



מושב הוועד הפועל הציוני ה"ח/2
The Zionist General Council Session XXXVIII/2



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

Challenges Facing
the Zionist Movement in
**COMBATING
ANTISEMITISM**

19-21 December 2021

**WZO Department
Reports**

Zionist General Council XXXVIII/2

אתגרי
התנועה הציונית
**במאבק
באנטישמיות**

ט"ו-י"ז טבת תשפ"ב

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Message from the Chairman of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization and Acting Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel – Mr. Yaakov Hagoel



Dear members of the Zionist General Council, shalom from Jerusalem!

A little over a year has passed since we held the 38th Zionist Congress.

For the first time in 124 years, the event was held virtually in compliance with international health organization requirements and guidelines. In this unusual period, we have understood the force of our organization and the eternal quality of the Zionist vision. Zionist activities are conducted across the globe and in every sphere. The W.Z.O. has adapted to changing circumstances and works in myriad ways to fulfill its values and be relevant even in times of crisis.

The global COVID crisis impacted the standing and strengths of Jewish communities worldwide. Coping with economic changes profoundly affected the ability of many Jewish families to pay for their children's Jewish education. Community institutions, synagogues, and Jewish and Zionist organizations faced closing and the transition to virtual communication from in-person meetings, further undermining the survival of communities.

Incitement against Israel and antisemitism that had afflicted Diaspora Jews for many years spread to new-old regions during this period and is rapidly spreading across social networks. Conspiracy theories and attacks against Jews as those responsible for the COVID outbreak have been added to unprecedented media statements. Providing our young generation with a Jewish and Zionist education, youth movements, dealing with considerations of aliyah, synagogue prayers, and all community activities we were familiar with had to face the harsh reality seen here in Israel and in every country in the world.

Feeling a great responsibility, this last year I have accepted the assignment of the Zionist Congress to act as WZO chair. I have the privilege of leading the Zionist movement and continue the work of realizing the vision Herzl succeeded in rooting in the hearts of our people.

Regardless of the global pandemic and the many challenges ahead for the Zionist movement, we have increased our activities. We are all proud for standing at the forefront of productive Zionist work accomplished every day by the W.Z.O. This is achieved while adjusting to the needs and struggles of the time and with a true conviction in this path.

The power of the World Zionist Organization is evident in an endless number of fields.

Despite predictions, and with consistency and high-quality activities, we have seen an upsurge in the number of Jews interested in aliyah. Members of the Zionist Executive, department heads, and department teams work tirelessly and with a genuine sense of calling to build a new generation of leadership in the world, incorporate the Hebrew language as an integral component of Zionist-Jewish identity, encourage aliyah, and fight against antisemitism. This new spirit and calling of each and every one of us serves as the foundation for our ability to promote the unity and uniqueness of Israel.

In several months we will mark 125 years since holding the First Zionist Congress in Basel.

With hindsight of the past but facing ahead to the future, we are proud of the WZO's role among the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora. Our ability to combine and align diverse views, concepts, mindsets, means, and resources is the source of our strength and the best guarantee of our organization's success.

Dear members of the Zionist General Council, let me wish you a productive conference as you continue in this blessed work for the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

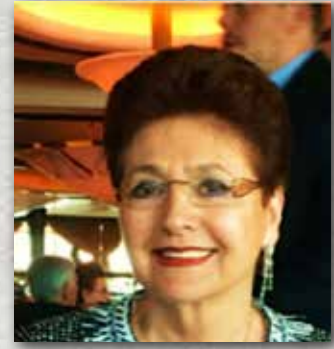
First, only one light is lit, and then another and another, and many more. The darkness is banished. From our youth, children of humble people, will the light emerge to bathe others that are also lovers of justice and truth, freedom, human progress, and beauty. And when the candles are lit, all will rejoice in the work accomplished. There is no greater role or a more joyous role as that of the shamash, servant of the light (from "Menorah", Binyamin Ze'ev Herzl, 1897)

Yours truly,

Yaakov Hagoel

Chairman of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization and Acting Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel

Message from the Chairwoman of the Zionist General Council - Ms. Helena Glaser



Dear friends,

It's been a year and here we arrive at the 38/2 session of the Zionist General Council. This session, as the previous one, is sadly conducted by virtual means (and we all hope this is the last online meeting, and that next year we will return to face-to-face meetings).

This last "year of COVID" did not prevent the WZO departments, some new and some ongoing, in their varied, significant, and vital activities, as will be presented in the following report.

When we were deciding on the central topics of this current session, we could not ignore the dismal reality of recent years, and the dramatic increase in antisemitic events around the world. It seems we have gone back in time, as Jews fear to travel in public with visible signs of their faith.

As chair of the Zionist General Council, a daughter of Holocaust survivors from the Auschwitz concentration camp and having attended the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Conference on Combating Antisemitism (April 2004, Berlin) headed by German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, I thought it was **the Zionist movement's duty to address this matter with all due seriousness.**

It is saddening and enraging that after 125 years of Zionist movement efforts, the threat of antisemitism remains so central and painful, and I wish we could move on to other issues...

However, as these are the current circumstances, it must be addressed.

That is why we chose to dedicate the **38/2 General Council (December 2021) session to discussing the "challenges of the Zionist movement in fighting antisemitism"**. This entire conference will focus on opening dialogue and supporting representatives of dozens of countries as they share the pain and difficulties, as well as debate and hopefully pass operational plans of action.

I am not naïve enough to believe the Zionist General Council can resolve the ongoing problem of antisemitism, a phenomenon we have known throughout the history of the Jewish people. But I have full faith, and call upon you, dear Council members, that throughout committee discussions you make clear and specific decisions that will help and even promote this struggle so critical to our existence and future.

It is important that we instill in the young generation the need to remain involved and committed to this struggle and inspire a pride that will allow them to walk with heads held high as the sons and daughters of the Jewish people!

Helena Glaser

Chairwoman of the Zionist General Council

Department for Israel and the Commemoration of the Holocaust Worldwide

Head of the Department: Tova Dorfman
Department Director: Sarit Handknopf

The Department for Israel & Holocaust Commemoration was established to strengthen Zionist-Jewish identity among Israelis and Jewish communities across the world.

