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MAGAZINE 2019/2020

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SUPPORTING
ISRAEL AND
PROMOTING
CONSERVATISM

WELCOME



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It is a real pleasure to introduce you to Conservative Friends of Israel's 2019/2020 edition of Informed magazine.

Politics has been a rollercoaster ride in recent years and we haven't reached the end of the track yet. But with Israel having had an unprecedented two elections in a year, it is clear that the twists and turns haven't been confined to the UK.

Amidst all the political drama, there is one absolute: in Boris Johnson, Israel and the Jewish community have an outstanding friend. Our Prime Minister has been a stalwart champion of the Jewish State throughout his life; from his time on a kibbutz as a young man, through to his memorable visit to Israel as Mayor of London and central role in the first ever Royal visit to Israel in 2018. We look forward to working with our new Prime Minister and his Government in the months ahead as the flourishing UK-Israel relationship moves into an opportunity-filled post-Brexit period. It is a relationship that is in very safe hands, indeed.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Theresa May for all that she did in her time as Prime Minister to support Israel. Mrs May's decision to honour her commitment to speak at CFI's Annual Business Lunch in December 2018 on a day of high political drama in Westminster was a testament to her integrity.

Despite Westminster's understandable focus on Brexit, there have been numerous Israel-related moments to reflect on over the last year. Foremost, Sajid Javid's landmark proscription of the Hezbollah terror group, which was welcomed by dozens of Conservative parliamentarians in the Houses of Parliament. Israel becoming one of the first countries in the world that the UK agreed an in-principle post-Brexit free trade deal with. CFI's then-Vice Chair Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP leading the first ever parliamentary debate about Jewish refugees in the Middle East and North Africa. And who can forget the powerful photographs of Sajid Javid praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem as Home Secretary?

While CFI's delegation programme has been somewhat curtailed due to the cancellation of parliamentary recesses, we are delighted to have been joined by Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in Israel. In addition to this next generation of Conservative MPs, we have also been joined by a number of current MPs and peers. A chance encounter with Israeli-British illusionist Uri Geller on one visit even saw the delegation returning to the UK with a spoon he specially bent for the new Prime Minister!

CFI was delighted to host hustling events with both of the final candidates of the Conservative Party Leadership Contest. It was great to see so many of our supporters at the events and we thought the excellent questions made them standout occasions. CFI was also pleased to publish letters to our supporters penned by both Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, which highlighted the depth of their support for Israel.

CFI is publishing 'Israel: A Bitesize Guide', our first guide to all things Israel - from maps of Israel to its burgeoning relationships with its Middle East neighbours. We hope you will find this a helpful resource and an interesting read. The new publication will be available to read on our website.

We would like to thank our talented Professional Team for their fantastic work, along with all of our parliamentary supporters, led by Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP and Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles.

If you would like further information about any of CFI's activities, please visit our website (www.cfoi.co.uk) and follow us on our popular social media pages - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube - for the latest news.

Enjoy this latest edition of Informed and we hope we can count on your continued support for the year ahead.



 **Conservatives**
The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to send my support and thanks to everyone in Conservative Friends of Israel for all that you are doing for the Conservative Party, and for British-Israeli relations.

I am proud to be a friend of Israel, and I am proud too of the United Kingdom's close relationship with Israel and the many ties we share. I have always admired the courage, determination and robustness of the Israeli state – the only true democracy in the region. That is why, as Mayor of London, I confronted the hateful rhetoric from some of my competitors and refused to bend to calls for a boycott of Israeli goods. It is why one of my proudest moments as Foreign Secretary was facilitating the first ever official visit to Israel by a member of the Royal Family.

And it is why, as Prime Minister, I will always support Israel's right to self-defence and I will work to counter Iran's destabilising activity in the region. I am determined that the UK-Israel partnership should grow even stronger, including by stepping up our trading ties. Brexit gives us the opportunity to do just that – to strike a comprehensive free trade deal with Israel, renew our friendships with our allies around the world, and to become an even more outward looking nation.

As we strengthen our bilateral links with Israel, we must also continue to show our support for the Jewish community here at home. At a time when the once-proud Labour Party has succumbed to extremism and hate, the Conservative Party must stand firm in solidarity with British Jews so that, together, we can defeat the scourge of antisemitism. The Government I lead will not hesitate to take action to confront racism – and that is why we will continue to fund efforts to combat antisemitism on university campuses, to protect synagogues, and to support the construction of a National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to the Houses of Parliament.

CFI has a crucial role to play as a valued link between the Conservative Party and Israel. Your parliamentary delegations are absolutely vital in allowing Conservative MPs, Peers and candidates to see for themselves what a special place Israel is, and to learn more about its vibrant culture and burgeoning business community. And I know that your campaigning support for our MPs and candidates in marginal constituencies will prove to be of great value when the next general election comes.

Thank you again for all your fantastic work. CFI is a key part of our Conservative family and you will always have my support and gratitude.



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Message from HE Mark Regev, Ambassador of Israel to the Court of St James's

Conservative Party Conference falls on *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, and as we celebrate, I am delighted to report to you that the Israel-UK partnership is stronger than ever.

I am deeply proud that Israel was the first country to finalise a post-Brexit trade deal with the UK. With that accord now signed and sealed, together with three new agreements in taxation, research and innovation, I am confident our trade will continue to grow beyond the record £8.6bn we set in 2018. This means more jobs and prosperity for both our countries.

As Conservative Friends of Israel, you know better than most that we share a vital security relationship, which is actively saving lives. Earlier this year we welcomed Britain's Chief of Defence Staff to Israel, and the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Army are working closer with the IDF than ever before. We hosted the first Israel-UK Veteran Games, where 150 British veterans and their families met their Israeli counterparts to compete and, alongside leading service charities and post-combat medical professionals, discuss ways our countries can better support those who have served.

Unfortunately, the security challenges we face have not disappeared. Iran threatens not just Western interests, but the West itself. The Islamic Republic is building long-range missiles capable of reaching Europe, and was recently exposed for orchestrating terror plots in Denmark, France, Germany, and even Britain. It is imperative we robustly confront the very real threat of a nuclear Iran, just as we must continue to stand against the Islamic Republic's belligerency and aggression. That is why the UK's decision earlier this year to fully proscribe Tehran's terrorist proxy Hezbollah was both necessary and right.

Britain has a new team at the top. In Prime Minister Johnson, Israel is fortunate to have a friend who as both Mayor of London and Foreign Secretary championed the important partnership between our two democracies. He is undoubtedly a friend of the Jewish people and the Jewish state, and under his leadership, I am confident that Israel-UK relations will continue to go from strength-to-strength.

Of course, the bond between Israel and Britain would not be what it is today without CFI, and I am grateful to Lord Polak, Lord Pickles, and Stephen Crabb MP, who with James Gurd and all the team have brought our countries even closer. Thank you, and I wish you and your families a *Shanah Tovah*.

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

2 Palace Green, London, W8 4QB



British Embassy
Israel

16 September 2019

Dear Friends

Israel was my first posting as a diplomat and I am thrilled to be back, and see how much has changed. My first three months have been busy and fascinating.

Since arriving, I have been travelling around Israel, from the Lebanon and Syrian borders and Golan Heights, Haifa to Be'er Sheva, from the Weizmann Science Institute to the British-Israeli Community, to get to know Israel again, see first-hand what has changed and how things have developed. Israel is different in many ways from a decade and a half ago.

