



## World Zionist Organization Activity Report Update for 11 March 2024 – 1 April 2024

- ❖ **Heschel Conference on Israel Diaspora Relations**– The second annual Heschel Conference on Jewish Peoplehood and Israel-Diaspora Relations convened in the new home of the Israel National Library with the event focusing this year on Jewish Peoplehood in Times of War, due to the current situation. This highly successful conference attracted over 550 participants, offering a program comprising a dozen different workshops on Jewish Peoplehood, Zionism, and Israel-Diaspora Relations. The forum sessions included a deeply moving key address by Rachel Goldberg-Polin, mother of hostage Hersh Goldberg.



- ❖ **“Heschel’s Passover Eve” Play on Tour in the USA** – Over the past month, there have been a number of performances of “Heschel’s Passover Eve” at different locations in the USA. The show is a production by the Office of the Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman of the World Zionist Organization in conjunction with the Artzi Theater – The Israel National Children & Youth Theater (“Youtheater.”)

- ❖ **Training Seminars** – Full-day training seminars were conducted for the Tzahali-Yahav and Ofakim Science Pre-Military Academies at the Mount Herzl Education Center. The program included lectures, a guided tour of the Herzl Museum, Jewish Peoplehood workshops and an encounter with an olah chadashah - a female new immigrant.



- ❖ **JCC-Manhattan Women’s Group Solidarity Mission** – The mission was welcomed at the National Institutions building. This group enjoyed a tour of the building and an encounter with its history and the Zionist movement today. The visit provided a break from the intensive pace of volunteering and fact-finding tours of the conflict border region.





❖ **“Em Haderekh” (“Crossroads”) Women’s Group Visit** - The Tavor Zionist Leadership Institute’s ‘Leadership and Zionist Identity Program for Women’ also visited the National Institutions building. The group participated in a lecture on the subject of Zionism and Jewish Peoplehood, enjoyed a guided tour of the building and gained fascinating insights into the history of the Zionist movement.

❖ **The State of Israel and Diaspora Jewry – A Shared Story** – Programs in preparation for Diaspora Jewry Week included a symposium for shlichim (emissaries) who have returned from service in the Diaspora over the past five years. The event focused on their own stories together with Diaspora Jewry, via the participants’ personal experiences during his / her period of shlichut (service overseas.) The group also enjoyed a tour of the new Israel National Library with the Archive Director and engaged in a riveting discussion with historian and podcaster Yuval Malchi about how to present one’s own story in a meaningful way.



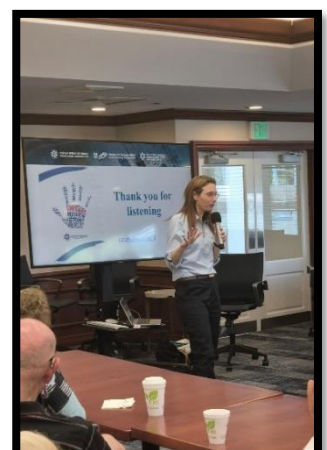
❖ **Settlement Division** – The Division is currently working closely with 55 communities from the Gaza border region evacuated from their homes, via 50 specialized therapists who are providing in-depth, support and building community resilience processes for communities in crisis.

❖ The Division is also providing temporary housing for evacuated communities from the Gaza border region. The Kfar Aza community, currently hosted at Kibbutz Shefayim, has now relocated to the new neighborhood constructed by the Settlement Division. On Kibbutz Mishmar Ha’emek, a new neighborhood is under construction for evacuees from Kfar Aza. In recent weeks, the first consignment of mobile homes arrived on site for the neighborhood, following the completion of work on the underlying infrastructure.





