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Dear Friends,

Israel, Jews, and those who defend us are under attack. The climate has become toxic and frightful.

Efforts to harm Israel are growing, evolving, and becoming more mainstream. The leading BDS organizations — including several that are Jewish — now openly declare their opposition to the very existence of a Jewish state. Furthermore, the BDS movement helps foster the conditions that have led to the increase in antisemitic violence and vandalism we are experiencing across the US. Anti-Zionism is used as a proxy for antisemitism.*

The Israel Action Network (IAN) works strategically with our communities to help turn the tide against BDS, anti-Zionism, and antisemitism. With your help, we build support for Israel in the most complex arenas: campuses, churches, labor unions, academic and professional associations, progressive movements, and in other critical sectors.

Through close partnership with our vast network of 146 Jewish Federations, 300 small independent communities, and 125 community relations councils, we defeat BDS when and where it arises — in local communities and nationally.

IAN’s signature approach of leading from behind the scenes enables us to be effective in ways others can’t. We spot trends, develop messages that speak to a variety of audiences, and act as the convener of coalitions — both Jewish and non-Jewish — to ensure a consistent strategic and unified voice.

Thank you for being our partners in this work; your support is more important than ever. We are proud of the things we have been able to accomplish this past year and are pleased to share this progress with you — through our eyes and those of our allies and partners.

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

*IAN has adopted spelling used by Deborah Lipstadt and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The Israel Action Network builds a strong base of support for Israel and counters delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples.
IAN works with a vast grassroots network — educating and mobilizing allies to challenge the BDS movement. In the past year alone, IAN directly supported **124 communities and 44 states**. From New York to Seattle, we provided strategic guidance and training in navigating community relations crises on issues such as anti-BDS legislation, cultural boycotts, anti-Israel activity on campuses, civil and human rights issues, and more.
College campuses and academic associations are hotbeds of anti-Israel activity that normalize anti-Zionism and antisemitism. As a result, Jewish and pro-Israel students and faculty face an increasingly hostile environment. IAN is a leader in the national effort to create a positive climate for Jews on campus, and the go-to organization for defeating BDS in academic and professional associations.

IAN led the **DEFEAT** of an anti-Israel resolution by a victory margin of **3 to 1** in the American Public Health Association that falsely accused Israel of deliberately killing public health workers in Gaza.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

The University of Illinois is a politically active campus, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a particularly contentious topic. I recently served on a commission overseeing student elections and referenda. When there was a campus-wide divestment referendum initiated by anti-Israel activists, I did my job and asked relevant questions about the impact the referendum would have on the Jewish community on campus. As a result, I was removed from my position. Why? I was told I had a “conflict of interest” because I was Jewish. This was a turning point for me.

The pro-Israel students were determined to defeat the resolution. But, we knew we couldn’t do it alone. IAN gave crucial guidance on how to frame our messaging with students and administrators and connected us with pro-Israel professors. These faculty members provided important insights into student government and university administrators and allowed our students to feel more informed and confident. Our work was a success; the resolution was resoundingly defeated.

**HAYLEY NAGELBERG**
Recent Graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

When students at the University of Michigan experienced several instances of anti-Zionism and antisemitism over the course of just a few weeks, there was consensus in our community that in order to address the issues effectively, we had to have a coordinated response and speak in a unified voice. IAN’s team helped us formulate a strategy and provided the right guidance to impactfully engage the university administration, reinforcing Hillel’s essential work on campus.

We are already seeing the fruits of our labor, as the university has begun to implement our recommendations. Thanks to IAN and the leadership of the local Hillel, the University of Michigan will have the policies and procedures in place to help ensure a safer and more welcoming environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students, professors, and others.

**SCOTT KAUFMAN**
CEO of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Since its inception, IAN has successfully informed and trained hundreds of Federation and JCRC professionals on the BDS threat and how to fight it. We focus on helping communities with effective messaging, developing the skills to have difficult one-on-one conversations about Israel, and engaging in open dialogue with a variety of constituents.

There are many anti-Israel groups and initiatives our community faces here in the Greater Seattle region, and IAN has been an incredible partner. When two city commissions sponsored an event that presented an anti-Israel film, IAN provided messaging and connected us to allies to address the issue. Its staff has helped educate local parents about the anti-Israel elements their children will face in college and what resources are available to them. And when members of the Washington State Democratic Party moved to formally endorse the BDS movement, IAN helped me decide the best path forward during one of the most difficult situations of my career.

