

Moreover, one of the main beneficiaries of the sanctions windfall is Ayatollah Khamenei, who controls the Setad conglomerate - one of the most secretive and wealthy organisations in Iran, with estimated assets of around \$95 billion (£65 billion).

All the while, the Islamic Republic's human rights record remains abysmal. Under the supposedly 'moderate' President Rouhani, Iran leads the world in executions per capita - second only to China. It hangs gay teenagers in contravention of international law, persecutes minority ethnic and religious

groups, and routinely takes political prisoners.

It is against this backdrop that the UK has upgraded diplomatic relations with the country, appointing a British Ambassador to Iran for the first time since 2011 when ties were frozen after the British Embassy in Tehran was stormed and ransacked by a group of hardline pro-regime students. While it is worthwhile retaining diplomatic ties with major regional players, we must not lose sight of Iran's recent record and have to use this opportunity to bluntly express our dislike of any activities that run counter to British interests and values.

# Israel's Global Humanitarian Aid

**Elkie Myers**  
Parliamentary Officer, CFI



Since its inception, the State of Israel has stood proudly as a beacon of humanitarian endeavours, its international aid

programmes benefitting millions across the globe. Israel is world-renowned in sending search and rescue teams, and humanitarian relief to disaster struck regions around the world, and is often the first country to despatch aid teams to those most in need.

This map details just some of Israel's humanitarian aid work around the world.



## UK

Israeli humanitarian aid agency IsraAID sent a disaster response team to the UK in January 2016 to help repair homes and distribute food and blankets to flood victims in the north of England.

## Mediterranean Sea

In October 2015, Israeli sailors carried out a rescue operation to save the lives of 11 Syrian and Iraqi refugees whose boat had capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece. The Israeli team pulled eight adults and three children out of the water. Volunteers from IsraAID have been actively working on the Greek island of Lesbos, providing psychosocial aid to rescued refugees as well as distributing supplies.

## Haiti

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a 220-person aid team to the country alongside numerous Israeli NGOs. IsraAID has worked in Haiti since the earthquake, improving access to areas such as education, community development and combating gender-based violence.

## Ecuador

IsraAID sent a 15-person search and rescue team to Ecuador, as well as a team of medical professionals, to help in the aftermath of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck in April 2016 – the worst to hit Ecuador in decades. The team set up a field hospital to provide medical aid and trauma support to residents.





### Syria

Israel has provided life-saving medical treatment to over 2,000 wounded Syrians since the civil war erupted in 2011. An IsraAID team arrived in Jordan in 2013 to distribute emergency supplies and hygiene kits to Syrian refugees. Israeli mothers have over the past year donated hundreds of baby slings to Syrian mother refugees, collected by IsraAID. Israeli NGO Amaliah has also been working to provide aid in the form of medical treatment, education and food to Syrians near the Israel-Syria border.

### West Africa

Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) sent three mobile emergency clinics in October 2014 to areas in Western Africa to focus on preventing the spread of Ebola, and distributed emergency equipment. Psychosocial support has also been offered by IsraAID to Ebola victims and their families in Sierra Leone, as well as work carried out to raise awareness of hygiene.

### Japan

IsraAID sent an aid team to Japan in March 2011, after the country was hit by an earthquake and tsunami which left 18,000 dead and 500,000 homeless. The first Israeli team arrived on the ground four days after the tsunami and distributed aid, cleaned houses, created child-friendly spaces, and rebuilt schools. The delegation providing post-traumatic care in southern Japan is the only foreign organisation still on the ground after arriving in 2011.

### Italy

In August 2016, IsraAID was the first foreign humanitarian aid organisation on the ground to assist survivors after a 6.2 magnitude earthquake hit the areas of Amatrice and Accumoli, resulting in the deaths of over 290 people. The team of 20 built temporary shelters and distributed food and relief goods.

### Nepal

The IDF sent its largest humanitarian aid team in years to Nepal to rescue and treat victims of the deadly Himalayan earthquake in April 2015, which claimed the lives of more than 8,000 people, and injured over 21,000. IsraAid also sent an emergency relief team to the country, working alongside the IDF.