- ❖ **Diplomacy Program Activities Towards Combating Antisemitism** – The Head of the Department for Combating Antisemitism and Enhancing Resilience participated at several conferences focusing on combating Antisemitism, in conjunction with the World Zionist Organization’s activities and programs in this sphere of engagement.
  - Encounter with hundreds of Maccabi movement members – The Head of Department participated in the Shabbat movement retreat at the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Miami.
  - Lecture at the Jewish community in Wilton Manors, FL. – This offered an opportunity to present the community with an update and overview of the status of Antisemitism since October 7, including videos covering incidents reported for 2023, followed by a lively dialogue with members of the community.
  - JLI Leadership Conference ‘Forum Shaping the Future of Our Judaism’ – During the conference, the Head of Department moderated a panel on combating Antisemitism, together with former US ambassadors to the European Union, Denmark, the Netherlands, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates. The panelists were requested to present their respective viewpoints on Israel, international diplomacy and Antisemitism. Their discussion also addressed the prevalence of Antisemitism on university and college campuses in the USA, the involvement of Arab states with the pro-Palestinian segment on campus, the calls to boycott Israeli and American products since October 7, and diplomatic activity to resolve the release of the hostages.
  - Panel on Antisemitism, Khan Theater, Jerusalem – The Head of Department took part in a panel debate at the Khan Theater in Jerusalem after the performance of Dreyfus, a play addressing the Jewish community’s involvement in the saga, which reflected on whether history could be repeated today.
  - ‘Never Again Is Now’ Conference, New York, USA – Participation at the annual ADL conference.
  - Ynet Opinion Column – This appeared following British director Jonathan Glazer’s Oscar acceptance speech (for his film The Zone of Interest), where he claimed that “The Holocaust was hijacked by an occupation...” [He won the Oscar for his Holocaust film, but the Holocaust his people experienced on \(ynetnews.com\)](https://www.ynetnews.com)





❖ **150 Days in Hell** – A representative of the Department for Combating Antisemitism and Enhancing Resilience participated at a rally in support of the hostages, held opposite the office of the CEO of UN Women in New York, as part of International Women’s Day activities to spotlight to the world the fact that 19 women and girls have been and are still being held hostage by Hamas, since their abduction on October 7.

❖ **Activity Programs in Latin America**

- Diplomacy activities were conducted at the Argentinian Congress for senators and senior politicians with a panel of guests from Israel, comprising survivors of the Nova Music Festival, IDF officers and other speakers.



- Aliyah promotion events were held in a number of cities in Argentina, featuring, Israel Channel 13 TV News anchor, Daniel Moljo, who came on Aliyah from Argentina some 40 years ago.



- New World Zionist Organization Hebrew language ulpanim have opened in several cities in Argentina, including one at the flagship Martin Buber School in Buenos Aires.



- The “Café Ivrit” project has been launched in São Paolo and Rio de Janeiro. This initiative enables Aliyah candidates studying Hebrew at World Zionist Organization Aliyah preparatory classes to practice their spoken Hebrew at sessions with their peer groups.





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### ❖ Activity Programs in Europe

- The annual in-service training seminar for Hebrew language teachers at World Zionist Organization Hebrew language ulpanim in France was led by Professor Fabio Redak, the program's pedagogic consultant from the Rothberg International School, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The three-day program in Paris provided frontal instruction for 35 teachers.
- Enrichment programs were held on the topics of Purim, Spring and Jewish festivals at Ysbrunch and Ysclub Ivrit clubs in France.
- London's first Aliyah Fair in five years was a successful event, with guest participation by the Minister for Aliyah and Integration, the Israel Ambassador to the UK, and the Deputy Director of Aliyah and Absorption Unit at the Jewish Agency for Israel. Those who attended the Fair also visited World Zionist Organization Hebrew language ulpanim.



### ❖ Activity Programs in North America

- The Kings Bay Y Community Center hosted Purim activities organized by the World Zionist Organization Aliyah Promotion Department in the USA, in conjunction with the NCSY organization. The program included a hamantaschen baking session, games for children, an educational program for teenagers and adults, as well as a session where participants packed, decorated and distributed mishloach manot.

