

IANO



ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





The Israel Action Network builds a strong base of support for Israel and counters delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples.

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR



Dear Friends,

The past year has been a time of important growth and transition for the Israel Action Network (IAN) as we build support for Israel and counter delegitimization. IAN's work has yielded significant returns with anti-BDS legislation passed in a critical mass of 25 states, victories over delegitimization in academic associations and churches, and a growing base of pro-Israel allies among women, African-Americans, and other constituencies.

The IAN initiative, now 7 years old, is maturing into a core service of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) for the Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs), and our partner organizations on campus and elsewhere. IAN's expertise and assistance is more important than ever. Efforts to harm Israel are growing and evolving. Pro-Israel voices are too often marginalized, and anti-Israel voices – including many that are Jewish – are increasingly mainstreamed. IAN is at the forefront of identifying trends and strategizing an effective response. We continually re-examine our programs and work to ensure IAN is adding maximum value in the organizational landscape.

To support this work, IAN has placed increased focus over the past year on building organizational capacity under the leadership of Co-Executive Directors Ethan Felson and Geri Palast. A critical analysis was undertaken of IAN's theory of change to ensure the initiative is addressing the most pressing issues and working toward effective outcomes. We launched a reinvigorated advisory board – a talented and passionate group of lay leaders which I've been privileged and humbled to lead. And we raised a record amount of funding for IAN, bringing it from a budget of under \$2.7 million to more than \$3.45 million as of June 2018.

The following report provides a window into IAN's work over the past year – but there is so much more than can be shown in these pages. The impact of IAN's cultivation and mobilization of influential allies has a ripple effect that will pay dividends locally, nationally, and globally for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership – together, we are turning the tide on anti-Israel efforts and delegitimization.

Skip Schroyer, Chair, IAN Advisory Board

BY THE NUMBERS

118

Jewish communities directly supported by IAN in fighting delegitimization

147 Jewish Federations
+
300 Network Communities
+
125 Jewish Community Relations Councils
in the IAN network

18

partner programs that bring Israelis and Palestinians together

46%

increase in funds raised for IAN programs

101

leaders brought on 5 Partners for Peace missions

25

states that have taken action against BDS

458 to 10

votes in the Presbyterian Church supporting engagement of Israelis and Palestinians over objections of BDS groups

36

partner organizations at IAN's annual convening

86

JCRCs convened monthly by IAN

48

trainings conducted for allies

41 campuses on which IAN helped fight delegitimization and anti-Semitism issues

5 academic and professional associations supported by IAN resisted BDS activity



YEAR IN REVIEW

The Israel Action Network is dedicated to building support for Israel and countering delegitimization, including anti-Israel boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS). We invite you to share in our pride at what we have accomplished – and to partner with us in the year ahead.

IAN's vast reach is unparalleled. In the past year alone, we directly served more than 100 Jewish communities – convening professionals and lay leaders, and providing education, resources, advocacy trainings, and time-sensitive messaging and mobilization efforts. In New Orleans, we worked with the Federation to get the city council to rescind a resolution supported by a BDS group. We helped the Philadelphia Federation successfully respond to attacks by BDS activists protesting the local orchestra's concert tour in Israel. These are just two examples of the results IAN achieves **working with JFNA's network** of 147 local Jewish Federations, 300 network communities, and 125 Jewish Community Relations Councils.

IAN reached an important legislative milestone in 2018 when Louisiana became the 25th state to take action **protecting Israelis and Israeli businesses from discriminatory BDS**. These laws and executive orders prohibit states from investing in and/or contracting with entities that refuse to do business with Israel. IAN-backed legislation is carefully constructed to address BDS without impacting free speech or other cherished rights. IAN provides skilled guidance to communities and allied state legislators, and

proudly coordinates a network of effective pro-Israel agencies working to enact these measures.

IAN plays an integral role in the fight against **BDS on college campuses**. In the past year, we worked with our partners to defeat BDS campaigns at Swarthmore College and the City University of New York, and assisted Federations and Hillels in dealing with difficult campus environments at Rutgers and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. We also strengthened campus-community relationships in numerous communities. Through our close partnership with Hillel International and the Israel on Campus Coalition, IAN ensures that pro-Israel students are supported by the resources of their local Federations and JCRCs, as well as the strength of the Federation system.