The department aims to realize the Zionist vision by promoting Jewish Israeli education and nurture the spiritual values that allow Judaism and Zionism to endure, becoming an active part in the vital task of preserving and shaping the historical memory of the Holocaust and acts of heroism in Israel and abroad.

The department will promote the standing of the WZO as the global organization focused on fostering Israeli Jewish identity and shape the historical memory of the Holocaust and acts of valor in a way that ensures that the atrocities perpetrated on the Jews by the Nazis and their henchmen and the many acts of bravery of those that who opposed them will continue to be remembered in collective memory in Israel and everywhere.

The department will encourage initiatives that cultivate an exemplary society, helping strengthen civic society factors in Israel. Also, it will work to advance leadership and civic and community engagement, strengthen Israeli-Jewish identity, and incorporate special needs populations.

2022 Department Goals

- Hold events on Zionist issues and dates of historical significance
- Collaborate with government ministries on project operations, Zionist tours of national institutions and heritage sites in Jerusalem and across Israel
- Promote initiatives to strengthen the Zionist identity among adolescents and young people
- Encourage initiatives based on the “common good” principles of Israeli society.
- Advance initiatives aimed at Zionist values and social mobility
- Promote a sense of belonging to Israel and a love of homeland
- Assist in activities that commemorate the Holocaust and acts of valor in Israel and the world
- Become involved in public activities in the Knesset, government, and in the media that relate to the department agenda

Central Projects

Mishala

The Department joined in the initiative of the Education Administration for Residential Settlement Education and Youth Aliyah to increase awareness of gender equality and nonviolent relations of couples and the goal of eradicating violence against women. It included educational activities in schools and culminated in a socially oriented marathon to raise public awareness and educate about violence against women from an early age.

Activities were held in early May. Lessons, lectures, and school workshops were conducted with grade 10-12 students in rural districts/regional councils across Israel, using online platforms and in-person meetings.

Additionally, marathons were held in various locations of the country at the end of the program with teachers, students, and local residents participating, bringing citizens together for an educational-social activity.



One group - One People

The Department for Israel & Holocaust Commemoration, the Center for Jewish Impact, and the Maccabi Tel Aviv Basketball Club joined forces for the "One group - One People" project with the objective of strengthening Israeli and global dialogue to fight antisemitism and commemorate the Holocaust through sports.

This partly addresses the need to promote tolerance and inclusiveness in society while deepening the ties between Israel and Jewish communities in Europe. Through sports, and the presence of the Maccabi Tel Aviv Basketball Club in the EuroLeague games, we hope to make this a reality.

Events, meetings, and activities will be held as part of the Maccabi Tel Aviv Basketball Club games in various European cities. This will bring together local Jewish communities, the diplomatic community, municipal/government, and local media representatives, and include special visits to select and prominent Jewish heritage sites.

The project began with a meaningful event marking 85 years since the Berlin Olympic games. The second stage will include meetings in Europe.



Placing notes of Holocaust survivors in the Western Wall

Dozens of requests and prayers of Holocaust survivors living in Florida were transported by the Holocaust Heroes Worldwide organization to Israel in a special box and were inserted among the Western Wall stones. The entire event was broadcast live via ZOOM in an event of enormous emotional significance for the survivors watching from home..



Ten Days of Thanksgiving

The ten days between Holocaust Remembrance Day and Independence Day, a time in which we seek to introduce into the Hebrew calendar a new Israeli tradition of social introspection and thanksgiving. "Ten Days of Thanksgiving" is an initiative of the Beit Prat Midrasha graduates that this year partnered with the Department for Israel & Holocaust Commemoration.

Hoping to make the "Ten Days of Thanksgiving" an essential element of Israeli tradition, thanksgiving calendars were hung with an invitation to passersby to express their gratitude, letters of thanks were attached to parked cars, thanksgiving flags were raised, and videos and articles on the subject were disseminated to raise awareness.

The project was conducted with over sixty local municipalities, education and health institutions, elected officials, and other public organizations.



**Vice Chairman of the W.Z.O. and Head of the
Department of Education: Gael Grunewald**

Department Director: Rotem Yehoshua

The WZO Department of Education was established in February 2016 with the goal of promoting Jewish Zionist education in the Diaspora. It works to ensure the future and preserve the uniqueness of the Jewish people by advancing Jewish, Hebrew, and Zionist education by continuing educational efforts centered on the traditions and heritage of Israel, nurturing Jewish cultural values, and disseminating the Hebrew language as the national language.

Working towards this vision, the department sends dozens of teacher emissaries to various countries each year. These teachers work in Jewish primary schools in the Diaspora. Their training as educators, particularly the values and sense of calling they bring to schools, provides a unique contribution to schools that goes far beyond their purely professional roles as teachers of Hebrew and Jewish culture. These shlichim manage to bring a “fresh Israeliness” to schools, deepening pupil’s ties to their heritage and identity. In many cases, they become a dominant factor impacting school life and that of the community around them.

As of December 2021, there are 179 teacher emissaries in 24 countries. And the number continues to grow. The department conducts a selection process each year to screen and train candidates, continuing that training throughout their time abroad.

We are proud to say that there are more and more schools that contact us with requests for shlichim from Israel. This is the result of long-term efforts that have borne fruit, the outcome of persistence and painstaking work that has succeeded in reaching ever more new global locations, establish partnerships with factors outside the organization (Education Ministry, the Steinhardt Foundation, etc.), and develop unique emissary programs.

In the department’s new format formulated following the last Congress, we determined long-term goals to map all Jewish schools in the world, improving ties with dozens and even hundreds of schools (of all sizes) currently not assigned emissaries. This is aimed at reaching all teachers in the world of Jewish education, developing and clarifying core principles, and nurturing a unity and cohesion among Jewish educators around the world.

In 2021, our department was expanded and now includes 11 employees (4 in management, 2 in finance, administration, and logistics, and 5 education field professionals).