### ❖ B'nai B'rith International Activity Programs

- A B'nai B'rith International leadership delegation met in Geneva with dozens of ambassadors and diplomats working with the UN Human Rights Commission, at which they appealed to the representatives for recognition of Israel's right to self-defense and the immediate and unconditional release of the Israeli hostages, who have now been held captive by Hamas in the Gaza Strip for almost half a year. They also presented videos statements from Aviva Siegel, a freed Israeli hostage, whose husband Keith remains in captivity, and Ofri Bibas, whose close relatives are all still being held hostage.
- B'nai B'rith has organized a number of events focusing on sexual and gender-based violence by Hamas on October 7. These include a debate at the European Parliament led by specialist Orit Sulitzeanu, Executive Director of ARCCI (Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel) and Dr. Yifat Bitton, founding Chair of Tmura, the Israel Antidiscrimination Legal Center.





- ❖ **Conference of Heads of Israeli Communities in Europe** – The conference, which took place in Barcelona, Spain, was attended by approximately 80 leaders of communities and organizations from 17 countries and is the product of a partnership between the World Zionist Organization, Mosaic and the Israel Ministry for Diaspora Affairs. This is the second year running that the conference has been held. The goal of the conference was to create a peer encounter that would facilitate the development of a cross-European coalition and a framework capable of providing responses to the needs of their respective communities via regular, virtual meetings. The program included delivery of hands-on community leadership tools and a focus session where they processed these communities' internal situations since October 7. Keynote features included panel symposia and a lecture moderated by Israel Channel 12 TV's Europe correspondent, Elad Simhayoff, who spoke with the Head of the World Zionist Organization Department for Irgoon and Connections with Israelis abroad, Ms. Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, and the Deputy Director of the Israel Ministry for Diaspora Affairs, Mr. Yom Tov Raanan. A special Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat service was also held and two post-October 7 research studies were presented on the urgent needs of communities and their general ambiance. These encounters were followed by round table sessions, allowing participants to engage on issues currently impacting on the future of their communities in the wake of October 7. The program finale included a musical program with Michal Gringlik, sister of Captain Shaul Gringlik ז"ל, who auditioned successfully for Israel's "Rising Star" reality TV program, before he fell in battle in the Gaza Strip.



- ❖ **Discussion in the Knesset Committee on Aliyah, Integration and the Diaspora** – A discussion was held on the findings of the survey among Israelis living in the Diaspora following October 7 conducted by the World Zionist Organization's Department for Irgoon and Connections with Israelis Abroad, together with a presentation of recommended directions for action that emerged from in-depth discussions with leading members of Israeli communities in North America, Europe and the UK. The Head of Department was interviewed on this issue by the Israel Knesset TV channel prior to the Committee session.





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❖ **The “Nitzan” Foundation** – The Foundation is a ‘circular’ philanthropic fund for investment in ‘Seed’ opportunities to promote gender equality in Israel. The community comprises donors who make a decision each year about which gender equality promotion projects to support. This year, the Foundation has chosen to focus on therapy and rehabilitation, in the wake of the gender-based crimes that took place on October 7.



❖ **Appeal for Conservationists** – There exists a complete dearth of paper conservationists in Israel, with this need being felt acutely throughout the world of Israeli archives. For the first time, a national call has been issued for candidates to apply for a placement on a dedicated paper conservation course in Britain. This is a three-year program, during which the successful candidate will be the recipient of a full academic scholarship and living allowance, in return for which he or she will commit to work at the Central Zionist Archive following completion of his or her studies.



❖ **Tzahay (Sun) Program** – This is a public leadership program targeting women from the Ethiopian Jewish community. It is steered by Israela Baruch, who graduated with distinction from the Mofet Program, a social accelerator project of the Department for Social Activism and Tikkun Olam.

❖ **Visit to South America** – The Head of Department for Israel and Holocaust Commemoration and the Head of Department for Social Activism and Tikkun Olam made a recent visit to Latin America, with a view to strengthening connections with the Jewish community in Buenos Aires, linking World Zionist Organization activity to ongoing community programs, and building partnerships for the future. The highlight of the visit was a major community conference in Argentina on the theme of “Israel after October 7”, which was attended by approximately 220 members of the Buenos Aires Jewish community.