College and university professors have a profound influence on how students perceive Israel, and academic and professional associations are high-profile platforms for anti-Israel activity. IAN is a recognized lead agency fighting delegitimization and **BDS in academia**. Our strategic guidance helped defeat delegitimization and academic boycotts in five major associations. Often our



Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Palestinian Noor A'wad, two grassroots activists working to advance peace, speak to participants of IAN's Partners for Peace.

most effective work is thwarting a showdown. When one does occur, we help our allies achieve victory — defeating BDS and advancing pro-Israel resolutions. Faculty also depend on IAN for teaching resources and balanced messaging. In the past year, our database of original online content surpassed 500 documents that help professors positively shape discourse about Israel in the academy.

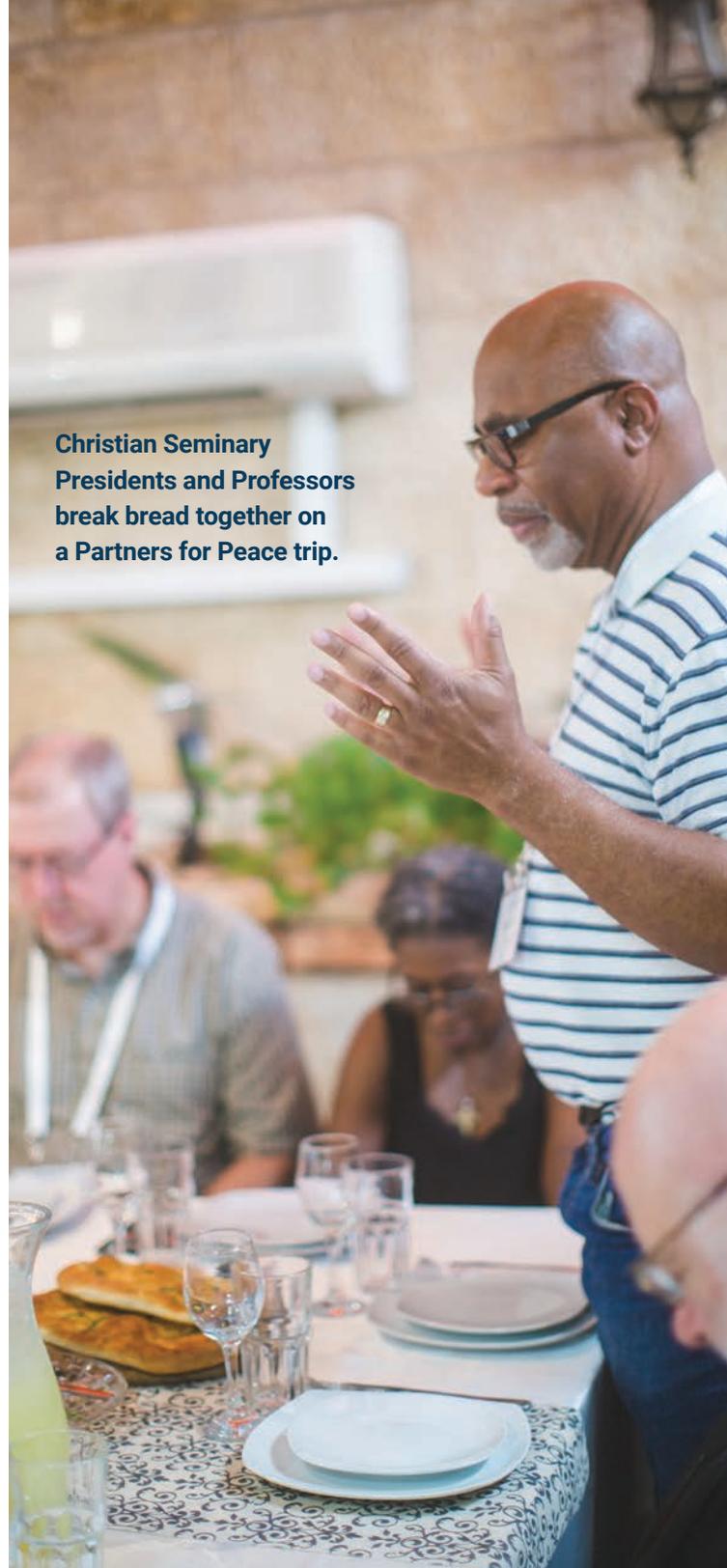
As we continue to counter **anti-Israel activity in churches**, IAN was on the ground at the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly and Episcopal Church General Convention this past year, advocating for balanced treatment of Israel and fighting BDS resolutions. We joined with Presbyterian friends to commend the church for overwhelmingly backing a resolution to support people-to-people work bringing together Israelis and Palestinians. This was a strong setback for anti-Israel groups, who, due to their self-defeating “anti-normalization” stance, actually oppose building relationships between the parties.

