

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Israeli and Palestinian talk about their hopes for reconciliation at Nottingham 'Invest in Peace' event

5 JULY 2018
22 TAMUZ 5778

Shabbat times:

LONDON 9.00pm/10.30pm
MANCHESTER 9.20pm/10.58pm
LEEDS 9.19pm/10.58pm
GLASGOW 9.45pm/11.38pm



FOLLOW US



FORWARD TO
A FRIEND >

CONTACT US

More than 100 people at the Methodist Church Conference this week heard two peace activists – one Israeli and one Palestinian – speak about their hopes for reconciliation.

Sana Knaneh, a Palestinian citizen of Israel and Sivan Atzmon, an Israeli Jew, were speaking at 'Invest in Peace', a joint initiative between the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, which invites Christians and Jews to support Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding.

At the Methodist Conference fringe event at Nottingham University, which was chaired by Sharon Booth of Solutions Not Sides, Sana explained: "With the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in tatters, now is a critical time for British Jews and Christians to raise their voices, and make

1 Torriano Mews
London
NW5 2RZ

+44 20 7543 5400
info@bod.org.uk
www.bod.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1058107

sure that the UK Government plays its part in pushing for meaningful negotiations. We have been at war for more than 70 years, it's time to find a solution.”

Sivan said: “It is the people who are urgently looking for change, both Palestinians and Israelis. These are the people for whom we are here today. We have a lot to gain and way too much to lose.”

Board of Deputies Vice-President Edwin Shuker said: “We often find faith communities at loggerheads on the Middle East and taking stances which cause division. This is particularly true for Methodist and Jewish communities, and so it was really refreshing and encouraging that such a large audience from Methodist Conference turned out to support this Invest in Peace event. This is interfaith work at its most meaningful, tackling difficult issues positively and head on.”

The Revd Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland said: “Telling our stories together is important to building peace and reconciliation amidst deep division. Jews and Christians urgently need to hear these stories from people in Israel and Palestine. We must not let the conflict there become merely our ‘righteous cause’, instead it must urge us to respond to the real pain, fear and suffering that is experienced all those caught up in the conflict.”

The event at Methodist Conference was supported by Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich of Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, and Revd Bruce Thompson, of Methodist Friends of Judaism. It was organised by Board of Deputies Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff.

Board of Deputies and JLC react to Labour’s antisemitism code of conduct

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl and Jewish Leadership Council Chair Jonathan Goldstein have responded to Labour’s newly approved code of conduct on antisemitism.

They said: “It is for Jews to determine for themselves what antisemitism is. The UK Jewish community has adopted in full the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism, as have the British Government, Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, 124 local authorities across the country and numerous governments around the world. It is impossible to understand why Labour refuses to align itself with this universal definition. Its actions only dilute the definition and further erode the existing lack of confidence that British Jews have in their sincerity

Jewish residents urged to make their voices heard at Inner North London Coroner consultation

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has urged Jewish residents in North London to make their voices heard at the Inner North London Coroner consultation on case prioritisation to be held at Camden Town Hall tonight at 6pm.

She said: “It is critical that as many Jewish residents turn out as possible – not just those who live in the affected boroughs of Camden, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets, but anyone who could use a hospital, such as the Royal Free, in that area.”

You can find out more about the Jewish community’s priorities on the issue [here](#).

to tackle antisemitism within the Labour movement.”

Board of Deputies Activity

EDUCATION

President Marie van der Zyl says she is "deeply alarmed" over increasing hostility between Ofsted and the Charedi community. She has written an opinion piece on the subject in the Jewish News which you can read [here](#).

In her new role as Development Officer, **Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb** attended the executive meeting of the National Association of SACREs, (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), which supports the work of all SACREs in England and Wales. The meeting discussed a three year strategy to enhance the effectiveness of SACREs and the support for RE teachers.

CAMPUS

President Marie van der Zyl, Vice President Amanda Bowman, Director of Public Affairs Phil Rosenberg and **Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met UJS President Hannah Rose. They were joined by outgoing UJS President Josh Holt.

Marie Van Der Zyl, Vice President Amanda Bowman and Joel Salmon met Hannah Rose (incoming President) and Josh Holt (outgoing President) of the Union of Jewish Students to review activities over the last year and to look forward to how the two organisations will work together over the next year. A series of priorities were agreed.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS

Amanda Bowman represented the Board of Deputies at the Milah UK Stakeholder Meeting that brought together representatives from the Board of Deputies, The Federation of Synagogues, the S&P Sephardi Community, the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations and the United Synagogue. The meeting discussed a range of issues to ensure that Milah UK's work continues to protect the right of the Jewish community to practice religious circumcision. **Daniel Elton** and **Phil Rosenberg** also attended.

INTERNATIONAL

International Relations Officer Marius Bischoff met Brazilian diplomat João Eduardo Gomide de Paula to discuss future collaboration between the Board of Deputies and the Embassy of Brazil.

Marius Bischoff met Serbian diplomat Veljko Jelenković, third Secretary at the Embassy of Serbia, to introduce the work of the Board of Deputies.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

This year, the Board of Deputies President's Dinner will take place on Monday November 5. For more information or to host a table, contact **Office Administrator Tilla Crowne** on 020 7543 5425.or email dinner2018@bod.org.uk.

POLITICAL

Phil Rosenberg, and **Government Affairs Officer Daniel Elton** met Hilary Benn, Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee for Exiting the EU, to talk about how Brexit will affect the Jewish community, particularly on security, trade and immigration, and antisemitism in the Labour Party. The meeting was held with the JLC's Director of Policy and Public Affairs Claudia Mendoza and Regional Manager Miki Vyse. You can read the joint Board-JLC document [Brexit and The Jewish Community](#) [here](#).

Joel Salmon attended a Child Poverty Action Group seminar on the Universal Credit 'Two Child Policy'.

COMMUNITY

Chief Executive Gillian Merron was the keynote speaker at Liberal Judaism's Biennial. She was in conversation with Rabbi Charley Baginsky.

INTERFAITH

Marie van der Zyl and **Interfaith and Social Action Officer Anthony Silkoff** attended the Inter Faith Network national meeting, where Marie gave a presentation about the Board of Deputies' work with Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities.

Copyright © 2016 Board of Deputies of British Jews, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you subscribed on our website, or because you are a deputy or designated under-35 observer of the Board of Deputies. If you would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [click here](#).