2022 Department Goals

- Establish the position of the WZO as the leading Zionist education organization in the Diaspora
- Reinforce Jewish identity and the connection to Israel among Jewish students everywhere
- Map and establish relations with all schools still outside our network
- Strengthen Jewish schools around the world, including those in remote locations, small schools, and marginalized schools, and assist their staff with new and enriched educational content
- Increase the number of teacher emissaries sent from Israel each year while expanding recruitment of teachers from new teacher populations (such as teachers before retirement, or partners/spouses of Israelis preparing for professional/academic relocation)
- Improve and streamline recruitment, selection, and training of emissaries, maintaining continuous contact with them throughout their term, and cultivate an elite teacher group
- Integrate and produce educational content/materials for teachers, and creating an accessible content platform open to all

Central Projects

Shlichim Training - July 2021

After a difficult year in which the majority of selection and preparation efforts were forced to stop between the third and fourth COVID outbreaks, in a very short period of time, we successfully sent a delegation this last summer with a record number of 89 new emissaries!!!

The department staff developed and produced an intense training program (including preliminary meetings via ZOOM) with leading lecturers and experts in the field. The program received great feedback. Miri Steigman, an emissary sent to the new Theodor Herzl School in Colombia, and an experienced teacher of the Israeli education system, summarized the training: *"I have completed dozens of continued training programs in the past and cannot remember a single experience that was so meaningful, relevant, and fascinating."*



LeDorot - "For Generations" - The first online international conference for teachers of Jewish education, Israel studies, and the Hebrew language - October 2021

"Thank you to all involved in producing this wonderful, enriching, diverse, and productive conference! Everything was conducted professionally and smoothly! Thank you for building a professional learning community across the globe and for the opportunity to become a part of it" Ronit Ron Yerushalmi, US

Over 300 emissaries from dozens of countries participated in this singular event organized by the Education Department and the Department of Hebrew and Culture. The conference included lectures from leading experts, varied practical workshops on subjects of Jewish and Hebrew studies, virtual tours, and an exciting masterclass with artist and singer Rona Kenan..

The Annual Conference of North America Shlichim, New Jersey, November 2021

After our "COVID year" recess, we met again in New Jersey, as we do annually, with shlichim from the US, Canada, and Mexico. This yearly meeting is a priceless opportunity to enrich our emissaries, but primarily strengthen the cohesion among colleagues (whose united strength is greater than the sum of its parts). In addition to keynote speakers and workshops, this event included time to share information and conduct group studies of updated content as we believe the involvement and contribution of teachers exchanging knowledge is crucial!

Following the conference, department staff and management conducted personal and in-depth contact with the schools in which emissaries are posted. This direct communication is important to clarifying the individual needs of each school and which emissaries are most suitable to meeting them, as well as the department's needs and requirements of schools.



Head of the Department: Marina Rozenberg-Koritny
Department Director: Alexander Goldenstein

In October 2015, the 37th Zionist Congress was held in Jerusalem.

One of its important resolutions was the establishment of the Department of Aliyah Promotion. The great immigration wave of the 1990s from the FSU was over, an aliyah of over one million olim, but our task is not yet done!

In the age of globalization, awareness among many Jews waned regarding the importance of *kibbutz galuyot* as the core concept of the Zionist movement. However, even among Jews around the world that do not see aliyah as the only option for fulfilling national, religious, cultural, or personal aspirations, all agree on the need to maintain spiritual ties with Israel. To that purpose, globalization has generated endless new avenues for communication as individuals, groups with common interests, and communities in the online space.

This is precisely the goal of the Department of Aliyah Promotion—creating, maintaining, and strengthening the bond with Jews of the Diaspora, relations that are critical in the decision to making aliyah.

As stated, a new age requires novel approaches, methods, and concepts. Simply, it requires creativity. This is the attitude of the department since its establishment and continues to be under the leadership of Marina Rozenberg-Koritny..

2022 Department Goals

- Continue preparatory classes for aliyah from Western Europe, North America, and Latin America, the department's flagship program that conducts over 300 classes each year
- Continue the "Golden Gola Global Leadership in Zionism Award" (awarded to female leaders that work to promote Zionist values and encourage aliyah from around the world)
- Open aliyah preparatory classes in new countries
- Open additional "Megamat Aliyah" classes in new countries
- Marking 100 years since the death of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda - the largest online Hebrew class in history with department ulpan students attending
- Aliyah preparatory classes conducted on local radio channels in North America
- Begin work of the "Geula for Israel" project in collaboration with dozens of Jewish communities worldwide

(*Geula – Female Leadership Building the Nation: An innovative long-term initiative for young Jewish girls aged 19-25 from around the world that have demonstrated leadership in the relevant fields. These women will be selected by a special committee and arrive in Israel to attend a leadership seminar. They will be accompanied by mentors that are experts in their fields, develop pioneering social programs, and return to their communities with the goal of strengthening ties and collaboration among female Jewish leadership in Israel and the Diaspora.)

Central Projects

“Megamat Aliyah”

The department conducts the “Megamat Aliyah” program in Argentina designed to recruit young people preparing for academic studies in Israel.

“Megamat Aliyah” is a pilot program for aliyah preparation that includes psychometric courses as well as Hebrew and Israeli society classes.

It culminates with students in Argentina completing their psychometric entrance exams to Israeli universities in Spanish. This addresses the need we have identified among young Jews in the Diaspora to study in Israel, but also their struggle to pass the prerequisite psychometric entrance exam. We aim to help overcome this obstacle and help young Jews make aliyah to Israel.

Conducting psychometric exams in the native language and native country of university candidates is one of our most effective tools to encourage and assist those making aliyah.



The “Olim in Hebrew” Grove

In collaboration with the KKL-JNF, the department offers ulpan students and graduates the opportunity to plant a tree in the Ruhama Forest in the Gaza Perimeter, a place hit hard by terror balloon attacks. The grove was named “Olim in Hebrew.” Each student that plants a tree receives a diploma and a pass to visit this forest and other locations in Israel.