# LGBT in Israel: A Safe Haven in the Middle East

**Einat Shazar**  
Projects Director, CFI



One's sexual orientation in the Middle East today is a matter of life and death. As turmoil has spread across the region in recent years with the ascent of Salafist

ideology, we have seen gay men thrown off the top of buildings and stoned, and transgender activists raped and burned alive. Yet in the midst of this darkness there is one beacon of light: Israel.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) rights in Israel are by far the most advanced in the Middle East and among the most advanced in the world.

LGBT citizens have served openly in the Israeli Army, Navy and Air Force. LGBT citizens serve as judges, public officials, and represent Israel as diplomats around the world, enjoying the same financial and adoption rights as heterosexual couples. Although same

for the Likud party, came out in 2016 to become the first openly gay right-wing MK.

As many are aware, Tel Aviv is the heart of Israel's vibrant LGBT scene. Its renowned annual Pride Parade now



LGBT Pride Parade in Tel Aviv

attracts over 200,000 participants from all over the world – earning its name as the 'gay capital of the Middle East'.

Similarly, Jerusalem has held its own Pride Parade since 2002. The 2015 parade, however, was marred in tragedy after a Jewish extremist stabbed a 16-year-old girl to death. The response was immense, with this year's Parade seeing a record 25,000 in attendance – five times greater than the previous year. 2,000 extra police officers were

which strives for full equality for LGBT citizens. Most of the Aguda's branches throughout Israel also provide social, legal and support services for the Muslim, Druze, and other ethnic minority LGBT communities, who are often

unable to live openly in remote regions or villages throughout the country.

Sadly, Israel's Arab LGBT citizens face harsher circumstances due to the community's traditionally conservative stance on homosexuality. They have almost no personal freedom to disclose their sexuality, resulting in a higher rate of suicide, drug abuse, and alcoholism.

In response to such adversity, The Aguda established the 'Palestinian Project' to support the great need of LGBT Arabs living in fear of violence and persecution from their peers, families, and community on a daily basis. With the work of this vital organisation since the year 2000, progress is being made day by day.

While there are still some barriers to overcome, the State of Israel on all levels continues to provide a safe haven for the LGBT community in this very troubled region.

**“ The State of Israel on all levels continues to provide a safe haven for the LGBT community in this very troubled region. ”**

-sex marriages are not performed, it is the only country in Asia to thus far recognise any same-sex union under law.

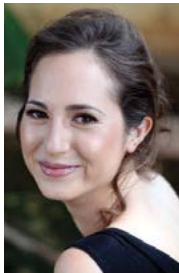
Israel elected the Middle East's first openly gay parliamentarian, Uzi Even, in 2002. Since then, LGBT representation in the Knesset increased further, when Amir Ohana, a current Knesset Member

deployed, and politicians from across the political spectrum stood united against the intolerance – sending out a clear message that such despicable acts are not welcome in the State of Israel.

Additionally, Israel offers a wealth of support for LGBT citizens. The Aguda is Israel's National Association of LGBT

# Learning to Live with Terrorism

## Tanyah Murkes Head of Israel Office, CFI



**A**s almost all Israelis will attest, and as a Jerusalemite growing up during the years of the suicide bombings in the post-Oslo 1990s and the Second Intifada

early 2000s, I unfortunately have a 'go-to' plan of action when terrorist attacks occur.

In any such eventuality, I immediately call my family notifying them that I am alright, making sure they are as well, and calling any friends that might have been in the area of the attack. After verifying that all my loved-ones are safe, life goes on. Of course, I check the news and listen to any updates about the attack and the casualties, but for the most part, I just get on with my routine.

Like most Israelis, I have somehow developed a balance of constantly staying alert; cautious to a point (and putting up happily with more security

precautions than most people in Western countries are used to, or would think normal), and yet still continuing with everyday life.

Following the horrific attack in Nice, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said that France "must live with terrorism". And indeed, that is what Israelis have been doing for decades, including

**“ There is no doubt that I will educate my daughter to understand that life must go on even during difficult circumstances, otherwise terror has won. ”**

during the 'lone-wolf' stabbing and shooting attacks that have taken place during the past year.

These terror attacks have been difficult for both security forces and for Israelis to come to terms with. They follow none of the known pattern for attacks or attackers - the terrorists don't necessarily come from low socio-economic backgrounds, they haven't been 'sent' by a terror organisation or act in terrorist cells. In fact many of the attacks have been carried out by young Palestinians from middle-class backgrounds, acting alone and driven

by incitement and radicalisation or social problems.

