

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): _____

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature:  _____

Date: _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Eric Sorensen
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: J Street Education Fund
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel and the West Bank
4. a. Date of Departure: Thursday, February 13 Date of Return: Friday, February 21
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Shawn Starks
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): fiance
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

As a Member of Congress, I am responsible for voting on a wide range of security and diplomatic issue related to Israel. The meetings and events on the trip itinerary will provide information on

topics I am responsible for understanding as part of my official duties.

9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ Date: _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: _____

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

7. a. City of departure: _____

b. Destination(s): _____

c. City of return: _____

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:

- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Eric Sorensen
U.S. House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your fiancé's proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for February 13 to 21, 2025, sponsored by J Street Education Fund.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc

J Street Education Fund February 2025 CODEL: Actual Expenses

Logistics Coordinator fee - \$199

Tour Guide - \$69

Tour bus for duration of trip - \$261

Meeting room rentals - \$126

Speaker honoraria - \$55

Printing - \$36

Security - \$74

Photographer - \$77

In addition to the above Traveler Form, please note the following attachments:

- I. PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM
- II. PARTICIPANT LIST
- III. ADDITIONAL EXPENSES
- IV. ORIGINAL INVITATION
- V. DELEGATION ITINERARY

ATTACHMENT II: PARTICIPANT LIST

As Members of Congress, the following trip participants are asked to vote on legislation related to the issues that will be addressed on this trip surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, US foreign aid, and other policies related to Middle East issues.

Rep. Jim Himes

Rep. Sylvia Garcia

Rep. Chris DeLuzio

Rep. Andrea Salinas

Rep. Eric Sorensen

Rep. Emilia Sykes

ATTACHMENT III. ADDITIONAL PER-PERSON EXPENSES

\$300 Logistics Coordinator fee
\$45 Tour Guide
\$230 Tour bus for duration of trip
\$70 Meeting room rentals
\$145 Speaker honoraria
\$50 Printing
\$105 Security
\$85 Photographer



The Honorable Eric Sorensen
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sorensen,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of Members of Congress for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground for five days, will depart on Thursday, February 13th, and return on Friday, February 21st, 2025.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for Members of Congress to see the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict post-October 7th, focusing on the current crisis and plans for a path forward from what is arguably the lowest point in this conflict to date. This delegation will give Members of Congress a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with the House Committee on Ethics rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting the "Primary Trip Sponsor Form," filled out by JSEF, as well as the "Traveler Form." If you have any questions about the rules, please contact the House Committee on Ethics. Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for Members in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking, and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at cooperboyar@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami
President
J Street Education Fund

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

February 14 - February 20, 2025

ITINERARY

Thursday, February 13

Early Afternoon Flights Depart DCA

Late Afternoon - Early Evening Flights depart JFK

Friday, February 14

Early-mid Afternoon Flights arrive in Tel Aviv. Drive to the hotel and check in

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment
An Israeli journalist will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: TBC

Location: David Intercontinental

Hotel: David Intercontinental Hotel | 12 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-795-1111

Saturday, February 15

8:00 AM– 9:30 AM J Street Briefing - Conflict 101

This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region.

Speaker: Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel

9:30 AM- 9:45 AM

Short break

9:45 AM – 11:15 AM

Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101

An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker: Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Drive to Hostages Square

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Meeting with Families of Hostages and tour of Hostages Square

We will hear from Israelis who have family members held hostage in the Gaza Strip about the condition of their loved ones and advocacy for their release. The Hostages Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions, and express solidarity in support of the families.

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM

Walk to lunch

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Lunch Briefing with Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)

We will hear from a member of Commanders for Israel's Security about their policy recommendations for ensuring Israel's long-term security while addressing developments in the region, particularly the policy approaches towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, their Arab neighbors, and Iran.

Speaker: Brig. Gen. (ret) Yoni Shimshoni

Location: TBC

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Walking tour of Tel Aviv with Jeremy Ben-Ami

The modern State of Israel was born in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to self-determination. At this tour, we explore the Israeli founding fathers vision and reflect on how that vision meets today's reality

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Executive time

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Meeting with Yair Golan, Chair of The Democrats

Participants will hear from the Chair of the newly formed Democrats Party and learn about the party's approach to Israel's foreign policy and vision for the future of Israel.

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Drive to dinner

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Dinner discussion: The Impact of October 7 on Israeli Society
We will explore the Israeli political dynamics in the aftermath of the war in Gaza, as experts and insiders provide their insights into the evolving strategies, alliances, and challenges shaping Israel's path forward.

Speakers: TBC

Hotel: David Intercontinental Hotel | 12 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-795-1111

Sunday, February 16

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

IDF + COGAT Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War
The security briefing by the IDF and COGAT will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today as well as the Israeli approach to addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Drive to Gaza border

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities
We will be led on a tour by a resident of a Kibbutz bordering with Gaza to see firsthand the destruction on October 7 and discuss their experiences since.