Leveraging this project requires that partners subsidize the costs of the grove’s establishment and conduct additional special activities in the “Aliyah Forest,” installing facilities, and commemoration events, etc.

These steps aim to deepen the sense of belonging of students and graduates of aliyah preparatory classes to Israel, building bridges to the land of their ancestors, and increasing the likelihood that they will decide to settle permanently in Israel. Also, this project specifically addresses the areas around Gaza, connecting Hebrew students to current events in the country, providing a true sense of partnership with the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. The project launch was held in April 2021.



Local Municipalities Absorbing Aliyah

For the second time, in July of 2021, the Department of Aliyah Promotion, in collaboration with the FLAI (Federation of Local Authorities in Israel) and the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, presented the “Municipal Excellence in Aliyah” award. This is an initiative that



promotes the diverse activities local municipalities take to encourage aliyah by recognizing excellence throughout 2019-2020 in this important field. This award is given to municipalities that display significant and extraordinary efforts to promote aliyah. Recipients are selected by a committee comprised of representatives of the WZO, the FLAI, Ofek Israeli, and the Aliyah and Integration Ministry. Recipients then participate in national institutions activities throughout the following year. The winning municipalities: Ashkelon, Gush Etzion, Tiberius, Acre, Ramle, Beer Sheva, Arad, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv-Jaffa..

Head of the Department: Yifat Ovadia-Luski

Department Director: Nancy Saada

The WZO is dedicated to promoting the Hebrew language!

The Department of Hebrew and Culture was established in the last Congress to put Hebrew at the forefront of our efforts and intensify the relevance of Hebrew and Hebrew culture among Jews of Israel and the Diaspora.

The department includes a department head, director, Hebrew unit manager, department assistant, digital and social media coordinator, and office manager.

The Department's objectives are increasing the standing of Hebrew as a second language among Diaspora Jews and conducting diverse cultural events for Jews in Israel and abroad.

Our target audience are Israeli and Diaspora Jews of all ages, from early childhood and primary education, high school students and those preparing for their IDF enlistment, and senior citizens. We work in all regions of Israel and across the world in the digital space.

Activities are held in educational institutions and in Jewish communities in Israel and worldwide through a public-benefit nonprofit "Tarbut LelIsrael" (Culture for Israel). Also, many activities are conducted online or digital platforms..

2022 Department Goals

- Reinforce the importance of the Hebrew language among Diaspora Jews, and strengthen cultural and social identity essential to a sense of connection and belonging to Israel
- Make Israeli culture accessible in the Diaspora and Israel's periphery through cultural events and meetings with Israeli artists
- Create and establish collaborations with leading institutions in the field of Hebrew culture around the world
- Found an online pedagogical center that offers varied educational content for teachers and educators in the Diaspora
- Promote the teaching of Hebrew language and culture for Diaspora Jews of every age through formal and informal education frameworks
- Cultivate educational leadership in the Diaspora that disseminates these subjects among the young generation

Central Projects

The International Hebrew Exam: From now, it's even more useful to study Hebrew!

A department project in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University.

The program is designed for high school students in the Diaspora with the goal of encouraging their Hebrew studies and enriching their knowledge of Hebrew culture. It will include a designated website that keeps you current with program progress. The program will employ innovative technological tools to present study materials on Hebrew language and culture, Bible study materials, Hebrew literature, and other content. The program concludes with students taking the final exam that provides an exemption from a Hebrew preparatory course for academic studies in Israel and academic points for studies abroad..



Culture events in Israel:

Selichot tour in Hebron and the Cave of the Patriarchs

Hundreds of participants from all across the country arrived for a Selichot tour in Hebron and a ceremony held in the Cave of the Patriarchs. For many, this was their first visit to Hebron, an opportunity to learn about the history of the Jewish settlement and understand the significance of the City of the Patriarchs. The tour ended with participants assembling for a singalong of Selichot songs with Yaakov Hagoel, WZO Chairman and Acting Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

Bro, this is as Israeli as it gets!

The department initiated an entire month of Israeli culture prior to Independence Day and the national holidays, offering a range of content for every age group: Israeli movies, virtual tours, cooking classes, online lectures and meetings with culture figures, plays and story time for children, and more. This "Israeli Month" included a unique photography competition which was also an exceptional learning experience. Pupils from around the world submitted photographs reconstructing moments of historical significance from Israel's history.



Enlisting in Hebrew

The department developed a special Hebrew study program for young people from abroad interested in IDF service, teaching Hebrew while also exposing participants terminology relevant to military life and Israeli culture. It is accompanied with website specifically designed for the program, offering various activities, exercises, and videos. It has also proven to be an attractive option for Israeli yeshiva and Jewish education institutions attended by young people of the Diaspora as it helps new enlistees in the IDF and in their successful assimilation in Israeli society.



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Head of the Department: Sergio Edelstein

Department Director: Ariel Goldgewicht

The Department of Pioneering Youth and Future Generations seeks to express the values and actions that promote the Zionist movement through developing, fostering, training, and building young Jewish leadership in the Diaspora. The department's educational goals are accomplished through informal education frameworks, such as Zionist youth movements around the world and various student and aliyah programs all focused on the State of Israel and the Zionist ideals.

The department establishes partnerships with all youth movements, national institutions, Jewish communities and federations, and any other factor that believes in informal education to disseminate Zionist values.

2022 Department Goals

- Promote informal Zionist education in the Diaspora
- Develop, train, nurture, and build young Zionist Jewish leadership in the world that will ensure future Zionist endeavors in Israel and the world
- Bolster Zionist youth and young adult movements to reach every Jewish child, teenager, and young adult in the Diaspora and connect them to Israel and Zionist values
- Increase the operations of the department through international programs and extensive collaborations

Central Projects

The Annual World Zionist Conference on Informal Education

On Thursday, November 4th (29th of Cheshvan), we held the first international informal education conference in the Jerusalem Theatre. Over 700 adolescents and young adults from around the world attended the event, including Israel, North America, Latin America, Europe, Australia, and South Africa. It opened with greeting remarks from President Yitzhak Herzog and Yaakov Hagoel, WZO Chairman and Acting Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency. It included an opening performance by the successful international singer and new immigrant Nicole Raviv, a lecture by IDF chief education officer brigadier general (res.) Avner Paz Tzuk, panels with secretary-generals of the youth movements, and discussions about current-day Zionism. It concluded with a performance by international mentalist Lior Suchard.