Our success depends on a strong network of allies willing to take a stand when Israel's legitimacy is challenged. IAN excels at **outreach to progressive audiences**, including people of color, women, and LGBTQ individuals. This work is more urgent than ever, as BDS groups falsely link the struggles of minorities and women to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the banner of “intersectionality,” and pro-Israel Jews are increasingly excluded from social justice spaces.

Well-constructed missions are powerful tools for generating sophisticated, passionate allies. IAN has earned a reputation for excellence in this arena. Through our flagship **Partners for Peace** programs, we brought 101 influential leaders on 5 missions to Israel in the past year — showing them first-hand the complexity of multiple narratives, and highlighting the groundbreaking work that peacemakers are doing bringing Israelis and Palestinians together. Alumni from IAN missions positively impacted resolutions adopted in churches, academic associations, student senates, and other arenas, and played an instrumental role in defeating delegitimization. They are teaching more balanced courses, preaching more balanced sermons, and seeking more balanced treatment of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

IAN's **Interfaith Partners for Peace** program had three successful missions during the year. We brought 26 Protestant seminary presidents and professors on a first-of-its kind trip to study Israel from antiquity to present day. We also led a study tour of rabbis and ministers focused on race relations. Additionally, we brought pairs of rabbis and ministers committed to a two-state future, examining multiple narratives, and combating delegitimization.

Later in the year, IAN led an **Academic Partners for Peace** seminar with law



Christian Seminary Presidents and Professors break bread together on a Partners for Peace trip.



faculty who specialize in teaching dispute resolution. The professors toured Israel, met with their Israeli colleagues, and built critical relationships with Israeli academic institutions.

IAN's inaugural **Women Partners for Peace** mission brought together progressive women leaders, Jewish and non-Jewish, from four communities – Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Milwaukee. They met with Israeli and Palestinian women working to create positive change and achieve peace.

In the year to come, IAN will continue to build its network of allies willing to take a stand. We will work with grassroots communities to defeat BDS efforts on campus, in churches, within