Location: Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Guide: Chen Kotler

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Boxed lunch near Kfar Aza

1:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Drive to NOVA site

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

NOVA site visit
We will visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Participants will learn about the massacre on October 7, how the site has become a memorial to those killed, and the trauma felt by Israeli society since.

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Drive Tel Aviv

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Assessing Regional Strategic Challenges

We will hear from security experts about the strategic security challenges presented by the developing situations in Lebanon and Syria, and how Israeli policy should be shaped to ensure stability and security for Israel and the region.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Institute for National Security Studies

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Executive time

7:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Walk/drive to dinner

7:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Meeting with MK Mansour Abbas, Head of Ra'am Party
Hear how MK Abbas and Palestinian and Muslim citizens of Israel have responded to the Oct 7 Hamas attacks and Abbas's vision for Israel and Israeli society.

Location: TBC

7:45 PM - 9:00 PM

Dinner: Israeli Policy toward Gaza and Obligations under International Law
Israel's premier human rights lawyer will brief on Israel's policy towards the Gaza Strip during the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's obligations to the civilian population of Gaza.

Speakers: Michael Sfard

Location: TBC

Hotel: David Intercontinental Hotel | 12 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-795-1111

Monday, February 17

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Drive to Jerusalem

9:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Old City Geopolitical Tour
We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem – including the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount, Western Wall, and Church of the Holy Sepulchre – and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance and how they impact the trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Guide: Hava Schwartz (TBC)

11:45 PM - 12:00 PM

Drive to lunch

- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch at the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem
Participants will visit the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem, eat a traditional lunch, and learn about the daily lives of Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem.
- Speaker: Ahmad Muna, co-owner, Educational Bookshop
- 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM East Jerusalem - Geopolitical Tour
The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will learn how October 7 accelerated trends in the city, and explore ways to curb religious radicalization and transform Jerusalem into a beacon of stability.
- Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Terrestrial Jerusalem
- 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM Executive time + check in at Orient Jerusalem Hotel
- 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM Meeting with MK Yair Lapid, Chair, Yesh Atid Party (TBC)
Participants will hear from the Chair of the Yesh Atid Party and Leader of the Opposition to learn about the party's approach to Israel's foreign policy and vision for the future of Israel.
- 5:45 PM - 6:15 PM Drive to Prime Minister's office + security
- 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (TBC)
We will meet with the Prime Minister to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, his vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.
- 7:15 PM - 7:30 PM Drive to Dinner
- 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Dinner: Regional Strategic Opportunities
Participants will be briefed on influencing regional stability in light of the war in Gaza, as well as charting a potential pathway towards a comprehensive regional peace and security agreement for resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.
- Speakers: Dr. Ksenia Svetlova, Ropes and Dr. Gil Murciano, Mitvim
Location: TBC

Hotel: *Orient Hotel | Emek Refa'im St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090*

Tuesday, February 18

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp
- 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM UNRWA Site Visit: Briefing on Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank
We will have the chance to speak with the UNRWA representatives at the Jalazone Refugee Camp about the services UNRWA provides in the camp. The discussion will also shed light on the challenges UNRWA faces in providing services both in the West Bank and in Gaza, and the impact of recent US and Israeli legislation on UNRWA operations.

Location: Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Drive to Millenium Hotel
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Palestinian Politics 101
In the final portion of the 101 briefing to help us prepare for our Palestinian political meetings, we will learn about the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank and the current state of Palestinian politics.

Speaker: Dr. Sam Bahour (TBC)
Location: Millenium Hotel
- 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM Short break
- 12:15 PM - 1:45 PM Lunch: Palestinian Civil Society
We will be joined by leaders of Palestinian civil society, the business community, and grassroots movements and hear about the challenges they face in their profession and day to day.

Location: Millenium Hotel
- 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM Meeting with Palestinian Authority Leadership
We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the US-Palestinian relationship and the diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Drive to Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research
- 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Briefing on Palestinian public opinion
We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, internal Palestinian politics, and the aftermath of October 7 on public opinion.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki (TBC)
Location: Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Drive to hotel
- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Executive time
- 7:00 PM - 7:15 PM Walk/drive to dinner
- 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Dinner Discussion: Day After: Rebuilding Gaza and Revitalizing the PA
Speakers will discuss steps towards establishing a political framework post-war, while delving into strategic insights and visionary perspectives shared by experts and leaders, aiming to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.
- Speakers: TBC
Location: Orient Hotel

Hotel: Orient Hotel | Emek Refa'im St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090

Wednesday, February 19

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Briefing: Settlement Enterprise
In the briefing, we will lay the necessary groundwork to understand the current state and political agenda of the Israeli settlement enterprise. We will learn about its history and evolution, as well as the long-term vision and strategy of the Israeli settlement movement.
- Speakers: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Settlement Tour en route to Hebron
Understanding the geopolitical significance of the settlements and their role in Israeli security and potential territorial solutions.
- Guide: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Walking tour of Hebron
Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli settlers who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in the city on a tour of downtown, see both Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, and learn how life in the city has changed over time.