My outlook on life has changed in more ways than one during the last eight months. I am a new mum to a gorgeous baby girl. With each attack I become more vigilant, more concerned and am more reluctant to return to the places where attacks have taken place, even

though I have probably been to most of the places many times. My brother is a student and regularly walks through streets where stabbings have taken place. My husband and I were in Sarona market in Tel Aviv in June 2016 the day before a shooting attack that left four dead. I used to frequently take a bus to my grandparents' house in Jerusalem that was attacked near their street.

There is no doubt that I will educate my daughter to understand that life must go on even during difficult circumstances, otherwise terror has won, but I can only hope that she will grow up in peace and won't have to learn this lesson.



Sarona Market following terror attack in June 2016



# Cyber Security and Fintech: The Growing Connection

**Anita Leviant, Adv.**

**Head of LA Global Consulting and  
Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce President**



In an increasingly IT-dependent world, cyber security has become an absolute necessity worldwide. This includes the need to protect not only critical infrastructure but also banking systems, health services and food supplies.

Israel, which is home to over 430 cyber security start-ups, is positioned as a world leader in the field, with a market share of 20% of global trade in the sector. So what is the secret to Israel's success?

Israel is renowned as the 'Start-Up Nation', representing the greatest concentration of innovation and entrepreneurship in the world today. Faced with unique security challenges, Israel has learnt to constantly innovate, including through the elite Israel Defense Forces' 8200 intelligence unit, which has provided Israel with a pool of cyber talent. The cyber security successes Check Point, Palo Alto Networks and CyberArk were all founded by graduates of 8200 reflecting the above.

With cyber security centres at Tel Aviv University and in Beer Sheba – Israel's cyber city in the Negev Desert – the cyber ecosystem flourishes and presents opportunities for investment and cooperation. Last year, 78 Israeli companies raised a remarkable \$540

million, and 40 global companies opened cyber R&D centres in Israel, including Microsoft and the British ARM Holdings who announced it will build a new hub in Israel following its purchase of the Israeli cyber security company Sansa.

The UK is a preferred and trusted partner for cyber security, and British-Israeli collaboration in technology has already facilitated a multitude of business partnerships in areas such as fintech (financial technology), cleantech (clean technology), digital health and more.

These ties were further strengthened in a trade mission to Israel in February 2016, led by then-Cabinet Minister Matthew Hancock, who launched a new UK-Israel cyber security initiative, underlining that "the UK's world class companies and universities combined with Israel's cutting edge technology and entrepreneurial culture is an unbeatable combination".

Fintech is one of the tech world's fastest growing areas, and demonstrates the necessity of collaboration with the cyber security sector. Start-ups geared at

digital banking solutions are now recognised as the change makers of the banking world, however, they are also exposed to cyber-attacks, which already present a major threat to banks and may result in huge financial losses.

At LA Global Consulting we call the growing collaboration between the two sectors 'FinCy'. In 2015, we established the Annual FinCy Program with the Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce, the Tel Aviv University Cyber Security Center, KPMG, and Bank Hapoalim. Ten participants of leading financial institutions were presented with innovation success stories, met with the Bank of Israel and leading executives, and had tailor-made meetings with 30 fintech and cyber companies at various stages. Ambassador Quarrey emphasised the importance of the fintech solutions for the financial sector and the significant role of London as a global financial centre.

We should all welcome the special opportunity in these two important areas to be explored between our two countries, and further enhance the fantastic relations we are so blessed to share.



H.E. Ambassador David Quarrey, Bob the Robot and Anita Leviant at FinCy Reception





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# CFI's Calendar: 2015-2016

## September 2015



Conservative MPs with Ambassador Regev

- CFI leads a delegation to Israel and the West Bank for nine newly elected Conservative MPs
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu makes a high-profile visit to London, where CFI co-sponsored a special parliamentary briefing attended by 35 Conservative parliamentarians
- CFI's long-term Director and now Honorary President, Stuart Polak CBE introduced to House of Lords. James Gurd named as Executive Director of CFI

## October 2015



Then-Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond addresses CFI's Conservative Party Conference Reception

- CFI's Conservative Party Conference Reception with then-Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and a series of Secretaries of State, attended by over 500 delegates
- MP for Hendon and CFI Officer, Dr Matthew Offord MP, challenges lack of police action over presence of Hezbollah flags at Westminster demonstration
- CFI Parliamentary Officers call on Government to tackle Palestinian incitement in letter published in The Times