Our bilateral trade is better than ever – over \$10bln a year and growing fast. There is growing appetite in both the British business sector and the Israeli to reach out and collaborate. I have witnessed first-hand how strong and prosperous UK-Israel relations have become.

I have seen the sparks of British-Israeli research collaborations in my visits to Israel's universities, including our successful BIRAX joint research programme. We have British giants such as, IAG and the NHS seeking tech-collaborations in Israel through our UK-Israel Tech Hub, and some digital health and mobility partnerships between British corporates and Israeli start-ups are now taking shape.

I visited Energean's gas rig near Haifa, a massive UK-Israel collaboration that gives Israel energy security, reduces pollution and boosts the local economy, and met with companies ready to take their business to the UK in order to reach the global market.

I have visited Israel's borders as well, to get a grasp of its complexity and see how we can further collaborate to make sure Israel is safe within its borders. Our countries keep working closely together on security and defence, tackling regional challenges that we both face. We just had a RAF Typhoon aircraft landing in Ramat David base – the first British fighter plane since independence. We have also joined hands over cyber, bringing together the efforts of two international leaders in this field.

The Embassy and I value our collaboration, and I enjoyed hosting a CFI delegation at the Residence – the first of many, I hope. I am aware of the work CFI has been doing over the years; I look forward to future activities with CFI and other parliamentarians and see how the bilateral relationship continues to benefit from those connections.

Best Regards,

Neil Wigan OBE
HM Ambassador

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BORIS, ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

In July 2019, CFI were delighted to welcome self-declared “passionate Zionist” and long-standing friend of Israel, Boris Johnson, as the UK’s new Prime Minister. It marks an exciting new chapter in the UK-Israel relationship, and CFI looks forward to working with Prime Minister Johnson and his Government to continue strengthening the deep UK-Israel partnership.

FRIEND OF ISRAEL AND JEWISH COMMUNITY

Boris Johnson has a long history of standing shoulder to shoulder with Israel and the Jewish community. He volunteered at a kibbutz as a student in the 1980s, and visited Israel with CFI in 2004.

As Mayor of London in 2015, Boris Johnson led the first ever London-Israel trade mission. He said: “I’m proud that the UK is now Israel’s biggest trading partner in Europe and we saw huge investments both ways, partly actually as a result of that trip”.

As Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson delivered the official invitation to HRH The Duke of Cambridge to visit Israel, the landmark first ever official visit by a member of the Royal Family. Mr Johnson said in June 2019: “It was a true pleasure for me to be able to organise the official visit, one which I believe without my office would have been different or potentially not undertaken at all”.

Boris Johnson played an instrumental role as Foreign Secretary in marking the centenary of the Balfour Declaration in November 2017. At an event to mark the occasion, he hailed the “miracle of Israel” and stated that the creation of the country is “one of the greatest political triumphs of the 20th Century”. He emphasised in a parliamentary statement on the centenary: “We should celebrate the existence of the State of Israel”.

Boris Johnson told supporters at CFI’s Conservative Party Conference Reception in 2016 while he was Foreign Secretary, that “Britain and Israel are both countries where our dreams are still bigger than their achievements” and declared that “our best days are ahead”. He added: “We must stand and work together; Britain, Israel and Conservative Friends of Israel can build those dreams together”.



Boris Johnson addresses CFI Conference Reception 2016

Mr Johnson pledged in June 2019 to be a “champion for Jews in Britain and around the world”.

Prime Minister Johnson welcomed Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to 10 Downing Street in September 2019, in one of his first visits by a foreign head of Government. The two leaders reaffirmed the deep friendship between the UK and Israel.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE

Boris Johnson has been a staunch supporter of Israel’s right to defend itself throughout his political life. He underlined in a June 2019 letter to CFI supporters: “I firmly believe, like every nation, that Israel has the fundamental right to self-defence, and I am greatly disheartened and upset over the constant illegal and deadly rocket attacks which are launched daily by Hamas terrorists”.

As Foreign Secretary in October 2017, Boris Johnson emphasised that the Hamas terror group must “renounce terror”, recognise Israel’s right to exist and “cease and desist from violent antisemitic propaganda”.

OPPOSITION TO BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

In June 2019 at a CFI leadership hustling event, Mr Johnson expressed his “profound” opposition to the “absolutely absurd” Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, which “disadvantage the very people that the proponents of BDS purport to want to help”.

Mr Johnson wrote in a letter to CFI supporters in June 2019: “As Mayor of London I refused to bend to calls for boycotts on Israeli goods and I want to assure you that I will continue to refuse to bend to the whims of racists or antisemites. We must trade more with Israel and, under my administration, we will!”

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

Prime Minister Johnson has reaffirmed his support for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament, stating that he regards the construction as “a shared national responsibility”.

He has promised to safeguard the Government’s pledge of £140,000 to combat antisemitism on university campuses, which will enable students and university leaders from across the UK to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. In September 2019, Boris Johnson’s Government announced £100,000 funding to tackle the spread of antisemitism on social media.

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE UK'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, H.E. NEIL WIGAN OBE

H.E. Neil Wigan OBE became the UK's Ambassador to Israel in June 2019, after previously serving as the Director for Africa at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).

CFI Informed Editor, Sedef Akademir, sat down with Ambassador Wigan to hear about his experience in Israel so far, and his views on the UK-Israel relationship.

How are you finding your time in Israel and your role so far?

Israel was my first posting as a diplomat 15 years ago, and I am thrilled to be back. A lot has changed and got much bigger – from the tech industry, to the culinary scene, to the Pride Parade. In the past three months I have been travelling around Israel, from the Gaza periphery to the Lebanon border, reaching out to different communities, getting a taste of the tech scene, and visiting universities and research centres. All areas we are already working together on and can do even more together on.

How will you promote the UK-Israel relationship?

We have record levels of bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology – and we want to reach even higher. Israelis know how much the UK values our partnership and is eager to work together. We have the best universities in the world and we want to collaborate with Israel on research. Israeli and British high-tech are natural partners. We welcome Israeli businesses and want to help them invest in the UK or to cooperate with a British company. This is the message I wish to get across

– the UK is a prime partner for Israel and is eager to collaborate and deepen our links, highlight both our countries' strengths. I want the Embassy Tech Hub, Science officers and Trade Team working closely together to maximise the opportunities.

What in your eyes are Israel's greatest strengths?

I think one of Israel's greatest strengths is its variety – nowhere on earth has so much politics, history, culture and religion in such a small space. And ingenuity, which leads to great innovation and entrepreneurship. Israelis are developing technologies at an impressive rate that the UK can benefit from.

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

I'd like to dive further into collaborating with specific sectors in Israel. We are already powering the Arabtech Port aimed for entrepreneurs in the Israeli Arab community. We are working with Bizmax, an accelerator for Haredi entrepreneurs. I met seven of them headed to London to present their start-ups to the UK tech scene. Security cooperation is developing rapidly – I watched an RAF fighter jet land at an Israel Air Force base for the first time since Israel's independence.

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

I think British people increasingly see Israel in terms of technology, innovation and culture – from food to LGBT rights. And perhaps less in terms of politics and media images of conflict. Over 250,000 British visitors come to Israel every year, so more people see Israel for themselves.



Ambassador Wigan with CFI parliamentary delegation in July 2019

How do Israelis view the UK?