IAN is a distinct organization in the pro-Israel space. Rather than utilizing a one-size-fits-all model for its work, it uses deep expertise, political acumen, and sensitivity to employ customized solutions. In short, they know what works best where and with whom.

IAN is uniquely proactive in finding opportunities to engage and educate. At the end of the day, whatever’s going on in our community — whether it’s a municipal, campus, church, or political issue — IAN is the first place I call, always.

At a local high school’s cultural fair, a student set up posters and other materials containing anti-Zionist and antisemitic messaging. When I saw that the Jewish community — parents, alumni, and local rabbis — were divided over how the school should respond, I realized there is work to be done to monitor, respond to, and educate on these types of situations. It was serendipitous that IAN would soon be holding a regional training session in Cleveland on these very same topics.

IAN’s event was immensely important. Effectively responding to anti-Zionism and antisemitism requires a great deal of requisite knowledge, and IAN illustrated the breadth and depth of the situation and provided the perspective to understand what it all means. During the all-day training, I learned how to define, identify, and address these issues in our community going forward. This information is not only crucial for us to have as professionals, but to pass along to our entire community.

After the training, we worked with IAN to communicate the situation to our constituents. It was important for them to know that this is a growing trend and that their Federation — in partnership with IAN — is able to respond quickly and comprehensively.

CATHY GARDNER
CEO of Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton
Mainline Protestant churches have often been a proving ground for BDS and anti-Zionist activity. IAN has unique and long-standing expertise in this area and continues to challenge dangerous anti-Jewish theological motifs that are increasingly common.

In the Presbyterian church, we too often see anti-Israel activity that crosses the line into blatant antisemitism. As a history professor who values truth, I am appalled by the extent to which facts regarding Israel are distorted. IAN has been a remarkable resource in the efforts to resist such slanders. IAN’s staff understands our church in a way few others do. They have brought together allies across the church who want to fight anti-Zionism and antisemitism. This past year, we defeated a brutal resolution that supported using Christian-Jewish relations to attack Israel.

IAN has also proved instrumental in supporting peacemaking among Israelis and Palestinians. It is these shared values — to counter antisemitism and promote peace — that allows our partnership to be effective. We are grateful for their support and proud that we recently helped the Presbyterian church adopt a resolution regarding people-to-people reconciliation work.

JILL SCHAEFFER
Visiting Professor of Ethics, New York Theological Seminary
and Steering Committee Member of Presbyterians for Middle East Peace

Our community faced a tough situation when a controversial rabbi with anti-Israel views was invited by local Presbyterian leadership to give a presentation on Israel to their congregants. We knew that even though he was a BDS supporter and anti-Zionist, his status as an ordained rabbi would convey that his views were accurate and representative of the Jewish community. Our board was unsure how to respond, and that’s where IAN proved to be indispensable.

IAN staff gave detailed consultation on how to address this without damaging our relationships with local clergy — which was particularly important due to the nature of our small community. IAN’s delicate approach, to convene local rabbis and pastors in a careful manner so as not to further publicize the event, was the right one. Due to our efforts, the community became aware of the true nature of the speaker, and his credibility regarding Israel was heavily discounted.

BARRY SEIDMAN
Trustee of Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois

IAN’S 18TH
Interfaith Partners for Peace delegation traveled to Israel, bringing together JEWISH and CHRISTIAN clergy who are advancing SOCIAL JUSTICE at the local level
ANTI-BDS legislation at the federal and state levels – along with Jewish community relationships with legislators – builds an effective firewall against anti-Israel activity. IAN continued to lead the effort to take action at the state level, with legislation passed in 27 states to date. We are the primary organization helping communities fight municipal BDS, an area in which there has been a marked increase in activity. Federally, IAN advocated for the Strengthening America in the Middle East Act of 2019, which passed in the Senate and contained the Combating BDS Act. We also worked to increase support for the recently passed bipartisan House resolution condemning the BDS movement.