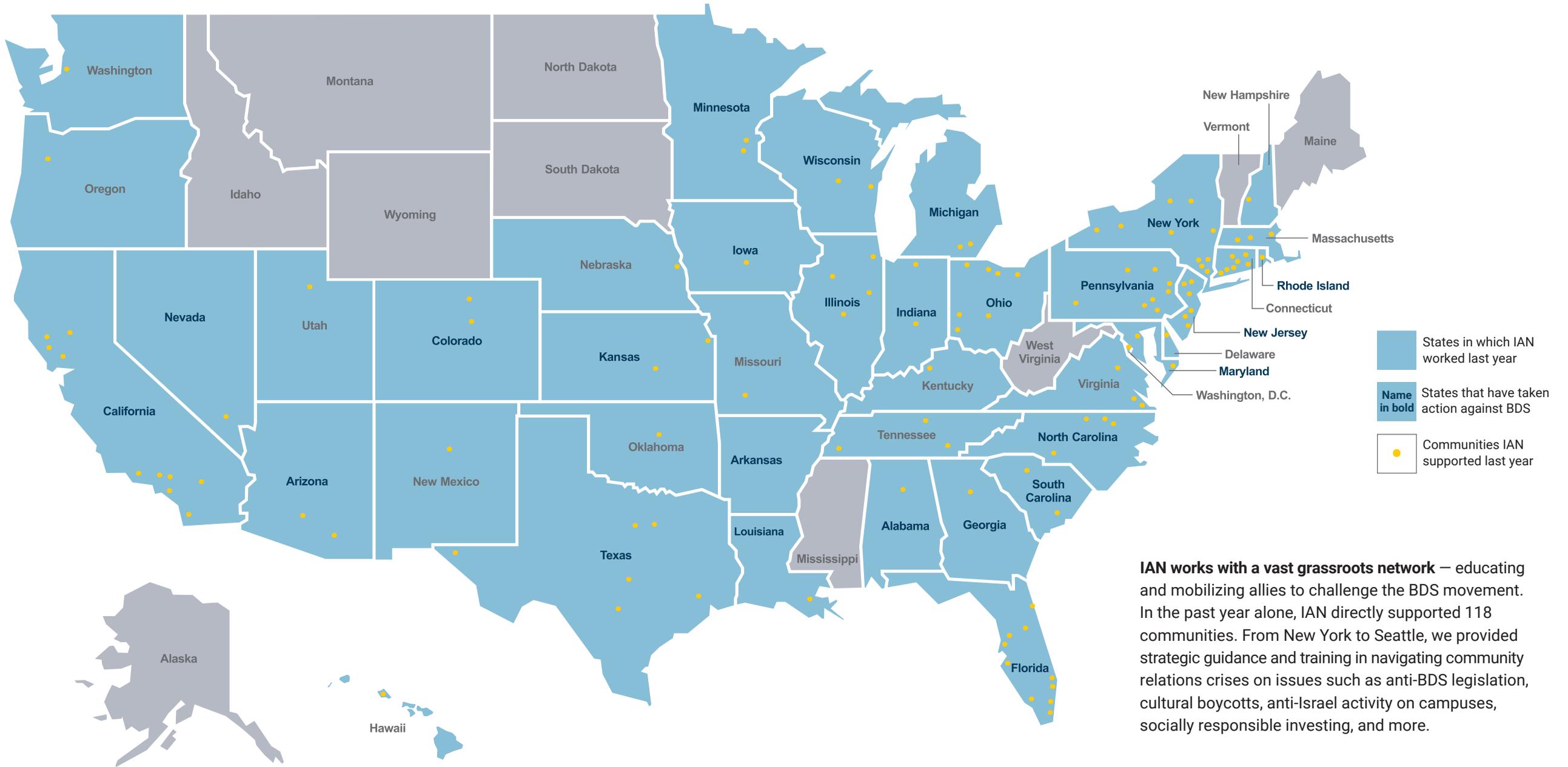
national associations, and wherever else Israel's legitimacy is challenged. We will also continue our efforts with state legislatures, and increase our work with city councils and in other spaces where we anticipate an escalation in BDS activity.

Throughout this report, we invite you to read what others are saying about IAN and how we help make the case for Israel, fight delegitimization, and work for a more peaceful future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Felson Geri Palast". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ethan Felson and Geri Palast
Co-Executive Directors, Israel Action Network

OUR IMPACT





MUNICIPAL

“When the Israel Action Network informed us that a local BDS group was pursuing an anti-Israel city council resolution to boycott Hewlett Packard (HP), we needed guidance and expertise to confront this challenge. IAN provided this and much more. After a month of on-the-ground organizing and community outreach, the legislation — reported to have support from a majority of the city council — was rejected by every single council member, and publicly rejected by the mayor. IAN staff played a key role by connecting us to other organizations who faced similar issues, providing resources and information, making introductions to HP representatives, and by being a coach and cheerleader. We would not have had this success without them.”



“In the first several months of 2018, the city of New Orleans and its Jewish community were suddenly and unexpectedly confronted with a surge of BDS activity.