## November 2015



Young Conservative Party delegates at the Knesset

- CFI coordinates delegation to Israel and West Bank for young Conservative Party activists
- Parliamentary briefing with Lt. Col. Dr Ofer Merin, Deputy Director of Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem and global expert in mass casualty response
- CFI Parliamentary Chairman, Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Pickles MP, condemns the Labour Party NEC's decision to boycott G4S

## March 2016



CFI-CWO delegation with Ambassador Quarrey

- CFI leads delegation of nine leading members of Conservative Women's Organisation to Israel and West Bank
- Conservative MPs demonstrate Israeli device to help visually impaired at CFI briefing with OrCam
- 26 senior Conservatives write a joint letter to then-International Development Secretary, Justine Greening, and then-Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, calling on the Government to allocate funding to Israeli NGO Save a Child's Heart
- Conservative Lords, including CFI's Honorary President Lord Polak CBE, voice concern about the PA's misuse of aid in House of Lords debate

## April 2016



CFI activists in north London with Zac Goldsmith MP

- Conservative Candidate for Mayor of London, Zac Goldsmith MP, warmly welcomed on a CFI Campaign Day in north London, where 70 CFI activists boarded a packed bus and mini-van across the constituencies of Harrow East, Hendon, and Finchley & Golders Green
- Cross-party MPs and Lords attend briefing in Parliament by Israeli humanitarian NGO IsraAID
- Conservative MPs call for the dismissal of Labour MP Naz Shah from the Home Affairs Select Committee, following exposure of anti-Semitic Facebook posts

## May 2016



Conservative MPs welcome Ambassador Regev

- 50 Conservative MPs attend CFI lunch in Parliament to welcome new Ambassador of Israel, H.E. Mark Regev
- CFI Executive Director James Gurd attends the March of the Living to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day by marching from Auschwitz to Birkenau
- Parliamentary briefing with panel of leading Israeli high-tech innovators Jon Medved, Mor Assia, and Yaacov Michlin, attended by numerous Conservative MPs
- Leader of Israeli Peace Initiative, Koby Huberman, briefs Conservative parliamentarians in House of Commons

## December 2015



CFI Annual Business Lunch 2015

- CFI Annual Business Lunch with then-Justice Secretary Michael Gove, then-Business Secretary Sajid Javid, and then-Education Secretary Nicky Morgan, attended by over 160 Conservative MPs and peers
- Delegation of five Conservative parliamentarians coordinated by CFI to join the fourth annual Australia Israel UK Leadership Dialogue in Jerusalem
- UK-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group launches at the Knesset

## January 2016



CFI Parliamentary Reception 2016

- CFI Annual Parliamentary Reception with International Development Secretary Priti Patel, and then-Chief Whip Mark Harper, attended by 300 people, including 60 parliamentarians
- CFI Parliamentary Officers and fellow Conservative MPs participate in Westminster Hall debate to voice concern at continuing radicalisation of Palestinian children
- Conservative MPs and Lords mark Holocaust Memorial Day

## February 2016



Peers with Israel's President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem

- CFI coordinates parliamentary delegation for nine Conservative MPs to Israel, coinciding with then-Cabinet Office Minister Matthew Hancock's visit and announcement of new anti-boycotts legislation
- First-ever delegation of cross-party peers visit Israel and hold talks with President Rivlin
- CFI and Conservative Muslim Forum launch first joint event in Parliament with Israeli coexistence NGO Merchavim

## June 2016



CFI Parliamentary Chairman Sir Eric Pickles MP in Westminster Hall

- Five Conservative MPs participate in Westminster Hall debate to call on DfID to fund coexistence NGOs and review aid to the PA's general budget, following exposés in The Telegraph, Daily Mail and Daily Express revealing that UK money has indirectly funded terror prisoners and organisations promoting violence
- CFI thanks David Cameron for his "genuine support" following his announcement to step down as Prime Minister
- Conservative Lords condemn anti-Semitism and anti-Israel intimidation on UK university campuses
- Conservative MPs participate in Westminster Hall debate to express concerns about Iran's human rights violations