Even more positively than I remember. Israelis love visiting the UK, whether for higher education, business or tourism. I've already swapped tips on walking the West Highland Way, discovered that an Israeli company owns the biggest phosphate mine in Britain, and heard University Presidents say they want the same cooperation with UK counterparts as they do in the U.S. British brands from Superdry to Jo Malone are popular. I judged some amazing Harry Potter costumes, and Israelis still rave to me about Prince William's visit last year.

What do you think the future holds for UK-Israel relations post-Brexit?

The UK and Israel have already signed a trade continuity agreement which simplifies trade and allows businesses to trade as freely as they do now after Brexit, so everything is set in place for a smooth transition. Israel was one of the first countries to agree a deal, showing the appetite on both sides. Since the referendum, bilateral trade has increased rapidly to over \$10 billion, and more Israeli companies are investing in the UK,

or listing in London. Prime Minister Netanyahu told me he wants an even closer relationship after Brexit.

What do you think are the biggest similarities and differences between the UK and Israel?

Israelis like to 'move fast and break things' – particularly in technology and business (and sometimes when driving). British institutions can feel a lot more deliberate. Israelis are still as famously to the point and direct as ever – British understatement does not work. The key similarities are shared democratic values, and an excitement about the power of technology to change lives.

“We have record levels of bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology – and we want to reach even higher”.



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CELEBRATING THE UK-ISRAEL TRADE PARTNERSHIP

On all counts, business between the UK and Israel is booming and there is much to celebrate.

Rt. Hon. Liz Truss MP

Secretary of State for International Trade



Of the many opportunities that Brexit will afford the United Kingdom, perhaps the most exciting is our ability to forge new free trade deals with some of the world's most future-looking economies. It is for this very reason that I was so delighted that earlier in 2019, Israel was one of the first countries to agree a free trade agreement in principle with the UK, ensuring seamless continuity in existing trade and allowing businesses to avoid any additional tariffs or barriers. It is a clear testament to the strength of our relationship.

Our bilateral trade is now at a record high of \$10 billion a year, and we have unprecedented levels of cooperation in investment, science and technology. This has the potential to reach even greater heights following Brexit.

Despite the doom and gloom pedalled by some, in the year after Britain voted to leave the EU, Israeli investment into the UK increased. 32 Israeli companies entered the British market, investing £152 million into our economy and creating 888 new jobs – a rise of 33% on the previous year. With such strong continued growth it's perhaps little surprise that Britain is now Israel's largest trading partner in Europe.

At the start of 2019, I had the pleasure of attending the Jewish Women's Business Network's conference at the London Stock Exchange (LSE), where we celebrated the contribution of Jewish women to the global economy. I spoke to many Israeli

entrepreneurs who were invigorated by the opportunities of increased collaboration between our two countries, and shared my optimism.

Israel and the UK are natural trading partners. Brexit provides a distinctly unique chance for even greater cooperation between our two countries, and there is exceptional scope for growth in bilateral trade and investment. There is huge potential in areas such as science and technology where we are both world leaders. Indeed, I've heard all about some of the exciting new tech companies coming out of Israel that my Conservative colleagues met with on last year's CFI trade delegation to Israel.

Our two nations can continue to learn a lot from each other. I've said it before and I'll say it again; Britain's younger generation are Uber-riding, Airbnb-ing, Deliveroo-eating freedom fighters, and I'm all for that. Much of this pioneering spirit is seen in Israel, a small outward-looking country where innovation and liberty is championed, recognised around the world as the 'Start-Up Nation'.

I have long admired Israel's high-tech solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems, and science and innovation are at the heart of our Government's strategy for promoting prosperity and growth. Both of our nations understand the importance of building an innovation-driven economy. Last year, in order to boost academic and scientific collaboration between the UK



\$10bn

Total bilateral trade between the UK & Israel in 2018

and Israel, we signed a multimillion pound deal with the Israeli Innovation Authority to support cutting edge ideas in fields including artificial intelligence, as well as a new £5 million fund, BIRAX Ageing, for collaboration with the ageing process and its effect on human health.

The UK Israel Tech Hub, which was set up in 2011 by the British Embassy in Israel and was the first of its kind in the world, promotes partnerships in technology between the UK and Israel. Last year, the hub celebrated the facilitation of some 175 tech partnerships. The partnership has been so successful that it has helped to boost the UK economy by up to £800 million since launching, and the model is now being replicated for five new international hubs.

There is still much more to do and we should never dim our ambitions. I look forward to visiting Israel in the near future to see the 'Start-Up Nation' for myself and explore more opportunities to ensure that our partnership continues to flourish.



Gabriele Pedrini / Shutterstock.com

WELCOMING THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON HEZBOLLAH

Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP

CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Commons)



In February 2019, after years of campaigning by parliamentarians, I was delighted that a Conservative government proscribed the terror group Hezbollah in its entirety in the UK, a bold decision taken by our Home Secretary at the time, Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP.

In taking this decision, Sajid and our Conservative Government reaffirmed its zero tolerance stance against terrorism, and showed that it listened to the wishes of the British public. A 2018 ComRes poll found that Britons were four times more likely to support a full ban on Hezbollah than to oppose it.

It was unfortunately, however, the first time ever that the main opposition party refused to support the banning of a terrorist organisation.

Since that decision, we have seen immediate results. While demonstrators still freely took part in the annual Al Quds Day anti-Israel hate rally in London, the usual display of yellow AK-47 emblazoned flags was not seen.

Previously, only Hezbollah's so-called 'military wing' was banned in the UK, allowing protesters to wave the Hezbollah flag as long as the flags featured a small 'disclaimer' that they were only supporting Hezbollah's 'political wing'. Thanks to our Government, and vigorous campaigning by parliamentarians and members of the public, it is now a criminal offence to display support for Hezbollah.

Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, is continuing in its attempts to destabilise the fragile situation in the Middle East, and repeatedly threatens to wipe Israel off the map. But its terrorism is not merely confined to the region; the group has staged several fatal and calamitous attacks around the world and has a global network of nefarious criminal activity.

It was even planning to wreak devastation in London. The Telegraph revealed in June 2019 that Iran and Hezbollah-linked alleged terrorists were caught stockpiling tonnes of explosive materials in North West London at a secret bomb factory in 2015. The plot was uncovered by MI5 and the Metropolitan Police just months after the UK signed the Iran nuclear deal alongside P5+1 world powers.

An astonishing three metric tonnes of ammonium nitrate was discovered at the London properties – more than was used in the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people. The scale of carnage that could have been wrought in our capital is unimaginable.

It was later reported that Israeli intelligence was responsible for providing British authorities with information that helped foil the London plot, underlining how vital our cooperation in counterterrorism is in keeping our countries, and the world, safe.

There have been a number of similar Hezbollah and Iran-linked terror incidents and plots across Europe in recent years, including in Cyprus, the Netherlands and



Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP raises concerns about Hezbollah in Parliament

France. In Bulgaria in 2012, five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian driver were killed when a Hezbollah bomb went off on a bus in the city of Burgas's airport.

The proscription of Hezbollah ended a long-standing absurd distinction between so-called 'political' and 'military' wings, when in reality they are inseparable.

Surprisingly, Hamas, which runs Gaza and threatens the existence of Israel on a daily basis has still yet to be fully proscribed as a terror organisation in our country, with its 'political wing' and 'military wing' similarly separated. Its charter, which calls for Israel's destruction, is used by the whole organisation. Now is the time to revisit this.