The Israel Action Network was instrumental in helping us combat the burgeoning movement at both the local and state levels. With IAN’s assistance, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and our local partners successfully fought an attempt to have the New Orleans City Council pass a pro-BDS resolution in January. Then, over the course of the spring, we successfully worked with the administration of Governor John Bel Edwards on an executive order that made Louisiana the 25th state in the nation to pass an anti-BDS measure. IAN was a key ally in this process as well. Suffice it to say, neither of these significant achievements would have been possible without the support of IAN.”

ARNIE FIELKOW

CEO and President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans



JEREMY BURTON

Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

CAMPUS



“When anti-Israel activity became prevalent in our student council, the environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students became hostile. Feeling alone and isolated, I was in serious need of assistance. I

received that help from the Israel Action Network.

IAN provided key strategic advice on how to respond to these matters. With IAN’s guidance, we educated members of student council. When anti-Israel activists threatened to sue me, IAN helped identify legal counsel to review our counter brief. All of this support was provided in real time, which was a crucial component of our victory. Not only did we prevail, but we showed people that this is a complex, nuanced situation, and that the pro-Israel voices on campus are passionate, informed, and will never go away quietly.”

ARIELA RIVKIN

Former Undergraduate Student and Student Council Member at University of Wisconsin-Madison

ACADEMIA



“The Academic Partners for Peace trip to Israel had a deep impact on me. The ability to interact with members of civil society, academia, and government — in both Israel and the Palestinian territories — was unique and

highly rewarding. The experience offered me a complex understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and I now have much firmer ground to stand on when discussing it. The views I formed through my interactions with various parties and the lessons I learned from the trip can now be articulated with confidence. I also use lessons and first-hand examples I learned in my teaching when talking about conflict in a global context.”

FIACRE BIENVENU, PhD

Adjunct Professor at Florida International University

WOMEN



“The Women Partners for Peace trip to Israel was a fantastic experience. It was eye-opening to hear the perspectives of so many different people living in the region. Participants

on the trip came with their own preconceived notions of what the conflict was about – based on what they’ve been told or read – and you could see the gears in their heads turn as they realized it is a much more complex situation. We really began to grasp that every narrative matters in order to coexist peacefully.

The common assumption by many people in the African-American community is that the conflict is a religious one, and is, therefore, unresolvable. Now I fully understand it’s about sharing land regardless of who you are or what you believe. It was really transformative. The first thing I shared with my community when I returned home was ‘we’ve got this thing all wrong.’”

ADRIANNE SLASH

President, the Exchange at the Indianapolis Urban League

INTERFAITH



“The Garrett-Evangelical community has been privileged to benefit from the work of the Israel Action Network. Several of our scholars and I have traveled on IAN-sponsored

trips to Israel where we enjoyed incredible access to leaders who are at the heart of ‘the conflict.’ Understanding more deeply the concerns and various perspectives of Jewish and Palestinian communities helped us gain a greater sense of the complexity of finding a peace-making solution for both sides, while the legitimacy of Israel was underscored. These experiences resonated deeply with the heart of the seminary’s mission to prepare Christian leaders who will work for the well-being of all persons. None of us who made these trips can think in the same ways in which we began our journeys!”

LALLENE J. RECTOR

President, Associate Professor of Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Psychotherapy at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



COMMUNITY CONSULTING



“When the Philadelphia Orchestra was being urged by protestors to reconsider an upcoming tour of Israel, a partnership mission with our Jewish Federation, we

turned to IAN for help. There had never been such loud demonstrations at Orchestra concerts, and the local media coverage – which wasn’t objective – didn’t seem to understand the issue. Therefore, we turned to IAN staff to conduct media training for local outlets and co-facilitated an education session with Orchestra members and administration to ensure they understood the issues behind the protests as well as the true nature of the BDS movement. Our collective efforts were extremely successful. Not only did the Orchestra embrace the itinerary, but the community received much better information about BDS, and gained a more balanced understanding of why it’s important for the Orchestra to engage in cultural diplomacy. IAN’s assistance was thoughtful, sophisticated, and on point for what we needed. We greatly appreciate the partnership.”

