

2019

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YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON WINS HISTORIC ELECTION VICTORY



2019 ended on a high for the entire Conservative family with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's historic general election victory. Team CFI spent five weeks travelling across the country campaigning in support of Conservative candidates.

Come rain or shine, the CFI team was out leafleting, canvassing and seeing the political movement on the ground. From Wales to Yorkshire and Derbyshire to London, we were busy travelling in support of as many as 18 Conservative candidates, meeting thousands of people across the country to discuss the Conservative Party's vision for a brighter, secure future and to keep Jeremy Corbyn out of No 10.

In North London, the Party defied expectations by retaining the key seats of Chipping Barnet, Finchley and Golders Green, Hendon, and Harrow East, where CFI and its activists had campaigned in support of longtime friends Theresa Villiers, Mike Freer, Matthew Offord and Bob Blackman.

Since the election, Prime Minister Boris Johnson underlined in the Queen's Speech debate that the Government will stop public bodies from developing their "own pseudo foreign policy against countries" and ban them from boycotting Israeli goods.

CFI would like to thank all our brilliant volunteers who joined us around the country for their dedication. We congratulate all Conservative MPs on their election and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.



UK-ISRAEL RELATIONS: A LOOK AT THE PAST DECADE

The past decade has been a remarkable one for the UK-Israel partnership, with both countries celebrating milestone occasions and flourishing ties. Whether in our record levels of trade and investment; our cooperation in science and technology; or the work we do together to keep our people safe, the UK-Israel friendship has gone from strength to strength.

CFI played a role in strengthening the partnership, taking over 250 Conservative parliamentarians and activists to Israel on delegations since 2010.

Here are some key moments from the past 10 years...

2011

The UK Israel Tech Hub was launched by the British Embassy in Israel and was the first of its kind in the world to promote partnerships in technology and innovation between countries. The Hub has generated 175 tech partnerships in deals worth £85 million since it was established.

2013

BIRAX, the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership, was launched in 2013 to fund cutting-edge research to tackle some of the world's most challenging conditions and diseases. The initiative has awarded over £13 million to more than 20 research projects bringing together scientists in Britain and Israel.

2014

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

2016

The UK and Israel strengthened cyber security collaboration with the launch of the UK-Israel cyber-physical initiative.



Then-Prime Minister Theresa May and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu celebrate Balfour Declaration centenary

2017

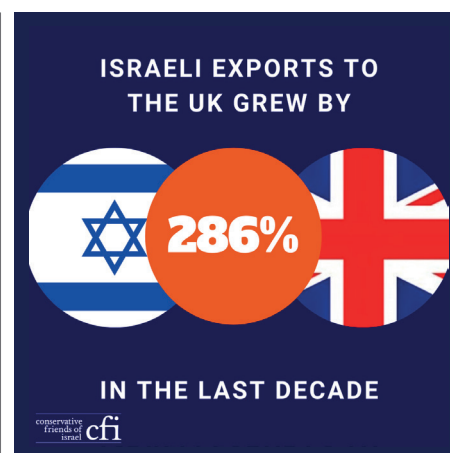
Theresa May invited Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to London, where the UK and Israel celebrated the centenary of the Balfour Declaration.

2018

HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, travelled to Israel for the first official Royal visit in the Jewish State's 70-year history. HRH reflected on the country's "essential vibrancy" and said: "The ties between our two countries have never been stronger".



HRH The Duke of Cambridge with beach volleyball players in Tel Aviv



2019

Then-Home Secretary Sajid Javid made an historic visit to Jerusalem's Western Wall.

2019

Self-declared "passionate Zionist" Boris Johnson became Britain's new Prime Minister, pledging to support Israel and the Jewish community.

2019

Israeli exports to the UK grew by 286% in the past decade, figures from Israel's Foreign Trade Administration revealed. Bilateral trade between the countries exceeds a record \$10 billion.

DELEGATIONS



CFI delegation lay a wreath at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial



CFI delegates visit Magen David Adom



CFI Parliamentary Chairman and Vice-Chairmen at the Western Wall

JULY 2019

CFI coordinated a delegation to Israel with 10 Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs), many of whom were visiting for the first time. Seven of the candidates have now become MPs. The itinerary featured a series of high-level meetings with Israeli politicians, journalists, entrepreneurs and academics, as well as strategic briefings and visits to organisations that promote peaceful coexistence, giving the group a first-hand look at the latest situation in Israel. The group visited Save a Child's Heart in Holon, where they met children from developing countries around the world receiving life-saving heart surgery. Around half of over 5,000 children who have received the treatment are Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank.