CFI DELEGATIONS TO ISRAEL

Baroness McGregor-Smith CBE

Chair of the Office for Tackling Injustices



In the summer of 2019 I had the great pleasure of visiting Israel and the West Bank for the first time with a delegation of Conservative parliamentarians and candidates, which was coordinated by CFI.

It was my first time in the country and I was overwhelmed by the vibrancy of the place, the warmth of the people and the mix of cultures.

We saw for ourselves how different the reality is to the newspaper headlines. It was a real eye-opener to speak to people from all sections of Israeli society – from academics, journalists and politicians, to ordinary citizens. Hearing their perspective on the issues on the ground made us think deeply about the realities of living there and the challenges facing the region.

At the same time, I got a real sense of enthusiasm from the people that I met and their optimism for their country. After all, this is a nation that from its inception defied geographical odds and prospered to become a beacon in the region.

One of the highlights of our visit was an unexpected meeting with the legendary illusionist Uri Geller, who gifted us a spoon he had bent and signed for Prime Minister Boris Johnson!

It was at a visit to Israel's ambulance service Magen David Adom that we got a chance to see the country's use of cutting edge technology in order to save lives by shortening response times to medical emergencies. It would be fantastic to bring some of this innovation in emergency care to the NHS.



CFI delegation visits Magen David Adom

I loved visiting Save A Child's Heart in Holon, just outside of Tel Aviv, and seeing the amazing work that Israeli surgeons do in saving the lives of children from all corners of the world. The children, who come from some of the world's most deprived communities, receive free life-saving heart surgery in Israel. I found out that half of the 5,000 children that have been treated so far were from the West Bank and Gaza, and that the medical professionals share their expertise with doctors visiting from the Palestinian Territories and elsewhere around the world.

We also travelled to Ramallah in the West Bank, where we met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat for a wide-ranging discussion on local and regional issues affecting the Palestinian population. Separately, it was fascinating to hear from Palestinian polling expert Dr Khalil Shikaki who informed us about the latest public opinion trends

among Palestinians. It's clear that progress towards a lasting peace is needed more than ever, with younger generations seemingly becoming more cynical about a workable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I will never forget my visit to Yad Vashem. As a member of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, it was a deep honour to visit and to lay a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance on behalf of the group, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. It was an incredibly moving experience. I understand all the more the importance of the founding of the Israeli state in providing a refuge for thousands of Holocaust victims and as a Jewish homeland.

In every way, the visit was illuminating and I would like to thank CFI for the opportunity. I would certainly recommend others to go and see this extraordinary country for themselves.

Siobhan Baillie

Conservative Prospective Parliamentary
Candidate for Stroud



From the moment I arrived in Israel with a group of fellow Conservative Parliamentary Candidates in July 2019, I was blown away by the innovation, determination and strength of this tiny country.

The CFI itinerary was packed with dynamic speakers; journalists, politicians and academics from all sides and none.

Yet for me, the legendary Israeli 'chutzpah' was displayed most brightly in the women we met.

We were joined by the formidable former IDF spokesperson Miri Eisin on our visit to Israeli communities on the border with Gaza. She delivered a masterclass in the regional challenges Israel faces, and brought to life the daily conflicting options available to the small nation.

A female resident of Kfar Aza, a kibbutz just three miles east of Gaza, pointed out Gaza City in the distance. As she showed us where the last flaming kite from Gaza had exploded on their football pitch, she waved to her grandchildren living nearby and told us about the high-tech start-up that she has set up with a friend, developing drones to intercept these incendiary objects. It's no wonder I nicknamed her Supergran!

Returning to Tel Aviv, we visited the children's home at Save A Child's Heart, an Israeli charity providing life-saving heart surgery to children from the developing world, the West Bank and Gaza. The children's home is run by an incredible Northern Irish-born woman,



Siobhan Baillie PPC lays wreath at Yad Vashem

who told the group that no child would be turned away. I am now dedicated to ensuring that religion, borders and conflict will not get in her way.

The trip went on like this. Tech leaders, scientists, politicians, diplomats, factory workers, teachers, mothers – these women made me want to stand up straighter. Their energy and determination was truly inspirational.

Our trip to Yad Vashem in particular will stay with me forever.

The building is of course impressive on its own, but our knowledgeable (female!) guide amplified the carefully curated information about individuals and families that perished in the Holocaust. Their stories are a constant reminder that such appalling crimes must never happen again.

I was overwhelmed to lay a wreath on behalf of the group to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, an honour that will drive me to ensure

that Holocaust remembrance remains a key part of the Conservative Party's legacy to this country.

At the end of the delegation, the group took it in turns to reflect on the unforgettable week. After talking about our time in Yad Vashem, it did not take me long to decide what else to say.



CFI delegation in Jerusalem

Best wishes from

Broome &
Wellington

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THE THREAT FROM IRAN

Tom Tugendhat MBE MP
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee

By the time you read this, Iran may have finally released the *Stena Impero*, the British-flagged oil tanker it seized in the Strait of Hormuz in July 2019. But, even if this incident has been resolved, it shows that nothing much has changed.

Since the revolution of 1979, hostage-taking has been a key element of Iranian foreign policy. Our response to the latest imprisonment, along with the recent arrest of a retired businessman, a British Council employee and, of course, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe on trumped-up spying charges, shows that successive British governments have had no answer to a cruel policy of using dual nationals as leverage. We simply have not learned how to respond to Tehran.

We could learn much from Israel, which labours under no such illusions. One of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's (IRGC) explicit goals is the destruction of Israel. The westward expansion of its influence following, first, the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and, second, the outbreak of civil war in Syria in 2011, means that the threat posed by the IRGC has never been greater.

The IRGC's support for Assad's regime in Syria makes it completely clear that it will stop at nothing – even the mass murder of fellow Muslims – to advance its fundamental aim. In attacking

IRGC bases in Syria and Iraq – recently thwarting an imminent drone attack from a base outside Damascus – Israel has acted in self-defence. As the pressure created by American sanctions increases, Iran's willingness to hit out at U.S. allies, in the hope of causing Western disunity, may grow.

Iran has a forty-year-long history of financing and supporting terrorism overseas. Israeli citizens and diplomats have most often been its targets, but they are not alone. The recent revelation that in 2015 our own security services broke up a plot by Hezbollah to stockpile bomb-making chemicals in London gives us a flavour of Iranian ambitions.

It was good to see Sajid Javid, when Home Secretary in February 2019, abandon the artificial distinction we made between the political and military wings of Iran's proxy militia in Lebanon, and proscribe Hezbollah in its entirety. But the British Government lacks a more comprehensive policy to contain Iran's ambitions.

“The UK needs to be, once again, a friend of the Iranian people, and that means standing up to the regime”.

That is why the Foreign Affairs Committee has launched an enquiry into the UK and Iran's regional role. As well as investigating our relationship with the country, we shall be asking ministers and officials searching questions about the policies they have to stop Iran destabilising the region and how the Foreign Office will approach a renewed multilateral effort to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to stand up for human rights in the country which is crying out for freedom. The UK needs to be, once again, a friend of the Iranian people, and that means standing up to the regime.



The *Stena Impero* British-flagged oil tanker, seized by Iran

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UK-ISRAEL ALLIANCE: A TIMELINE OF FRIENDSHIP

As we welcomed Boris Johnson as Prime Minister in July 2019, a new chapter in the UK-Israel partnership was opened. Here we look back at the friendship between the two countries over the years.