NAOMI ADLER, Esq.

President and CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

LEGISLATION

“When our Federation was helping to create and pass anti-BDS legislation in our state, we knew it would be a long and complicated process. We created a statewide Federation initiative and turned to the Israel Action Network for help. IAN was crucial for guiding us through this very complicated process. Whether providing talking points for lawmakers, assisting lay leaders, or even drafting the actual bill, the IAN team were the experts guiding us along the way. They were truly the ultimate professionals who saw it through right to the end, when the Governor signed the bill into law.”



CARIN SAVEL

CEO, The Jewish Federation of Raleigh-Cary

ADVISORY BOARD

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 Jocelyn B. Krifcher
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 Geri Palast, *Executive Director*
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 Paulina Carey, *Program & Communications Associate*
 Zachary Schaffer, *Community Strategy Associate*
 Yedida Wolfe, *Government Relations Associate, Jerusalem*
 Elizabeth Castellano, *Executive Assistant*

Gerrald B. Silverman, *JFNA President and CEO*
 William C. Daroff, *JFNA Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Director of the Washington, D.C. Office*



“The Chicago community has been a proud partner of IAN since the program’s inception.

We have seen firsthand the impact of their expertise in countering delegitimization. In addition to making a substantial annual Federation allocation, our community has raised nearly \$3 million in supplemental funds for IAN from some of our most generous local Federation donors.”

SKIP SCHROYER

Chair, IAN Advisory Board and Past-Chairman of the Board, Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago



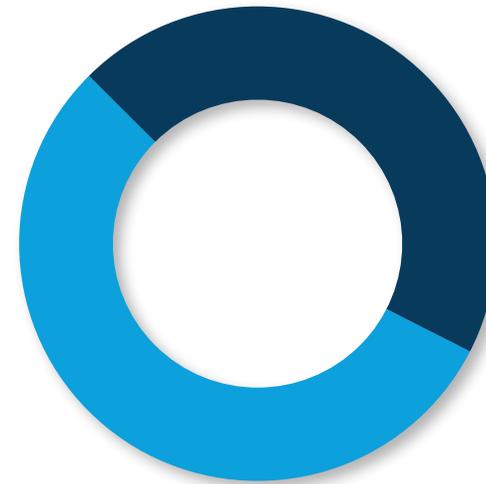
“More than ever, it is important for our Federation system to scale up the Israel Action Network by

investing our human and capital resources in it. IAN is a proven Federation system success story and is uniquely positioned to positively impact our Israel and Jewish values. The Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey was proud to increase our annual allocation this past year, and we hope others will do the same.”

JASON SHAMES

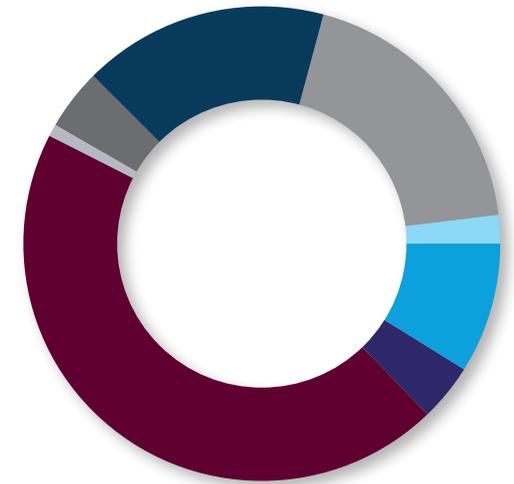
CEO and Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey

**ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK
 THE 2018 FISCAL YEAR* OPERATING BUDGET
 \$3.45 MILLION**



Revenue by Type

- 45% Base Allocations (Federations and JFNA)
- 55% Supplemental Funds



Expenses by Program

- 17% Academic
- 19% Campus
- 2% Community Consulting
- 9% Constituency Outreach
- 4% Convenings
- 45% Interfaith
- 1% Legislative
- 4% Socially Responsible Investing

**THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS,
 FUNDS RAISED FOR IAN INCREASED BY 46% OVER THE PRIOR YEAR.**

*July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018



ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK

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