## July 2016



Prime Minister Theresa May and husband Philip enter 10 Downing Street

- CFI congratulates "long-standing friend" Theresa May on becoming Prime Minister
- Ambassador of Israel, H.E. Mark Regev meets with CFI's Parliamentary Officers in House of Commons
- CFI Officer Dr Matthew Offord MP addresses hundreds at peaceful counter-protest against the annual anti-Israel Al-Quds Day demonstration in London
- Conservative Lords raise concerns about the radicalisation of Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza in a House of Lords debate, following a wave of stabbing, shooting, and car-ramming attacks against Israelis

## August 2016



Scottish Conservatives delegation by Western Wall

- CFI leads first-ever delegation of 10 Scottish Conservatives to Israel and the West Bank, including the Chief Whip and Director of the Scottish Conservatives
- CFI coordinates delegation to Israel for five Conservative MPs and three Conservative peers
- CFI calls for stricter oversight of aid by DfID, following the news that a senior official from the international charity World Vision was arrested in Israel for allegedly transferring tens of millions of dollars to the proscribed terror group Hamas
- Dr Matthew Offord MP welcomes children from Israeli cancer charity Zichron Menachem to Parliament

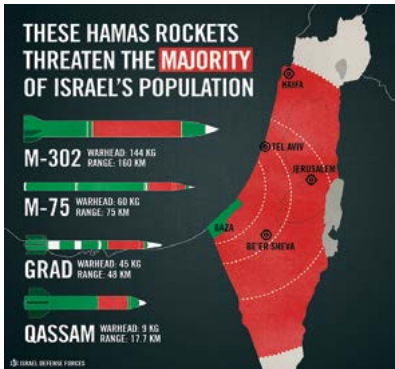


# Israel's Strategic Vulnerability

The State of Israel faces a constant threat to its very existence from a myriad of terror groups and states that want to see it destroyed.

## Gaza

- Hamas, the de facto ruler of Gaza, is internationally designated as a terrorist organisation by the UK, U.S., EU, Australia, Canada, Jordan, and Israel.
- Hamas's rocket fire endangers more than 5 million citizens in Israel – over 70% of the country's population.
- Hamas and other Gaza-based terror groups fired more than 4,500 rockets and mortars at Israel during the 50-day Operation Protective Edge (8 July – 26 August 2014), reaching as far as Tel Aviv (44 miles), Jerusalem (49 miles) and Haifa (96 miles).



- Since 2001, as many as 19,000 rockets and mortars have been fired at Israel; an average of four rocket attacks every single day.
- Hamas's vast underground tunnel network in Gaza has enabled the terror group to both infiltrate Israel and conceal its rocket arsenal. The Israel Defense Forces identified and destroyed 32 of these tunnels during Operation Protective Edge, following a series of deadly Hamas cross-border tunnel attacks.

## West Bank

- Israel's security barrier – 95% chain-link fence and 5% concrete wall – was erected for defence purposes at the height of the Second Intifada in 2002, to protect all of Israel's citizens from suicide bombings.
- During the Second Intifada, 1,137 Israelis were killed and 8,341 injured in a deadly wave of terror attacks, including more than 112 suicide bombings.
- Violence has erupted over the past year, with a wave of deadly stabbing, car-ramming and shooting attacks on Israeli civilians by Palestinians resulting in the deaths of 40 people from September 2015 to August 2016.
- Israel closely coordinates security operations with the Palestinian Authority. The coordinated security efforts have prevented West Bank security from deteriorating and led to the arrest of multiple armed Palestinian groups planning military operations against Israelis.

## Iran

- Iran is a leading sponsor of state terrorism, providing financial and material support to Islamist terror groups across the Middle East, including Hamas and Hezbollah.
- Since the signing of a formal nuclear agreement between Iran and P5+1 world powers in July 2015, Iran has increased the frequency of its ballistic missile testing, launching eight missiles in the past year.
- As a result of the nuclear deal, Iran has reportedly secured access to more than \$100 billion of sanctions relief; empowering the regime's hardliners and helping to fund its regional hegemonic ambitions.

- Despite the agreement, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and other leading officials continue to issue explicit threats against Israel's existence.