AUGUST 2019

CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Commons) Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP led a delegation of five Conservative MPs, three Conservative Lords and two Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (both now MPs) to Israel. The delegation also travelled to the West Bank, meeting PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat in Ramallah and visiting the first Palestinian-planned city in Rawabi. Mr Crabb and CFI Honorary President 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 while on the visit.

DECEMBER 2019

CFI coordinated a delegation of three Conservative parliamentarians to attend the Annual International Institute for Strategic Leadership Dialogue in Jerusalem, bringing together legislators, business leaders and opinion formers from the UK, Israel, and Australia. The group included CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Lords) Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles, and CFI Vice-Chairmen Andrew Percy MP and John Howell OBE MP. The group had a powerful visit to MATI – the Jerusalem Business Development Center in East Jerusalem to learn about the work they do to support Palestinian entrepreneurs start and expand businesses.

CFI IN PARLIAMENT

CFI had another busy year in Parliament as we worked with many Conservative parliamentarians to campaign on key issues.



Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP leads Jewish refugees debate

77 backbench MPs and Lords made over 160 contributions in support of Israel and in condemnation of antisemitism in 2019.

Dozens of Conservatives in the House of Commons welcomed the Government's proscription of Hezbollah in its entirety in February. The UK previously only proscribed Hezbollah's 'military wing', separating this from its so-called 'political wing'.

Seven MPs called on the 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 (June), in the first debate of its kind, led by Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP.

Throughout the year, numerous parliamentarians raised their concerns about Iran's regional aggression and support for terror.



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SAJID JAVID MAKES LANDMARK VISIT TO WESTERN WALL

Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid visited Jerusalem's Western Wall in July 2019 while Home Secretary, the first by a British Government Minister in almost 20 years. It was part of a three-day visit to Israel and the West Bank, where he met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior Israeli and Palestinian political leaders. At CFI's Conference Reception in Manchester in October, Mr Javid reflected on his visit, stating: "It shouldn't have taken two decades, but I know that many more Conservative Cabinet Ministers will follow on from that".



Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP at the Western Wall

NOTABLE EVENTS



CFI Parliamentary Reception

JANUARY-MARCH 2019

CFI's 2019 began with our Annual Parliamentary Reception in January, which was attended by over 250 supporters, including 50 parliamentarians, and addressed by then-Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, then-Conservative Party Chairman Brandon Lewis and Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mark Regev. Mr Hunt 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. In Parliament, Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, former Vice President of the Israeli Supreme Court, spoke to cross-party parliamentarians at a briefing event chaired by then-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Tom Tugendhat MBE MP. The following month, CFI Parliamentary Chairman (Lords) Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles hailed the UK-USA-Israel trilateral relationship in an address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.



CFI Conservative leadership husting events

APRIL-JULY 2019

During the spring months, as the Conservative leadership contest heated up, CFI was delighted to host husting events with both of the final candidates - Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt - where they addressed hundreds of CFI supporters. It was great to see so many of our supporters at the events and the excellent questions made them stand out occasions. CFI hosted a number of events for parliamentarians, including a briefing for Conservative MPs in Parliament with former IDF head of combat intelligence Miri Eisin, who gave insights about security challenges facing Israel, and a 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. Cross-party parliamentarians also marked the 40th anniversary of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty at a 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.



CFI Informed Magazine 2019/20

AUGUST-DECEMBER 2019

At the end of the summer, CFI published its new edition of Informed Magazine. In his letter to Informed readers, Prime Minister Boris Johnson celebrated the UK-Israel relationship, emphasising that he is "proud to be a friend of Israel". In Parliament, CFI hosted a briefing session for Conservative parliamentary staffers, and CFI's Honorary President and Parliamentary Chairmen met with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Israel Katz. CFI had another strong showing at Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, where as many as 500 Conservative activists attended CFI's packed Conservative Party Conference Reception to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, as well as six other Cabinet members and senior Ministers. The event came at the end of another successful Conservative Party Conference for CFI, as we signed up as many as 150 new members at our exhibition stand. The end of the year was dominated by the General Election, in which Team CFI spent five weeks campaigning and coordinating Action Days for a Conservative Party victory.



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