

# 2020-2021: WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## WHO ARE WE?

Ameinu, Hebrew for "Our People," is a national, multi-generational community of progressive Jews in North America. Recognizing the unbreakable bond between the Jewish people and Israel, as well as the commitment to make our own society better, we mobilize those Jews who seek opportunities to foster social and economic justice both in Israel and in North America.

As Zionists, we understand that a secure peace between Israel and its neighbors is essential to the survival of a democratic Jewish state. With this in mind, we build support within the North American Jewish community for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Here is a short report about our most recent activities and programs, for more, please follow us on social media or visit our website: [www.ameinu.net](http://www.ameinu.net).

## 2020 WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS - HATIKVAH SLATE

Before 2020 even began, we worked with our partners in the U.S. progressive Israel community to construct the Hatikvah Slate. The Slate ran in the 2020 World Zionist Congress elections. From January to March we mobilized thousands of people to vote for our vision of peace and justice, while facing attempts by right wing forces to have our delegation disqualified from the Congress on bogus grounds. Their case was denied and we sent 30 delegates and alternates to the virtual Congress held in October. We formed a left-center coalition to block a power grab by the right-religious bloc of organizations, ensuring a balance in governance within international Zionist bodies. The coalition includes members of our slate who were selected for various positions in the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency; including Nomi-Colton Max, Ameinu's Vice President, Leah Schwartz, the outgoing mazkira (National Director) of Habonim Dror North America, Shaina Wasserman of J Street and Ameinu's president Kenneth Bob.



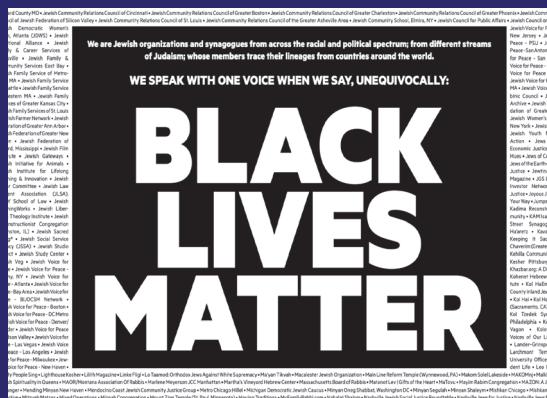
## CONNECT IL - YOUNG ISRAELI LIBERALS

Back in February of 2020, pre-pandemic, our initiative to develop a community of young Israelis in the United States, Connect IL, organized a well-attended conference held at the Marlene Meyerson JCC in Manhattan. The conference featured Yossi Beilin, former Israeli Justice Minister, Israeli journalists and others. Soon after that event, programming moved online with a regular lineup of Israeli activists, journalists and politicians meeting with Connect IL members. Most recently, Connect IL held a program to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, featuring a moving conversation with his son, Yuval Rabin. Looking forward, a very interesting dialogue has been launched between Connect IL activists and UAE based students and young professionals.



# FIGHTING HATE

We are always prepared to respond to events as they occur. Last year, after some hateful racist statements were posted by figures representing organizations in the Jewish community, Ameinu called upon other CoP members to sign a letter of condemnation. Ultimately we recruited sixteen additional member organizations, including the Reform and Conservative movements, the National Council of Jewish Women and Na'amat. And while they didn't sign our letter, both ADL and the JCPA put out their own statements criticizing this kind of rhetoric. The great coverage we received in the *Forward* highlighting our work generated additional support within the Jewish community.



# DEFENDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FIGHTING BDS

In the campus domain, our Third Narrative initiative has been involved in a nuanced effort of their own. The Alliance for Academic Freedom (AAF), a group of over 200 liberal and progressive academics, issued a statement about a case of a Jewish USC student body vice president who was pushed out of office due to her pro-Israel identification. The Jewish Journal of Los Angeles covered the statement, and we've heard from faculty members that the statement has worked its way around campus, cited as exemplifying a thoughtful approach to the issue. AAF does this type of work month in and month out as situations arise.



# WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

In the recent couple of years, Ameinu has been taking a leading role in the creation of J-Link, which is an international network of progressive Jewish organizations from Israel, the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, South Africa, and Australia.

J-Link's member organizations share a love of Israel and a commitment to democracy, human rights, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Please visit J-Link website for more information: [www.jlinknetwork.org](http://www.jlinknetwork.org)

Through J-link, we have taken a leading role in a few initiatives. As part of an international effort to fight annexation, we helped organize delegations to every Israeli consulate in the US to express our views to Israeli diplomats. We also organized and facilitated webinars with key Israeli and Arab figures to discuss the upcoming Palestinian elections, the idea of a Jewish-Arab party in Israel and much more...

# COMING THIS SPRING - AMEINU'S 2021 VIRTUAL ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

This spring, we're inviting you to join us in our study tour to Israel - Virtually!

We are currently working with our friends and partners in Israel to create an exciting program that would include a unique, interactive look at Israeli society and politics. We will meet social activists, artists, politicians and scholars! The tour will include four meetings, over four Sundays this spring: April 25, May 2, May 23, June 6, along with a mid-week event on May 12. Stay tuned for updates, but for now - mark your calendars! More info: <https://www.ameinucanada.org/israel-tour>