1996

Prime Minister John Major meets with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. This came just four years after Major welcomed Peres to Downing Street, in Peres' previous role as Foreign Minister



1986

Margaret Thatcher becomes the first British Prime Minister to visit Israel while in office, meeting Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres while there. Thatcher was a deep admirer of Israel's "pioneer spirit"



1979

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher welcomes Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin to 10 Downing Street. Begin was one of the first foreign leaders to be welcomed to Number 10 after Thatcher's election victory



2014

David Cameron addresses Israel's Knesset in Jerusalem, in his landmark visit to Israel as Prime Minister



1921

Winston Churchill visits Jerusalem as Secretary of State for the Colonies. In a speech at Hebrew University, he said the founding of a Jewish state would be "a blessing to the whole world"



1973

Prime Minister Edward Heath welcomes Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir to Number 10. Golda Meir was Israel's first and the world's fourth female leader



1961

David Ben-Gurion and Winston Churchill meet in London. Churchill was a staunch friend of Israel throughout his life and referred to himself as "a Zionist from the days of the Balfour Declaration"



2017

Theresa May invites Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to London, where the UK and Israel celebrate centenary of the Balfour Declaration



2018

HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, becomes the first ever member of the Royal Family to make an official visit to Israel



2019

Then-Home Secretary Sajid Javid makes historic visit to Jerusalem's Western Wall

2019

"Passionate Zionist" Boris Johnson becomes Britain's new Prime Minister, pledges to support Israel and the Jewish community

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, Getty Images, Alamy

conservative
friends of
israel cfi

Supporting
Israel

Promoting
Conservatism

IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF LONDON, SHAUN BAILEY AM

Shaun Bailey AM is the Conservative candidate taking on Sadiq Khan in 2020's London Mayoral Election. Shaun, a former adviser to David Cameron and a current London Assembly Member, has been a long-time friend of Israel.

CFI sat down with Shaun to hear about his plans as Mayor for London and support for Israel and the Jewish community.

Where does your support for Israel come from?

I've been a staunch friend of Israel for as long as I can remember. To me, Israel is a beacon of light. How can you not admire a country that prides itself in innovation, entrepreneurialism, democracy and pluralism? And our nations' friendship is built on those shared values.

What is your fondest memory of visiting Israel with CFI?

I had the great pleasure of visiting Israel for the first time with CFI a few years ago. It was a real

eye-opener. I couldn't help but be struck by its vibrancy, its energy, and its extraordinary achievements in a mere 70 years since its foundation. It's all the more incredible when one considers that the Jewish State has a population the same size as London's!

How does the UK-Israel friendship help London?

The friendship between the UK and Israel is a relationship that not only enriches the lives of Londoners but also helps keep us safer and healthier. Israeli tech and ingenuity impacts upon the lives of Londoners

everyday – from the Waze navigation app to Gett black cab app, and NHS prescription drugs to online banking security. These strengths show up all the more how ludicrous and counterproductive the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel is, and as Mayor I will oppose such divisive stances every step of the way.

In May 2019, you joined March of the Living in Poland for a week-long visit to learn about the Holocaust and to commemorate Yom HaShoah. How did you find the experience?

Visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau on March of the Living, marching alongside more than 10,000 participants from all corners of the world in memory of all Holocaust victims brought to life the real barbarity of this tragedy in a way that no textbook ever could. It was incredibly moving to march together with Holocaust survivors, and reminded me that we cannot remain silent about horrors being committed anywhere around the world.

As Mayor of London, how will you stamp out antisemitism?

That British Jews should be experiencing antisemitism is abhorrent. Antisemitism has no place in our society, and needs to be called out for what it is – racism in its basest form. I vow to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community in our shared fight against this most pernicious of evils. To defeat evil, I believe it is vital that we remember the past and the roots of this disease. That's why I stand squarely in support of a National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in our capital city, which has been so passionately supported by three Conservative Prime Ministers. I am very pleased that the revised planning application addresses the worries over the environmental impact on Victoria Park Gardens. I believe that the Memorial will enhance this important public place next to our Houses of Parliament.



Shaun Bailey places memorial note at March of the Living outside Auschwitz-Birkenau

If you become Mayor of London, how will you support the Jewish community?

The Jewish community is a vital part of the fabric of London, and the whole of the United Kingdom. The community makes an enormous contribution across all levels of London society – from business and science to the arts and a thriving charity sector. From protecting Jewish institutions across the city to preserving Jewish traditions like shechita and brit milah, as your Conservative Mayoral candidate I promise that I would speak up for you every day. I will make it my personal mission to fight antisemitism on our university campuses and ban the Al Quds march through London's streets. I've received such warm welcomes at synagogues across this city, and can't imagine London without gems like Beigel Bake and Reubens (which I'm so pleased has reopened).

As Mayor of London I would also continue the wonderful Chanukah in the Square, and I'm looking forward to receiving an invitation to a Purim party!

What are your main plans for London?

London is a city that has historically looked towards the future with confidence, but in many key areas our capital has regressed, foremost of which has been the rise in violent crime. I will prioritise tackling this crime epidemic so we can walk the streets safely. Housing is fundamental. We must build homes that ordinary Londoners can actually afford to buy – so owning a home is a possibility for everyone. I plan to increase investment in London's transport network so everyone has a reliable service that gets them to work on time. Crucially, we must protect Greater London's economy, so our city's economy continues to grow through Brexit and beyond.

IT'S TIME TO RECOGNISE THE PLIGHT OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Tents used as temporary housing
for Jewish immigrants in Israel

Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP

Chairman of the Education Select Committee



Before Muammar Gaddafi came to power in Libya in the 1960s, my late grandfather, Renato Halfon, was a member of a small, but thriving, community of Italian Tripolitanian Jews.

Like so many other Jews in North African and Middle Eastern countries, he was forced to flee the country in 1968, as hostility against the Jewish population reached intolerable levels. His lifetime's work - a clothing business - was seized under the new regime, most likely given to Gaddafi's supporters to buy their loyalty, as was the case with many Jewish and Italian businesses.

With pogroms becoming a regular occurrence in Libya, Renato saw the writing on the wall and sent my father, Clement, to England in the late 1950s, at the young age of 15. After initially seeking refuge in Italy, my grandfather joined him in North London soon after.

Jewish people had lived in Libya for over 2,300 years and, by 1948, the population numbered more than 38,000. By the end of 1970, nearly all Jews and Italians had left Libya.

In June 2019, I shared my grandfather's story in the first ever UK parliamentary



Interior of the Dar al-Bishi synagogue, Tripoli

“It’s time to recognise the plight of Jewish refugees from the Middle East and give their story equal prominence at long last”.

debate on the subject of Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa. As I said in the unprecedented debate, the flight of historic Jewish communities has altered the shape and face of the region forever, but it is rarely recognised or spoken about on the international stage.

Between 1948 and 1972, pogroms took place in every Arab country against the Jewish people living there, with countless age-old communities now extinct.

Many Jews fled their homes across the region after the United Nations' (UN) decision to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states in 1947, as opposition to a modern Jewish state invariably morphed into discrimination against the local Jewish population.

Yet while Jewish refugees have successfully integrated into Israel and countries around the world, the Palestinian refugee population has been abandoned. Tellingly, the

Arab League even resolved in 1959 not to allow Palestinians to become citizens of Arab countries. It is clear that this decision to perpetuate their suffering is rooted in a troubling desire to prolong the conflict with Israel.

A lasting Middle East peace will only endure if rights and redress are provided to Jewish refugees as well as Palestinians. The UN has passed 172 resolutions specifically on Palestinian refugees, but there have been none relating to Jewish refugees.