The conference, titled “Building a Zionist Future Together,” was held in collaboration with the Jewish Agency, Keren Hayesod, the Department for Combating Antisemitism and for Promoting Diaspora Community Resilience, the Department of Hebrew Language and Culture, and the World Zionist Youth Movement Council. It aimed to give center stage to Zionist movements and to all Zionist organizations that work with youth and ensure the continued commitment of youth and community movements in the world to Zionism, Jewish identity, and the support of the State of Israel as the national home of all Jews everywhere. .



ZLA- Zionist Leadership Academy

Held with the help and cooperation of KKL-JNF, the academy is designed to cultivate and empower 50 selected leaders (aged 25-35) from around the world to provide an exclusive, enriching, and pioneering program. Lasting 10 months, the academy includes biweekly meetings on current events, philanthropy, communication, new media, management, leadership, Zionism, and Israel with experts in these fields. It concludes with regional conferences and a concluding conference, after which participating leaders return to their communities to continue their important Zionist work: <https://youtu.be/jh5xnj5cnzk>



Supporting research examining the role of Zionist youth movements in the Zionist educational process in the Diaspora

Conducting a comprehensive and in-depth assessment study of the educational potential of global Zionist youth movements designed to strengthen movement education as the central tool for future generations. For this purpose, we have established a unique professional committee with Prof. Sergio Della Pergola to work with movements, leaders, prominent community figures from around the world, and others.



WZO Department Reports

Department of Tikkun Olam, Social Activism and Preservation of Zionist Heritage

Head of the Department: Hagay Mayorek

Department Director: Dor Zvikelsky

Department of Tikkun Olam, Social Activism and Preservation of Zionist Heritage promotes values of Zionism, democracy, social equality, and social justice in the spirit of Herzl, advancing social entrepreneurship, reducing social gaps, helping ties between the center and periphery of Israel, and supporting tolerance in Israeli society.

We work with all groups in Israel with the profound belief that civic partnership is the foundation for Israel's existence and the fulfillment of the Zionist vision.

Also, the department oversees the Central Zionist Archives and Herzl Center. The archive is currently at a historical turning point as it completes extensive infrastructure renovations, installing climate controls, and establishing a visitor center that will make it the leading Zionist archive in Israel.

2022 Department Goals

- Continue to develop and sustain the success of multi-year department programs
- Expand tikun olam activities to Jewish communities in the Diaspora
- Increase the exposure of groups, organizations, and the general population to the Herzl Center
- Complete the Zionist archive renovation and opening of new visitor center

Central Projects

Mofet – A social entrepreneurship accelerator

Named for Timna Schwika Z"l, this unique social initiative attempts to fulfill Herzl's vision to establish an exemplary society, promoting social justice and tikun olam.

Social entrepreneurs were selected for their innovative ideas on how to combat social gaps, bring the periphery and center of Israel closer, and increase tolerance, equality, and democracy in Israeli society. In 2021 we opened the accelerator's fifth year, along with two pilot "Mofet: Tikum Olam" classes that expand the program to more Diaspora communities: Milan in Italy, and Buenos Aires in Argentina..



The LGBT Activities Unit

In 2021, we expanded our activities for LGBT olim by holding professional and social conferences along with a central LGBT convention broadcast on Chanel 14 dealing with Israel-Diaspora and LGBT relations.



Leaders in Local Government – Building a model society

A designated program for local government leaders dealing with the primary challenges of their responsibilities through a "midrash seminar." It provides an opportunity to cope with a range of professional, value-oriented, and leadership challenges by reviewing Zionist and other texts. Participants include mayors and deputies, CEOs, and professionals from local government. It is held in collaboration with the "Kolot" organization. Thus far, we have had three successful classes that culminated with an educational tour to understand all Jewish streams in North America.

The 3rd Annual Conference on Zionism and Democracy: Marking 25 Years since the Death of Yitzhak Rabin

The event was held during a particularly difficult period in Israeli society, a time of internal conflict and division. Cultural figures, singers, and Knesset members discussed what connects and what divides Israeli society.

The 3rd Zionism and Democracy Conference, held in November 2021, focused on the State budget, and included in-depth interviews with ministers, senior researchers, and social activists.



Rural Growth and Development Division

Head of the Department: Yishai Merling
Department Director: Nehemiah (Nemi) Towito

The Rural Growth and Development Division is the operational branch of the Israeli government for regional development in Israel's rural areas, continuing the Zionist vision by settling the land and strengthening the periphery. It does so in myriad ways, primary by establishing and helping new settlements and assisting existing settlements of the periphery. This is driven by the belief that the most formulative strategy lies in building for future generations.

Established in 1968 as the request of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol to help in the settlement of new areas freed in 1967, the Division goals have been updated to focus on the Israeli periphery, including the Galilee, Golan Heights, Negev, Judaea, and Samaria.

