

# Reunification of General Zionism

## KOL ISRAEL - A YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2022

2022 was a pivotal year, with the reunification of the General Zionists underneath the banner of Kol Israel.

This historic merger between the World Confederation of United Zionists (CUZ) and Tnuat Hamerkaz Haliberalit Hanoar Hatzioni (TH4) allowed for the realignment of the General Zionist Party to advocate and execute on its shared vision for the Zionist Movement.

With the heritage of being pragmatic Zionists, the General Zionist party has put its focus on 3 core areas -

1. Strengthening the bridge between Jewish communities around the world and Israel through clear, direct programming and engagement.
2. Investing in the Zionist youth movements, including FZY in the UK, Hanoar Hatzioni and Hejalutz Lamerjav in Latin America and Tzofim Olami and Young Judaea in North America.
3. Restoring innovation as a driving force to energize the Zionist Movement.

## General Zionism - A Year of Coming Together

### Havat Hanoar Hatzioni Conference (February 2022)

### Tel Yitzhak Conference (October 2022)



Following intense discussions by the leaders of CUZ and TH4 and a preliminary conference in late 2021, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the leading teams of the factions met in Havat Hanoar Hatzioni in Jerusalem. Following a tour of the village and being exposed to the amazing educational work being done in it, the leaders signed an MoU which formally created Kol Israel – General Zionists. After the signing ceremony, the team split into 3 working committees and started discussing ways for us to expand our presence and further the General Zionist cause. On this historic day, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 14 Adar A 5872, Kol Israel - the General Zionist Faction was founded.

After more than half a year of working together, our joint strategic team gathered again, this time in Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak, which was founded by members of Hanoar Hatzioni. We started the conference with a tour of Masua, an interactive museum focused on Holocaust education (in place of commemoration), and runs year-round programs for Israeli high schoolers to learn about the horrors of that period and how the lessons it taught us still resonate today.



Following the tour, we sat down to take stock of the work and progress that was done thus far in the working committees and then discussed the ways we can leverage our positions inside the National Institutions to mend some of the challenges facing the Zionist Movement, especially the WZO's treatment of the Zionist Federations. We finished the conference energized to move forward within the working committees we established.

# Impact within the Zionist National Institutions

## World Zionist Organization (WZO)

As one of its core areas of priority, the newly formed Kol Israel established the Department for Pioneering Youth and Future Generations, with the clear goal of investing directly in the Zionist youth movements, which train the

next generation of Jewish and Zionist leadership. The department is led by its head, Sergio Edelstein, and its executive director, Ariel Goldgewicht.

### The 2nd Annual World Conference on Informal Education and Leadership

### The first class of the Zionist Leadership Academy



One of the new Department's most exciting programs is the Annual World Conference on Informal Education and Leadership. The conference brings together hundreds of year in Israel programs participants from all of the Zionist youth movements for a day of content and engagement in Jerusalem. This year's conference saw a crowd of 1,000 excited youth and was MC'd by our very own Leor Sinai.



2022 saw the launching of a unique program, championed by our department at the WZO and KKL – the Zionist Leadership Academy. This program, led by the department's head Sergio Edelstein and its executive director Ariel Goldgewicht, brings together 30 young leaders from Jewish communities around the world for a series of online meetings, where they held talks with some of the leading figures in the Zionist world and developed projects to further Jewish peoplehood and Zionist leadership in their communities. The program finished with a week-long seminar in Israel, where the participants met with the leadership of the National Institutions and visited key locations around the country. During the seminar, the group visited the StandWithUs educational center in Jerusalem and had a talk with our chairman, David Yaari, about the makings of a Zionist leader.



### Delivering on our promises via the Zionist Executive

With our focus to strengthen the connection between global Jewish communities and Israel, we advocated and have now established a new committee to serve under the Zionist Executive. This committee will focus on the global Zionist Federations and how to enhance their

standing within the Zionist umbrella and movement. We want to congratulate Olga Israel Deutsch for being elected to chair this committee. Olga represents the World Confederation of United Zionists on the Zionist Executive as part of Kol Israel.

## Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)

### New members in the BoG and a new sub-committee chairmanship

This year saw several developments in our representation in the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). First, in the Agency's Board of Governors, we appointed Rachel Singerman Gur as one of our representatives, replacing our past chairman Jesse Sultanik. Rachel is the Director of Government Relations at Lobby 99, one of Israel's leading liberal advocacy groups. She is joining our longtime partner Esther Renzer, President and Co-Founder of StandWithUs and Gabo Degen, who represents TH4.

Together with Rachel's nomination, in February 2022 we were happy to announce that Rabbi Leor Sinai, a recent addition to CUZ's board and its interim Secretary-General for the past year and a half, was appointed as the chairman of the JAFI subcommittee on the Integration of Young Olim. In his position, Leor oversees JAFI's efforts to integrate young Olim from around the world into Israeli society and

support them in the early stages of their lives in Israel. Leor's role became acutely important as the war in Ukraine broke out, as Israel took in a large number of young Olim from both Ukraine and Russia fleeing the violence and oppression in their home countries.

We look forward to working with JAFI's new chair, Doron Almog, to recognize areas in which we can take a leading position and influence within and through JAFI.



Esther Renzer



Gabriel Degen (Gabo)



Leor Sinai



Rachel Singerman-Gur

## Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel - Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF)



This year, our representatives in KKL, Vice Chairman Nisan Cialic and board member David Yaari, focused on several items. First, they worked to expand support to the Machon LeMadrichei Chul, an educational body that trains the future generation of Zionist leaders, through the Zionist youth movements around the world. Each Zionist youth movement sends participants of its gap-year program in Israel to spend 4 months in the Machon, where they receive a rich curriculum of Zionist educational content. Our representatives worked diligently with our partners in the KKL board of directors to allocate more funding to the Machon, thus enabling it to train more youth each year. Second, they worked to expand the support KKL

offers to the Jewish communities around the world via its programs and initiatives, with emphasis on assisting the Jewish community in Ukraine as it faces the onslaught of the Russo-Ukrainian war.



In addition, our chairman and member of the KKL board of directors, David Yaari, has represented KKL in several events during the year. He spoke at the inauguration ceremony of a new lookout in the Jerusalem mountains and the official Israeli 9/11 memorial ceremony (organized jointly with JNF-USA), as well as the launch of KKL's Climate Solutions Prize at the Israeli pavilion in the 2022 Dubai Expo.

## MOVING THINGS FORWARD

### Delegation to assist Ukrainian Jewry

Our February 2022 brought with it the continuation of the Russo-Ukrainian war, when Russia launched an unprovoked attack on Ukrainian soil, thus reigniting the war which originally broke out in 2014. As the war broke, millions of Ukrainians fled to the country's borders and became refugees, including members of its significant Jewish community. Our department was quick to respond by organizing delegations of representatives from the Zionist youth movements who offered support in necessities and assistance to the Jews fleeing the violence. One of the delegations was joined by our very own Nadia



Iermakov, a Ukrainian Jew who made Aliyah in 2018 and is a member of our leadership team in Israel, leading our engagement in the FSU. Unfortunately, the war is still raging on and has so far taken a huge toll on the Ukrainian Jewish community. We are in constant contact with our delegate, Alisa Rostovceva, and looking for ways to assist the community.

### A Gathering in Basel to Celebrate 125 Years



In August, several members of our leadership joined the WZO's celebration of 125 years since the 1st Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. Despite the event not including any opportunities for substantive discussions or votes on resolutions, our representatives used the gathering to discuss the current status of Kol Israel and General Zionism and work together to identify opportunities to create collaborations and further our influence.

### Meeting with Our Partners

Over the past few months, our leadership has met with representatives of several key partners. Among others, meetings were held with Tzofim Tzabar Olami, the Machon LeMadrachei Chul JAFI's institute where young leaders from youth movements are trained on a 4-month program, StandWithUs, Young Judaea, Hejalutz Lamerjav, FZY, Chugety Sayarut, and potential partners from other players inside the National Institutions. In the meetings, the focus was on potential avenues for collaboration and programs which we can promote through our representatives in the National Institutions.

**This is your movement –  
Reach out to us to get involved.**

Email Ohad Shary, our Marketing and  
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