It's time to recognise the plight of Jewish refugees from the Middle East and give their story equal prominence at long last.



FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM: A TRAVEL GUIDE

TEL AVIV

Welcome to Tel Aviv, the sun-soaked city on the Mediterranean with a serious buzz. A unique metropolis combining ancient history and modern culture with a lively nightlife, Tel Aviv is the high-tech capital that never sleeps.

Just south of Tel Aviv you'll find one of the world's oldest ports - **Jaffa**. Now regenerated, the area is a colourful thread of the city's urban tapestry, and a melting pot of Jewish and Arab communities and cultures. Wind your way through cobbled streets, stumble upon art galleries, ancient places of worship and Jaffa's famous flea market.

Follow in Prince William's footsteps and visit one of Tel Aviv's famous beaches. Our favourites are **Gordon Beach** and **Frishman Beach**.

Meander through **Nahalat Binyamin's** craft market every Tuesday and Friday morning; the perfect place to pick up a quirky trinket or gift for your envious friends back home. Continue down to the **Carmel Market** and check out the weird and wonderful treats on offer, and sample an Israeli craft beer at **Beer Bazaar**. End with a well-deserved ice cream from **Anita** in the exclusive streets of **Neve Tzedek**.

Find out about one of the nation's forward-thinking diplomats while discovering more about Israel's rebirth as the 'Start-Up Nation' at the **Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation**. From the cherry tomato to drip irrigation, you name it, Israelis probably invented it.

Tel Aviv is jam-packed with some of the country's finest museums.

The **Museum of Art, Bauhaus Museum and tour, Bet Hatfutso: Museum of the Jewish People, Yitzhak Rabin Centre, Independence Hall** and the **Blind Museum (Holon)** are a few of our top choices.

For gastronomic heaven, head to **Sarona Market**, an iconic indoor culinary market set in the heart of the central business district, which hosts outlets from some of Israel's most popular chefs. Be sure to go with an empty stomach!

RESTAURANTS:

*Port Said
Vicky Cristina
Benedict
Taizu
Kitchen Market*



JERUSALEM

Steeped in history, Jerusalem is often labelled as the religious, spiritual and cultural epicentre of the world. Hidden behind the walls of the iconic Jerusalem stone lies a vibrant and diverse capital. The list of attractions on offer are endless, but here are some top tips to get you started.

If you're only going to see one sight while visiting Jerusalem, the **Old City** is the one not to miss. Immerse yourself in days gone by; from Roman ruins and ornate churches to the Western Wall and majestic Dome of the Rock.

More than just a Holocaust museum, **Yad Vashem** brings together the past, present and future of Jewish history through meaningful exhibitions and beautiful grounds.

Museum-goers should also check out **The Israel Museum**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls and is one of the world's leading art and archaeological museums.

Wander the streets of **Yemin Moshe**, the first Jewish neighbourhood built outside the Old City Walls, and take sight of the Montefiore Windmill. Then make your way down to the **Artists' Colony** to sip a cappuccino while perusing the galleries.

Machane Yehuda is a bustling and colourful food market. Learn from the locals bartering for a good deal on fruit, fish, spices and local delicacies. Come closing time, the area becomes the heart of Jerusalem's trendy nightlife with all the best bars and street food.

The tranquil Jerusalem Hills are just a stone's throw away from

the busy city streets. **Castel, Flam, Tzora** and **Sphera** are the finest artisanal wineries in the area. Take in the beautiful scenery while sampling the produce that's putting Israel on the map.

If you're in need of a quick bite, **Marzipan Bakery** is a must-visit for the stickiest, most delicious rugelach in the world, and hummus lovers will fall head over heels for **Ben-Sira Hummus** a short walk away.

RESTAURANTS:

*Anna
Eucalyptus
Adom
Machneyuda
Jacko Street*



WE MUST BUILD A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND LEARNING CENTRE THAT WILL BE A BEACON TO THE WORLD

Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles

UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Lords)



In a world of Holocaust denial, historical revisionism and the rise of antisemitism, it is more important than ever to ensure that the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre tells a story that resonates with ordinary people and raises questions about Britain's role. For visitors to think about what they would have done should things have turned out differently and if the Nazis had occupied the British mainland.

I can't overemphasise the importance of placing this memorial next to the Houses of Parliament. It is within a few hundred yards of where all the key decisions and debates on British reaction to the Holocaust took place.

The Memorial will honour the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust. The learning centre will also remember the other victims of Nazi persecution, including Roma, gay and disabled people – and the victims of subsequent genocides.

Victoria Tower Gardens was chosen as its historical, emotional and political significance substantially outweighed all other locations, and offered the greatest potential impact and visibility for the project.

The location was announced nearly four years ago by the Prime Minister. An international design competition was announced with the shortlisted entrants displayed in an exhibition which toured the whole of the UK. The eventual winning entrant was unanimously adopted by an independent judging panel.

Victoria Tower Gardens, a sadly neglected piece of land, will be enhanced by the Memorial. The quality of the drainage and the grass will be improved. Paths will be laid that allows water to reach the roots of trees and vegetation, rather than lie dormant in ugly puddles. A new riverside promenade with disabled access, and a children's playground with adjoining café will add to the gardens.

There can be no more powerful symbol of our commitment to remembering the Holocaust than placing the Memorial next to Parliament.

At a time when parts of Europe are seeking to rewrite history, it is important for us in the UK to set a clear example that we will look at our history with an unblinking eye.

Standing beside Parliament, the memorial will remind people, as they leave and look toward Victoria Tower, that Parliament is a bastion against tyranny.

As those who sit in both Houses look out at the Memorial, it will remind them that the legislature has the power to protect or to oppress.

“There can be no more powerful symbol of our commitment to remembering the Holocaust than placing the Memorial next to Parliament”.



Design of Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

We will remember that a compliant legislature introduced the Nuremberg Laws and ordinary people, as bystanders, were following of that law of the land.

It is my sincere hope that we will build a Memorial of which we will all be proud; we will build a learning centre that will be a beacon to the world.



THERESA MAY: A CHAMPION OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Theresa May will be remembered as one of Britain's most steadfast friends of Israel and a champion of the Jewish community. Throughout her time as Prime Minister, Mrs May's leadership in strengthening the UK-Israel relationship and fighting antisemitism was unwavering.

On CFI

Since first being elected to Parliament, Theresa May engaged extensively with CFI, speaking at the organisation's Parliamentary Reception as Home Secretary, and at CFI's Annual Business Lunch in 2016 and 2018.

In a letter to CFI supporters in Informed Magazine 2018, Theresa May said: "I am proud of the close relationship between our two countries – and I am grateful for everything that Conservative Friends of Israel are doing to promote that friendship".

Recognising the support the Conservative Party received from the Jewish community and CFI volunteers in the 2017 General Election, the Prime Minister expressed: "I was proud at the general election... so many Jewish people gave our Party their support – not least thanks to the hard work of CFI volunteers in constituencies up and down the country".

Record Levels of Bilateral Trade

Under her leadership, the UK-Israel relationship went from strength to strength with record bilateral trade levels amounting to \$10 billion in 2018. At the start of 2019, Israel was one of the first countries to agree a post-Brexit free trade agreement in principle with the UK. Israeli investment in the UK has increased substantially in recent years, and the UK is now Israel's largest trading partner in Europe.