The Division operates in three districts (northern, central, and southern). Each employs professionals that implement our vision in the following fields:

- Establishment of localities/settlements
- Demographic growth
- Establishing and consolidating settlement
- Strengthening social and communal settlement ties
- Addressing settlement crises
- Providing economic aid to settlers
- National, regional, and local planning
- Infrastructure improvement
- Registration and management of real estate rights

2022 Division Goals

- Reinforce the Division's role specifically in our realm of activities and in the Israeli public sphere
- Improve social and communal relations of settlements in the various districts
- Expand absorption and demographic growth in Division districts
- Improve services for settlers and use of technological/digital means

Central Projects

Establishing the Trump Heights settlement

With the government decision to establish the settlement, the Division has worked with the Golan Regional Council to clear the land, conduct planning, establish the temporary camp, and assemble the first settlement garin assigned to arrive on site. The camp included transport of dozens of structures, renovations, laying of infrastructure, paving roads, building public infrastructure, and more. Concurrently, Division staff have provided solutions for veteran settlers, primarily much older olim who lived in the adjacent and established Kela Alon. Throughout the summer months, all residential units provided by the Division were occupied and the first garin began establishing its operations in the new settlement. >>



<https://www.israelhayom.co.il/article/868317>

"Meital" settlement on Mount Gilboa

The settlement was founded and new families placed in temporary neighborhoods. Meital is on lands under the jurisdiction of the Emek HaMaayanot Regional Council, close to the Malkishua rehabilitation village. The Division has collaborated with the Council, the Housing Ministry, and the KKL-JNF to build a temporary camp of 30 units. Also, we moved ahead with city building plan 270 for building permanent structures. The Division established the first garin, including secular and religious families. Throughout the recent year, Meital has made progress with founding permanent structures for long-term settlement <https://news.walla.co.il/item/3380087>

Expanding the Kedem Arava neighborhood

in the Megilot Regional Council. The settlement is located close to Kibbutz Beit Ha'arava. In recent years, the Division has been cooperating with the kibbutz to enable the establishment of an independent neighborhood for secular and religious families settling in Kedem Arava. Currently there are fifty families, and the community has an infant daycare and kindergarten. The temporary camp and public infrastructure were built by the Division and the Amana settlement movement. The Settlement Division worked to assemble the garin, as well as to found and develop the community association; it continues to conduct ongoing activities with the Megilot Regional Council. Kedem Arava is now the fastest growing settlement in the region. .



The establishment of the State of Israel for the Jewish people resolved the need for a true national homeland. Nevertheless, as a people we are always on a journey of addressing the fundamental issues at the core of Israel's identity and image. How may we strengthen Jewish identity and a sense of belonging to the Jewish people? In what ways can we foster belonging among our young generation? These questions dictate the vision and agenda of the Zionist Enterprises Department:

Ensuring the future and unique qualities of the Jewish people by promoting and supporting Jewish identity and the connection to Israel in the spirit of the Israel's Declaration of Independence and the Jerusalem Plan.

The Department also operates a unit for Humanistic Judaism, established following a resolution of the previous Congress. This unit provides a home and ongoing solutions for Jewish-Zionist needs of secular Jewish individuals and communities in Israel and abroad.

2022 Department Goals

- Strengthen Jewish-Zionist identity and the connection to the State of Israel among Israeli and Diaspora Jews
- Collaborate with the government of Israel and work to promote and operate Zionist projects in Israel and abroad
- Strengthen connections of secular Jewish communities to Israel and Zionism
- Establish a global network that ties secular Jewish individuals and communities to Israel and Zionism

Central Projects

An Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat in the Tel Aviv Port

As part of our collaboration with Beit Tefilah Israeli, the Department helped in holding a Shabbat prayer in the spirit of Israeli and humanistic Judaism in the Tel Aviv Port. This marked the month of Tishrei events with a live virtual broadcast to Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Over 20,000 people from around the world watched the shabbat and holiday event!

The Zionist Days

Throughout the global pandemic, the Department continued its work to disseminate to Jews everywhere high-quality, online productions in various languages to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of the Wars of Israel and Victims of Actions of Terrorism, and Independence Day. Despite shutdowns and restrictions of many Jewish communities to gather, everyone could thus watch from home and take part in the most important days to the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

The International Bible Quiz for Adults

The Department, in collaboration with the Education Ministry, held the Bible Quiz for Adults this year. Despite the global COVID pandemic, we developed online exams in several languages, allowing 800 people to submit their candidacy and apply. Even with COVID restrictions, the Department held regional finals in France, Argentina, and the US. The 20 finalists that reached the global level arrived in Israel on Hannukah for a celebratory event, with the prime minister and State president attending and the entire event broadcast live in Israel and worldwide via the "Kan 11" channel.

From the greeting remarks of Silvio Joskowicz, Head of the Department, to the quiz participants:

"Many ask themselves and others why the Bible should still be read and studied?

After all, the Bible was written thousands of years ago. It was written in historical, cultural, and religious contexts of a world far removed from current day.

It may seem outdated, but I believe that our world today would not have existed without our Bible heritage. This is as true for us living here in Israel and speaking the language of the Bible as it is for the entire world.

One can learn and speak the language of the Bible from anywhere in the world. This is because, hidden among the Bible pages, are the foundations of human behavior and the moral codes of our lives. The Bible is the "Book of Books" of the Jewish people, not of the Jewish religion! Every Jew, individually or in groups, may peruse and interpret the words of the Bible according to their worldview and beliefs. Not one of us, religious or secular, can ignore the messages, knowledge, and enormous wisdom rooted in each of its verses. All people, whatever they believe, can find their connection to the Book of Books!"

Argentina Finalist Quiz – (3 min. clip), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkImPPZbBLQ>

France Finalist International Quiz for Adults (2.5 min. clip) <https://youtu.be/LwbOFkVD3sM>



The Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora

Head of the Center: Roi Abecassis

Center Director: Ariel Chesner

The Center is responsible for the ties to the Orthodox communities in the Diaspora, strengthening their connection to the Jewish people and Israeli heritage, cultivating among them a Zionist Jewish identity and a link to the State of Israel, and specifically highlighting Israel's centrality in the lives of Diaspora Jewry. Also, the Center works to raise awareness of Zionist-Jewish issues among in general discourse and social media.

Key areas of responsibilities:

- Shlichut: long or short-term emissaries sent around the world
- Publications of educational Zionist materials for all communities centered on events of the Jewish calendar
- Shlichim conferences worldwide (such as the European Emissary Conference, the Latin America Emissary Conference, etc.)
- Special programs for target populations: Jewish students from the Diaspora attending Israeli yeshivot and schools, unaffiliated communities around the world...