## Lebanon

- Iranian-backed Shi'a terror group Hezbollah operate from Lebanon where they have de facto control of the Government and boast the country's largest military infrastructure.
- Hezbollah is designated as a terrorist organisation by the U.S., Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and the Arab League. In 2013, the UK successfully led an EU-wide effort to proscribe the group's 'military wing'.
- Hezbollah have reportedly amassed an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles - 10 times what it had in the 2006 Second Lebanon War which killed 44 Israeli civilians.
- The organisation has more than doubled its fighting capabilities since 2006 to 45,000 fighters. Hezbollah fighters have been actively fighting alongside President Bashar al-Assad's forces during the Syrian Civil War, where they have gained access to advanced long-range missiles and drones, as well as advanced fighting and training experience.

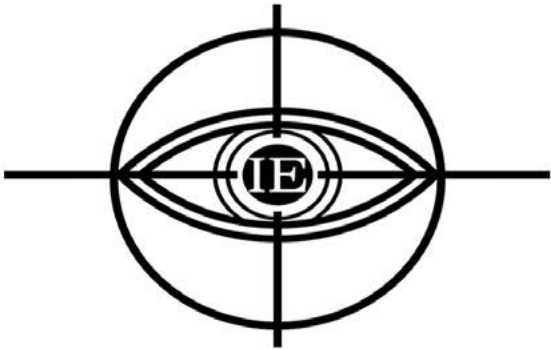
## Egypt

- Egypt's restless Sinai Peninsula has been used as a launchpad for terror attacks on Israel by Islamist terrorists and arms smuggling into Gaza in recent years.
- The Egyptian military has launched a concerted effort to crack down on these activities, destroying thousands of tunnels and creating a buffer zone on the Gaza border.



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# Israel: An Artistic Powerhouse

**Natalie Jacobs**  
Projects Officer, CFI



**H**istory, art and culture play a key role in Israel's identity. Israel has an exceptional diversity of art and culture, with its art scene being

extraordinarily unique. With politics and the conflict often dominating discourse on Israel, this is one important facet of the country that is sadly lesser known by the wider public.

This vibrancy began as European Jews started immigrating to Israel in the late 1800s, bringing with them the cultures of their respective lands. As they integrated with native Christians,

In the 20th Century, Israel rose economically and industrially, catching up with the West and emerged as a leader in the world of technology. Modern Israeli art too started to characterise itself by internationalism. Artists introduced new technologies and ideas in their work, with a constant stream of inventive artists exhibiting in Israel.

**“As Israel continues to advance, its world of art and culture grows and evolves with it.”**

Menashe Kadishman (1932-2015), an Israeli sculptor and painter, is arguably Israel's most brilliant artistic export - his work displayed all over Israel. Kadishman gained international recognition soon after being awarded the Israel Prize in 1995, and is most famous for his iconic and colourful sheep paintings, which have been

Academy of Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem, inspiring talented young artists to study art. The students and professors of Bezalel from the early 1900s are still looked upon as the vehicle for Israeli visual arts in the 20th Century. Bezalel has a wide range of professional and artistic activities, from crafts, such as the design of ceramics, glass, and jewellery, preserving ancient

techniques, to fine art and photography; fields that have been transformed in Israel over the years. Indeed, it is considered the first major milestone in the development of art in modern Israel.

Today, Israel has the international honour of being home to the most museums per capita in the world. The heart of Israel's current art scene is the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, which has been Israel's leading modern and contemporary art establishment since its foundation in 1932. Its impressive building is designed by architect Preston Scott Cohen and is home to spectacular exhibitions by both Israeli and international artists including Picasso, Van Gogh and Monet. No trip to Israel is complete without a visit.

As Israel continues to advance, its world of art and culture grows and evolves with it. If you do not have the chance to visit Israel in the next year and want to sample the incredible art that the country has to offer, the 'Tel Aviv in London' festival is set to launch in the capital in 2017 and will certainly provide a taster of Israel's vibrant art and cultural landscape.



Menashe Kadishman, 1932-2015

Jews and Muslims, they fashioned a distinctive culture that survives today. In this period, Israeli artists began to create a distinguishable 'Israeli' style. Influenced by their European and American roots, they strived to create something entirely different and unknown.

exhibited globally. The renowned artist has no doubt played a significant role in advancing Israeli art.

Another pillar in the Israeli art world is Professor Boris Schatz who arrived in Israel from Bulgaria in 1906. Schatz founded the prestigious Bezalel

**CST wishes every success to all of our friends  
and colleagues at Conservative Friends of Israel.**



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