Celebrating the UK-Israel Friendship

Theresa May's leadership oversaw HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William's landmark visit to Israel

– the first ever official visit to the Jewish State by a member of the Royal Family. The much-anticipated visit further reaffirmed the strength and warmth of the UK-Israel relationship.

In 2017, Theresa May hosted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in London to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, and celebrated Israel's achievements since its founding. She said in September 2018: "I will never forget standing with Prime Minister Netanyahu to view the original version of that letter. It was a very special moment and it encapsulates for me how I feel about Israel. For I am not just proud to support Israel; I am proud of our role in the creation of Israel".

Fighting Antisemitism

Theresa May has fiercely fought antisemitism throughout her political career and it is thanks to her that the community has received record levels of financial support to ensure its security at this difficult time. Government funding to the Community Security Trust (CST) for protective measures for the Jewish community increased to £14 million in 2019.

In December 2016, Prime Minister May announced at CFI's Annual Business Lunch that the UK Government would be adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. She has been a strident supporter of a National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament, and forthright in her condemnation of antisemitism in British politics.

In a letter to the Board of Deputies of British Jews in June 2019, she underlined: "My support for the community will continue in the years to come".

Strong Opposition to BDS

Theresa May was staunchly opposed to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel and the singling out of the Jewish State. She underlined at CFI's

Annual Business Lunch in December 2018: "We will stand by Israel when it is treated unfairly at the United Nations and have no truck with boycotts, divestment or sanctions that are simply unacceptable".

Hezbollah Ban

Under Theresa May's watch, Hezbollah was proscribed as a terror organisation in its entirety in February 2019. The UK previously only proscribed Hezbollah's 'military wing', separating this from its so-called 'political wing'. The decision came after cross-party parliamentarians regularly called for the group to be banned, in particular raising their concerns about the waving of Hezbollah flags on the streets of London at the annual Al Quds Day rally.

Supporting Israel's Right to Self-Defence

The Government under Theresa May's premiership was resolute in its support of Israel's right to defend itself in the face of attacks from terrorist groups.

As Prime Minister, Theresa May said in September 2018: "Israel has thrived in the face of the constant threat of violence from its neighbours, the menace of terrorist attacks against its citizens, and the opposition of those who deny even its right to exist. As Prime Minister, I will always support Israel's right to defend itself".



CFI Directors with Theresa May

ISRAEL'S GREEN REVOLUTION

Since its establishment, Israel has developed **innovative and efficient solutions** in harsh environmental conditions. Although Israel is a small nation comprising of over 50% desert and only 20% naturally arable land, it has emerged as a world leader in agricultural technology (agritech).

Today, Israel manages to produce 95% of its own food requirements. There are currently over 400 Israeli agritech companies working on innovations including drought and water efficiency, crop productivity and waste management. One Israeli company, Tevel, is even building a fleet of fruit-picking drones for harvesting, drawing global attention.

Israel is the world leader in water recycling, recycling around **90%** of its domestic wastewater. Israel vastly outranks even the second most efficient recycled water user, Spain, which only recycles 17% of its wastewater for agriculture.

The nation exports its **drip irrigation technology** throughout the world, including to many developing countries.

Airbus plan to cooperate with small Israeli companies to implement technologies that aid farmers in crop productivity by seeing which areas of the crops are suffering using satellite imagery. This is known as **'smart farming'**, an area that Israeli agritech companies are leading research on.

Israel is also pioneering the development of digital farming systems which have allowed farmers to control their yields through technologically controlling water, pesticides and fertiliser usage.

Israelis have made numerous food-related advances including the invention of modern varieties of the cherry tomato, and the country is quickly becoming a powerhouse for food-tech start-up companies.

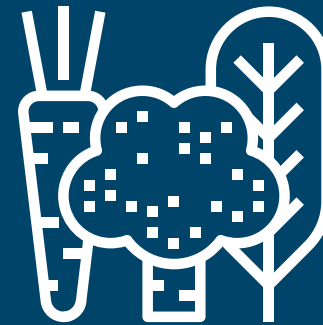
Known as a 'superpower of sustainability', Israel **recycles** 77% of bottles and cans, and over 85% of Israeli households use **solar energy**.

Technological achievements include computer-controlled drip irrigation, computerised early-warning systems for leaks, and thermal imaging for crops and vegetables.

Israeli start-ups are also leading within the field of **sustainable meat**, with companies such as SuperMeat, which is developing technology to organically grow chicken meat from animal cells, and Future Meat Technologies, which manufactures lab-grown fat and muscle cells.

Jet Eat, also based in Israel, is working on plant-based food products grown in labs which replicate meat using natural ingredients.

Israeli agricultural innovation continues to drive what has been described as a **Fourth Industrial Revolution**, with new technologies becoming an integral part of this ever-growing industry.



95%

Israel produces 95% of its own food requirements



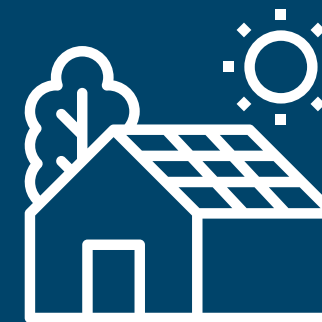
90%

Israel recycles 90% of its domestic wastewater



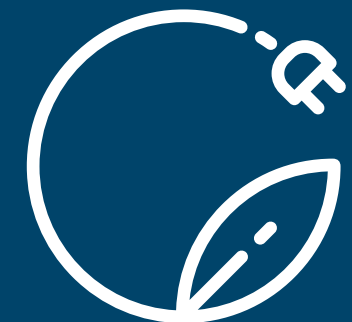
77%

Israel recycles 77% of bottles and cans



85%

Over 85% of households use solar energy



400

There are over 400 Israeli agritech companies

“In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology”.

Shimon Peres, former President of Israel

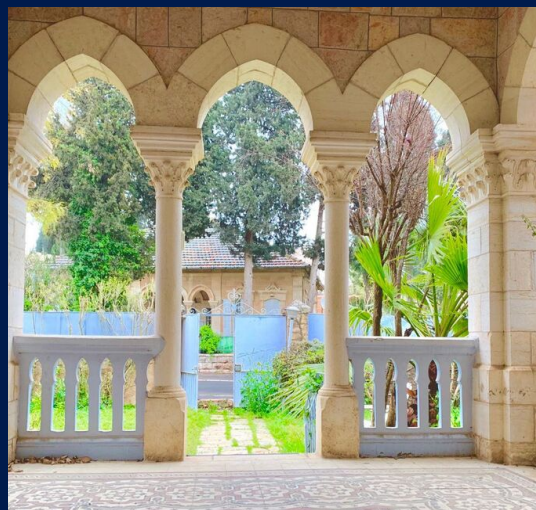


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CFI'S CALENDAR 2018/19



SEPTEMBER 2018

- Then-Prime Minister Theresa May celebrates UK-Israel relationship in a letter to CFI supporters in CFI's Informed magazine, emphasising that "the UK is proud to stand side by side with Israel".
- Conservative London Mayoral candidates write exclusive messages for CFI supporters.

OCTOBER 2018

- CFI hosts Conservative Party Conference Reception with then-Home Secretary Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Ambassador of Israel H.E. Mark Regev, and senior Conservative MPs, attended by over 500 delegates.
- CFI signs up record number of supporters at Conservative Party Conference exhibition stand in Birmingham.
- Conservative MPs and peers discuss Israel's thriving high-tech industry at lunch briefing with Israeli crowdfunding platform OurCrowd.