2022 Center Goals

- Reach the 2000 students that participated in the "Flying the Flag" program (detailed below)
- Shlichim conferences (Latin America and Europe)
- Expand "Ben Ami-Yachdav" shlichim activities to new communities and destinations

Central Projects

Ben Ami

This year, we sent emissaries to two new destinations: Marseille and Santiago de Chile. Ben Ami and the Education Ministry sent shlichim, Yona and Dina Ashruf, to France. This same collaboration enabled sending Yaakov and Rivka Gordon to Chile.



The Flying the Flag Project

A joint initiative by the Center, the KKL-JNF, MASA, and World Mizrahi to provide the Diaspora Jews who come for a year's study in Israel in a yeshiva or midrasha with an authentic Israeli-Zionist experience with a choice between a day-trip or weekend.

Tishrei holidays in Argentina with "La Casa"

La Casa is a Zionist-religious activity center that works to connect Jews in the communities to the State of Israel and Israeli heritage. Activities are led by Ben Ami shlichim, David and Sarah Said. During the month of Tishrei events they held, there were:

- Over 150 people for Rosh Hashana prayers
- Over 450 people for Yom Kippur prayers
- Over 500 people in Sukkot meals and gatherings
- Over 300 people on each Shabbat



WZO Department Reports

Department of Diaspora Zionist Activities and French Speakers

Head of the Department: Adv. Nerya Meir

Department Director: Elidor Cohen

The Zionist Activities in the Diaspora Department works to strengthen ties to Israel among Jews of the Diaspora. It is also responsible for the relations with Diaspora communities, including Jewish Federations and Jewish institutions and organizations, recruiting them to Zionist activities and to Israel. The megapurpose of the department is to increase the number of Jews connected to Israel through programs, initiatives, and partnerships.

Our target audiences include Jewish Federations, Jewish institutions, student associations, and Jewish communities worldwide (specifically younger people).

Primary areas of activities: North America, South America, and Europe (particularly France), as well as remote communities.

2022 Department Goals

- Deepen ties to Israel among Jews from distant backgrounds
 - Young people – Operating the “Israel for the Public” program that addresses pupils and students in the Diaspora that do not attend Jewish schools
 - General public – Connecting communities and strengthening ties through content and Zionist events
- Develop leadership and placement programs that connect young Jews to community institutions working to promote Zionist values.
 - The Department will open an annual program that includes connecting young Diaspora Jews to Israeli high-tech, providing innovation and social entrepreneurship training and professional placement in local communities.
- Organize, accompany, and assist young Diaspora Jews preparing for IDF enlistment. Also, establish Machal garins (volunteers from abroad) from the US and France, providing young leadership development materials, and an in-depth understanding of Israeli society and the IDF.
- Develop Zionist content on new platforms. The Department will establish a platform for sharing Zionist educational materials for Jewish pupils and teachers, strengthening children’s sense of Zionist identity through a more comprehensive and innovative look into Israeli society.

Central Projects

Israelis initiating a connection to the Diaspora

Israeli high-tech is responsible for developing startups for projects that have made Israel's connection to the Diaspora possible. The program is run by the "Achima" nonprofit organization and the Department of Diaspora Zionist Activities.



The "Bridge to Israel" seminar for young Jews of France

The Department organized a weekend for French boys and girls in the city of Cannes in southern France in July, along with a French youth organization aimed at strengthening their Jewish and Zionist identity. The Department continues the project in France and during the Hanukkah holidays intends to hold a weekend in Nice for hundreds of young French Jews as they deepen ties to Israel.

The Jerusalem Project

The Department published a book in memory of Jacques Kupfer Z"l (appointed during the previous Congress to head the department and passed away several weeks later). This book establishes the very close and uncompromising ties between the Jewish people and Jerusalem. It was published in four languages (Hebrew, English, French, and Spanish). The launch of the French version was held on Jerusalem Day, with WZO chair, Yaakov Hagoel, in attendance, along with former mayor MK Nir Barkat, and a large audience.



Department of Organization and Connection with Israelis Abroad

**Head of the Department: Gusti Yehoshua
Braverman**

Department Director: Yaniv Nachmias

The Department was established recently following the 38th Congress as a combination of old and new, bringing together the Organization Department that operated until 2010 and a new field of interest: Israelis abroad.

This new department is responsible for supporting Zionist Federations around the world, holding the extraordinary Zionist Congresses of 2022 and scheduled ordinary Congress of 2025, maintaining ties with Israelis in the Diaspora (we are the first national body to set this goal), and operations of the Bialik Institute publishing house founded in 1935 by the W.Z.O.

The Department operates worldwide to support Zionist identity and the connection to the State of Israel by expanding Zionist Federation activities while developing diverse programs to strengthen Israeli communities scattered across the globe. This is accomplished by creating opportunities to learn Hebrew, understand Israeli culture, connect to Judaism as a way to ensure Jews abiding links to the Jewish people, and provide solutions for a range of challenges faced by Israeli communities in this age of multiple identities.

Along with activities in the Diaspora, the Department remains committed to further establishing the role of the Bialik Institute in and out of Israel. This is aimed to provide the economic stability that will enable future creative endeavors, making them accessible to as many publics as possible.

All Department programs are based on disseminating knowledge and encouraging respectful and open discourse that includes all political and religious points of view.

2022 Department Goals

- Empower the Zionist Federations – branding, strengthening, and supporting activities, deepening ties and partnerships, as well as organizing and overseeing Federation work with the WZO while determining standards for their activities subject to the WZO Constitution.
- Israelis abroad –
- Map and locate Israeli communities around the world
- Develop and disseminate content that ensures continued relations with the State of Israel and the Jewish people
- Establish a Knesset lobby for Israelis in the Diaspora
- Create meaningful experiences in Israel for Israelis that live abroad
- Hold the extraordinary Zionist Congress in coordination with the Chairman's office and subject to the WZO Constitution. Also, providing a momentous experience for participants that is up to date with 21st century reality in terms of content, relevancy, design, and technology.
- The Bialik Institute – strengthen its brand, ensuring economic stability and returning glory to this institution as a quality literary leader while expanding its activities.