❖ **Visit by Male and Female IDF Education Corps Soldiers to the National Institutions Building** – The Head of Department for Social Activism and Tikkun Olam conversed with the group from the IDF Education Corps during their tour of the National Institutions building and its fascinating history. On the famous balcony, each soldier received a badge embroidered with the Israeli flag and the slogan “Not Weary Wayfarers but Trailblazers,” which has served as the motto of Kibbutz Nir Oz since its foundation. Similar badges have already been awarded to over 1,000 soldiers around Israel who are wearing them and echoing this message of hope and pride.





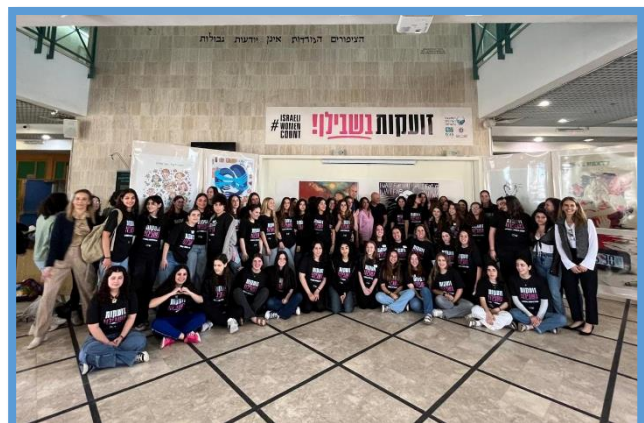
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❖ **Scholarship Award Ceremony for Druze Students Mobilized Under Emergency Orders** – The Zionist Council in Israel, together with the Kerem El Pre-military Academy, held an impressive, special ceremony at Bet Yad Labanim

(Commemoration Hall) to the Druze Fallen in Daliyat al-Karmel, at which 25 scholarships were awarded to student members of the Druze community who were called up under emergency orders. The event was dedicated to the memory of members of the Druze community who fell in action in defense of their country. The ceremony was honored by the attendance of members of the families of the fallen, together with Sheikh Moafaq Tarif, Qadi (spiritual leader) of the Druze community, Mr. Yaakov Hagoel, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, Mr. Gil Segal, Vice-Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, Adv. Oz Haim, Director General of the Zionist Council in Israel, and Dr. Ramzi Halabi, Chairman of Bet Yad Labanim to the Druze Fallen.



❖ **"Cry out for them"** – The Zionist Council in Israel initiated the powerful project "Cry out for them", (#Israeli\_women\_count"). The program for female students in years K11-K12 involves a parallel learning and creative process, with the production of an original document in the form of an appeal to the entire world, conveying the teenagers' protest call against the indifference and silence on the part of the world in face of the acts of sexual violence perpetrated on the black Shabbat of October 7. The girls composed a "Girls' letter," calling upon other teenage girls around the world to join their action and canvass organizations around the world to address the sexual atrocities that occurred on October 7. The appeal includes a short video film produced by the teenagers, urging others to join the digital campaign, and it will be disseminated to embassies and organizations worldwide.







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- ❖ **Purim Happening for Evacuees** – The Zionist Council in Israel organized a unique Purim happening for evacuees from Israel’s northern moshavim living as guests of Kibbutz Ein Harod. The event was extremely successful, with fun activities for children and fantastic inflatables as well as a wonderful spread of food and drink.
- ❖ **Purim at the Herzl Center** – The Herzl Center continued its annual tradition of opening its gates to the general public on Purim, inviting visitors to come in fancy dress and enjoy a free tour of the Herzl Museum.
- ❖ **The Herzl Center** – Over 90 National Service volunteers from the Kibbutz Movement experienced a full day of intense activities, focusing on leadership, Zionism and the vision for the future.



- ❖ **Good Deeds Week at the Herzl Center** – Staff at the Herzl Center distributed cards written to soldiers by children at the Center, with an added snack bar and some warm clothing for the cold nights.