NOVEMBER 2018

- CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Lords) Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles and CFI Honorary President Lord Polak CBE attend the third annual London Stock Exchange Markets Conference in Israel.
- In Parliament, CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Commons) Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP praises programmes bringing Israelis and Palestinians together, including Israeli NGO Save A Child's Heart.
- Conservative MPs and peers condemn the misappropriation of foreign aid in Gaza, in both the House of Commons and Lords.

DECEMBER 2018

- CFI hosts biggest ever Annual Business Lunch with then-Prime Minister Theresa May, where she said that UK-Israel ties are "stronger than ever", underlining that the Government "will stand by Israel when it is treated unfairly". The event is attended by 800 guests, including 200 Conservative parliamentarians and 17 Cabinet members.

JANUARY 2019

- CFI hosts Annual Parliamentary Reception with then-Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, attended by 50 parliamentarians and 250 CFI supporters. He celebrated the "great friendship" between the UK and Israel, and recognised that Britain's 1939 White Paper capping immigration to Palestine was a "black moment" in history.
- The UK agrees one of the first post-Brexit free trade deals in principle with Israel.

FEBRUARY 2019

- Conservative parliamentarians in the House of Commons and House of Lords overwhelmingly support then-Home Secretary Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP's decision to proscribe Hezbollah as a terror organisation in its entirety.
- Justice ElKayim Rubinstein, former Vice President of the Israeli Supreme Court, speaks to cross-party parliamentarians at Parliamentary briefing event chaired by Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Tom Tugendhat MBE MP.
- CFI organises Campaign Day in Barnet with CFI volunteers in support of Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP.



MARCH 2019

- CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Lords) Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles hails UK-USA-Israel trilateral relationship in an address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) annual Policy Conference in Washington DC.
- CFI pens letter calling on UK Government to vote against all United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions targeting Israel, expressing concern at the UNHRC's "disproportionate" focus on Israel.

APRIL 2019

- Conservative parliamentarians attend CFI-hosted parliamentary briefing with former IDF head of combat intelligence Miri Eisin, who gave insights about security challenges facing Israel.
- Cross-party parliamentarians mark 40th anniversary of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty at Foreign Affairs Committee panel discussion, with speakers including H.E. Mark Regev, Israel's Ambassador to the UK, and H.E. Tarek Adel, Egypt's Ambassador to the UK.

MAY 2019

- CFI thanks then-Prime Minister Theresa May for her "invaluable" support of Israel and the UK-Israel relationship, following her announcement that she would resign as Conservative Party leader on 7th June.
- Conservative Candidate for Mayor of London, Shaun Bailey AM, attends the March of the Living in Poland in coordination with CFI, where more than 10,000 participants marched together from Auschwitz to Birkenau in memory of all victims of the Holocaust.
- Conservative Lords host group of senior leaders from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for a range of meetings in Parliament discussing rising levels of antisemitism and extremism in the UK and worldwide.

JUNE 2019

- CFI hosts hustling events with Conservative Party leadership candidates Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP and Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, where they address CFI supporters.
- Conservative MPs call on Government to recognise the plight of over 850,000 Jewish refugees who were forced to flee their historic communities in the Middle East and North Africa, in first ever Westminster Hall debate on the subject.
- CFI Honorary President Lord Polak CBE and Parliamentary Chairman (Lords) Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles condemn rise in antisemitism, in House of Lords debate.

JULY 2019


- CFI leads delegation of 10 Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) to Israel and the West Bank, many of whom were visiting for the first time. The itinerary featured a series of high-level meetings with Israeli and Palestinian politicians, journalists, entrepreneurs and academics, as well as strategic briefings with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Israel's border with Gaza, and visits to organisations that promote peaceful coexistence.
- Conservative Party leadership candidates Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt write special letters to CFI supporters, outlining their views on Israel and plans to support the Jewish community in the UK.

AUGUST 2019

- CFI coordinates a high-profile delegation of Conservative MPs, PPCs and Lords to Israel and the West Bank led by CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Commons) Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP. During the visit, Mr Crabb and Lord Polak CBE welcomed Boris Johnson as Prime Minister and commented on the future of UK-Israel relations in interviews with the Jerusalem Post and i24NEWS.
- CFI hosts introductory session for Conservative parliamentary staffers.
- CFI Honorary President and Parliamentary Chairmen meet with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Israel Katz in London.


A TASTE OF ISRAEL IN LONDON

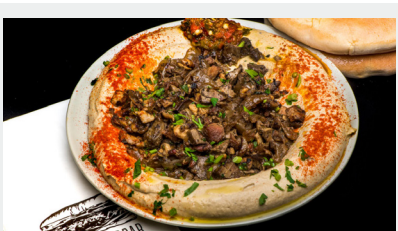
Over the past few years Israeli cuisine has transformed our capital city’s culinary map, meaning you don’t need to fly all the way to the Middle East in order to taste some of the country’s delights. Here are some of our favourite spots in London to get authentic Israeli food.



NOPI


Founded by one of Britain’s most loved chefs, Yotam Ottolenghi, the Soho-based restaurant has the chef’s trademarks, with platters full of salads greeting guests as they arrive, and a menu which celebrates bold flavours. Vegetarians have plenty of choice, with a wide selection of tasting plates. Signature dishes include courgette and manouri cheese fritters with rose harissa yoghurt, and coriander seed-crusted burrata with slices of blood orange.


 Piccadilly Circus



Hummus Bar


For hummus heaven, look no further than Hummus Bar in Golders Green and Hendon. It’s kosher, with flavours that pack a punch. Order large plates of smooth, creamy Israeli hummus served with various toppings like salt beef and caramelised onions or falafel and tahini, each served with fresh hot flatbreads. It’s unbeatable. The brisket balls and crispy Moroccan lamb cigars are also a must have.


 Golders Green & Hendon



Berber & Q


A meat lover’s paradise under an East London railway arch, that takes inspiration from the streets and cafe culture of Tel Aviv. The meat is grilled over an open charcoal-fired mangal, and the restaurant has an array of mezze and plenty of Middle Eastern themed cocktails. Berber & Q’s ‘Full Israeli’ breakfast platter is also hard to beat.


 Haggerston & Farringdon



The Good Egg


The Good Egg is a mecca for brunch lovers, where a colourful Middle Eastern/Eastern European fusion of flavours is served at their two deli-style restaurants. While the original site is located in Stoke Newington, their newest branch is nestled in Soho’s buzzy Kingly Court, with a bakery counter stacked with hand-rolled bagels and babka. You can’t go wrong with their delicious shakshuka!


 Stoke Newington & Oxford Circus



Coal Office


A creative collaboration between British designer Tom Dixon and renowned Israeli chef Assaf Granit. The Granary Square restaurant’s immersive dining experience is an exploration of both dishes and design, with a carefully curated menu exploring the flavours, spices, and textures of the Mediterranean. Highlights include kubaneh — a Yemeni bronzed buttery brioche knot, Machneyuda’s polenta, and shish barak — East Jerusalem dumplings with pine nuts and yoghurt.

 Kings Cross



The Palomar

London’s most well-known Israeli restaurant, The Palomar, combines modern dishes from Jerusalem with a mix of international influences, served in a stylish and energetic surrounding. The menu here is made up of shared plates, from beetroot carpaccio to harissa chicken. Don’t miss out on the homemade labneh, and end with a dessert of traditional rosewater infused milk pudding — malabi.

 Piccadilly Circus

ON THE ROAD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



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