Central Projects

Department activities with Israelis

A project initiated on Tu B'Shevat marked by the biggest holiday celebrations in the world and including a performance by Mayumana. The Tu B'Shevat celebration was broadcast to thousands of participants. Throughout the year, additional events were held for Diaspora Israelis, including a special elections broadcast, a broadcast supporting Israeli residents during Operation Guardian of the Walls, Rosh Hashana meals, and a special event "Our Hearts are still There" on Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of the Wars of Israel and Victims of Actions of Terrorism, dedicated for the first time to bereaved Israeli families living abroad.



The Zionist Federations

The Department maintains ongoing and meaningful contact with the Federations and holds regular meetings with Federation leadership to strengthen their impact in Jewish communities. During the year, events are held with the Federations, along with many different and varied activities. In early November, the first



European Federation Leadership conference was attended by thirteen European countries.

Culture activities

As part of our activities for Israelis held with the Zionist Federations around the world, the Department holds many culture events, including the "Zionist Quiz for Families" in Latin America, the "Singing Israel" event where participants wrote original songs about Israel, the "Tarbuttime" program which was a series of ZOOM meetings on Israeli music and TV, and more.



Department for Combating Antisemitism and for Promoting Diaspora Community Resilience

Head of the Department: Raheli Baratz-Rix
Department Director: Lior Elimelech

The Department for Combating Antisemitism and for Promoting Diaspora Community Resilience tracks and works to eradicate antisemitic events and to support Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Established in November 2020. The Department was staffed during 2021; it includes a Unity and Reconciliation Unit designed to improve and increase our internal relations.

Target audiences: Jewish organizations, Zionist Federations, Jewish institutions, student associations, Jewish communities worldwide, youth movements and organizations. Also, we work to raise awareness about antisemitism in Israel.

Primary areas of activities: Europe, North America, Latin America

2022 Department Goals

- Create close partnerships with Jewish communities everywhere
- Recruit Jewish youth and students to projects and training on community resilience and the combat against antisemitism
- Expand the CARE program (detailed in the following), strengthen ties, and develop community resilience programs in partnership with other factors
- Raise awareness on antisemitism among young Israelis and increase their involvement in eradicating this phenomenon

Central Projects

Study materials for Israeli high schools on antisemitism

Part of Department activities include informing Israeli youth on current antisemitic events. We created educational videos for Israeli pupils describing modern-day antisemitism, with various situations from around the world that demonstrate what antisemitism is and how it manifests everywhere in the world. The program has gained great esteem among secular State high school teachers and dissemination of this content will continue throughout 2022



CARE - Community resilience activities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b0U4NXxh34>

Production of an educational video to raise awareness regarding risks to individuals and the environment. It was produced in French, English, and another version had Spanish subtitles, and all were adapted to YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.



Kristallnacht - A study kit for youth movements abroad-

This focuses on Kristallnacht and the struggle against antisemitism. The Department stresses in the increase in antisemitic events. It was produced in Hebrew, English, German, and Spanish. <https://www.shardsofglass.org>

The song "Prayer: Yachad Nenazeach"

During Operation Guardian of the Walls, the Department worked with Israeli artists to create a remake of Ofra Haza's classic. Zahava Ben and additional artists performed the song, and the final verse was sung in Arabic. Artists of Israel's different sectors participated (Haredi, secular, religious Zionist, Druze, the IDF Chief Cantor, and influencers. The clip was well accepted and had over 7 million views.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTHi28zqc8A>



WZO Department Reports

Department for Periphery Advancement and Diaspora Involvement

Head of the Department: Yisroel Schwebel
Department Director: Nechemya Malinowitz

The Department was established this year with the aim of increasing the connection between Israel's geographic and social periphery to Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

Our staff promotes the cultural bond among the various sectors of the Jewish people. Our vision relies on solidarity, promoting education, and increasing settlement of Israel. As such, Jews of the Diaspora should be familiarized with the State of Israel, creating the bridges between every part of the Jewish people, exposing the blessed work of the WZO to new populations.

The Department objectives include enabling Diaspora teens and new olim arriving in Israel to learn about Israeli culture, creating a social atmosphere that connects them to the State of Israel, and an opportunity to be a part of the Israeli social fabric.

2022 Department Goals

- Strengthen mutual solidarity
- Expose new populations to WZO activities.
- Connect and deepen the ties between Diaspora Jewry and Israel
- Bring Israeli and Diaspora communities closer

Central Projects

My dad's a Tzabar

The project aims to assist new olim cope with the social struggles of acclimatizing to their community in Israel, dealing with family and education issues. It includes a parent workshop that is a series of meetings with education experts, couple/family counselors, and therapists. These include lectures and classes, open dialogues with questions for discussion addressed by speakers and participants as they share and exchange experiences.

Additionally, the workshop held a weekend getaway for all participants to bond, spend time together socially, and enjoy the sense of involvement and belonging to the community..



Go Galil

A project centered on trips and treks for teens on their study year in Israel to provide learning opportunities about all areas of Israel, increase Zionist ties to all these areas to Jews returning to the Diaspora, develop the sense of solidarity between all Jewish people, and connect new populations to the WZO.

We held outdoor activities with students studying about the Land of Israel and historical sites, completing an Israeli knowledge quiz, touring the ancient site of Peki'in, and getting to know the village populated by four different religions. Also, unmediated events were held with specific populations at regular times (such as meals).



Olot Laregel (Women's Pilgrimage): Women's Zionist Hallel prayers and celebrations in Jerusalem

Goal: Connecting young women from the Diaspora to the Israeli holiday atmosphere.

Target audience: Female Diaspora students studying in Israel during the holiday.

Objectives: Exposing new populations to WZO activities, familiarizing them with Israeli culture and values, creating a Zionist and inclusive atmosphere for young women that may make aliyah with more veteran olim

- A joint celebratory prayer event for women
- Artistic programs that combine Israeli culture themes and topics
- Recording an original song of two languages (Hebrew and English) that focuses on the Israeli experience
- A high-quality musical performance of unique content on Zionist values and love of the land
- A singalong





מושב הוועד הפועל הציוני ה"ח/2
The Zionist General Council Session XXXVIII/2



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