IAN worked with 40+ Federations to proactively BUILD and STRENGTHEN relationships with mayors and city council members to STOP MUNICIPAL BDS EFFORTS

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

When Airbnb created a policy that prohibited Jewish-owned properties in the West Bank from being listed, many of our community members were going to be affected. The overarching sentiment was that this was an assault on the Jewish people. We immediately formed a coalition with the other Jewish Federations in our state and called IAN.

We had worked with IAN previously on anti-BDS legislation that passed in Florida. And after IAN met with Airbnb executives, it became clear that this very legislation was the key to apply the right political and economic pressure on Airbnb. IAN not only helped us draft a letter to Governor-elect DeSantis, but used its connections to ensure it actually got read. Our efforts worked. Just a couple of days later, the governor announced that state employees would no longer be able to use Airbnb for official business, and that state pension funds would not be allowed to invest in the company should it go public. Airbnb quickly reversed its decision.

IAN is such an incredible resource to the entire Federation system. Its staff is exceptionally talented and passionate about their work.

JESSI SHESLOW
Director of Community Relations, Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

I was honored to join an IAN mission to Israel that forged deep connections between the African-American pastors and American rabbis who participated. At Yad Vashem, we stood before a photo of a Jewish man hanging from a tree, fully realizing the pain our respective communities share. The experience also deepened my perspective of the challenges Israel faces.

When the Durham city council condemned any possible exchange between its police and Israeli law enforcement, it accused Israel of training American authorities to brutalize people of color. I knew I had to act. As an African-American and former police officer who has seen Israel up close, it was clear that this statement was made out of ignorance and encouraged by those with an anti-Israel agenda. I also knew I was in a unique position to provide perspective from a proper lens – one free of bias. I cherished the opportunity to come alongside the pro-Israel community and present the facts to the city council and to the community.

BISHOP RONALD L. GODBEE SR.
Lead Pastor of the River Church, Durham, North Carolina

Jewish man hanging from a tree, fully realizing the pain our respective communities share. The experience also deepened my perspective of the challenges Israel faces.
The decentralized communities that typically make up progressive movements are particularly vulnerable to anti-Israel rhetoric. We help leaders in the women’s movement, African-American and Latinx communities, LGBTQ community, and others gain a more nuanced understanding of the complex challenges Israelis face—and the harm that BDS does to peacemaking.

IAN works closely with a cohort of 11 COMMUNITIES on an ongoing basis to develop models for building strong relationships between JEWISH and BLACK leaders who can WORK TOGETHER in support of Israel.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

The African-American and Jewish communities, which have a legacy of working together, have become siloed over the years. IAN’s African-American Jewish Partnership (AAJP) is a highly effective way to restore this honorable alliance.

AAJP convenes high-caliber leadership from each community to engage in projects of mutual interest and to explore one another’s history and culture. I have seen participants become more involved and connected to issues affecting both communities, such as violence in places of worship.

One highlight was when program alumni came together to hear a historic address by the Israeli ambassador to the United States. This gave our participants—both African-American and Jewish—the opportunity to understand the needs, aspirations, and challenges that Israel faces. I look forward to my continued work with IAN on this very important program.

THE HONORABLE JUDGE LAJUNE THOMAS LANGE
Internationally Recognized Human Rights Expert and Former Member of Minnesota Supreme Court Task Forces on Racial Bias and Gender Fairness in the Courts

When antisemitic elements arose within the national Women’s March movement, the Jewish community wrestled with how to proceed. While some continued to engage with national leadership, others broke off to form independent marches. Because we are in the nation’s capital—where the national march was held—we were in a particularly challenging spot. What we really needed was an understanding of where national Jewish organizations were leaning and what efforts were taking place behind the scenes. IAN was invaluable in this regard. IAN staff, with their ears to the ground, were able to provide deep insight and strategy, guiding us to the best decision possible for our community.

Antisemitism in the progressive space is increasing, and it’s a very unique type of antisemitism. IAN possesses the knowledge and experience to counter it with a nuanced approach. We will continue to work extensively with IAN to have a long-term impact and to serve our community in the most sophisticated way.

GUILA FRANKLIN SIEGEL
Associate Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK
FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2019 OPERATING BUDGET
$2.9 MILLION

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FUNDS RAISED FOR IAN INCREASED BY 13% OVER THE PRIOR YEAR.
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