Guide: Nadav Weimann, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch on the bus - drive to South Hebron Hills
- 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Tour of Khirbat Zenuta
See the remnants of a displaced Palestinian community in Area C and hear from a local resident about the daily reality of settler violence.
- 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM Drive to Jerusalem
- 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Executive time
- 6:30 PM - 6:45 PM Walk/Drive to dinner
- 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Meeting with LTG Michael R. Fenzel
We will be briefed by the United States Security Coordinator of the Israel-Palestinian Authority on the current volatile situation in the West Bank and a vision for security in Gaza.
- Location: TBC
- 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Dinner: Participant Debrief
Participants will have the opportunity to reflect and ask questions about their experiences throughout the day.
- Location: TBC

Hotel: Orient Hotel | Emek Refa'im St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090

Thursday, February 20

- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Drive to Yad Vashem
- 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Tour at Yad Vashem
On this tour, we will visit the museum commemorating the Holocaust and the loss of six million Jews.
- 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM Drive to Gush Etzion
- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council
We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.
- Location: Gush Etzion (TBC)

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Drive to Lunch
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch: The Far-Right Alliance <i>This session will explore how Israeli far-right ultranationalists and their allies in the US are having a significant impact on Israeli domestic politics, US foreign policy, and the reality on the ground in the region.</i> Speakers: TBC Location: TBC
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Drive to US Embassy + Security
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Meeting with the US Embassy to Israel <i>We will hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region and the current approach and priorities of the US Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.</i> Location: US Embassy
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Drive to hotel
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Executive/Packing Time, Check out
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Farewell Dinner <i>Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States. We will review potential opportunities for action that support a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.</i> Location: Orient Hotel
9:15 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Friday, February 21

Morning	Flights arrive in at JFK/Newark
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The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

J Street Education Fund Congressional Delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territory

February 14-20, 2025

MISSION GOALS: *The aim of the trip is to explore the current state of affairs in the region and in particular in regard to the Israel-Hamas War, and to look at the role of US diplomatic leadership in the region with a focus on the day after the war. During this trip, the group will have the opportunity to hear from a wide array of politicians, security experts, and leaders from various professional fields such as business, government, and civil society, to provide them with an in-depth and nuanced understanding of challenges facing Israel today.*

DISCLAIMER: *One of the objectives of this trip is to provide participants with a window into the broad spectrum of opinions related to the conflict and its resolution in order to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues at hand. Therefore, we will meet with individuals and groups engaged in various activities or political agendas. In some cases, the policies of the J Street Education Fund diverge from the beliefs of speakers; however, we recognize the importance of trying to understand one another's viewpoint. **Please note that the items included in this itinerary are subject to change.***

ITINERARY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14: WELCOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

3:20 PM LH 0686 arrives at Ben-Gurion airport. Transfer to hotel and check in.

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

6:00 - 6:30 PM Meet in hotel lobby, drive to dinner

6:30 - 8:00 PM **Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment**
Journalist Tal Shalev will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: Tal Shalev, Political Correspondent, Walla News

Location: Eat with Oren - 10 Ben Avigdor, Tel Aviv

Hotel: *David Intercontinental Hotel* | 12 Kaufmann St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-795-1111

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15: THIS MOMENT IN ISRAEL

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Seminar: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101

This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region.

Speaker: Jeremy Ben Ami, President, J Street

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel, Gallery room

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Short break

10:45 - 12:15 PM

Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101

An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker: Gilad Hirschberger, Ph.D, Professor of Psychology, Reichman University

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel, Gallery room

12:15 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Lunch

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Briefing from Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)

Hear from Commanders for Israel's Security about their current policy recommendations and approach to ensuring Israeli security in the near and long term.

Speaker: Brig. Gen. (Res.) Dr. Yoni Shimshoni, Member of the Executive Committee, Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)

Location: Italkiya Ba'Tachana, 5 Ashkelon St., Tel Aviv-Yafo

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Drive to Hostages Square

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Conversation with Former Hostage and Tour of Hostage Square

The Hostages Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions and express solidarity in support of the

families. We will meet with Ilana Gritzewsky, who was captured on October 7, 2024 and held in Hamas captivity for 55 days.

Speaker: Sharon Lifshitz, Daughter of Returned Hostages Yocheved and Oded (ז"ל) Lifshitz

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Drive to Hotel

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Executive Time

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Meeting with MK Mansour Abbas, Chairman of the United Arab List

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel, Gallery room

6:00 - 6:15 PM

Drive to Dinner

6:15 - 8:00 PM

Dinner discussion: The Impact of October 7 on Israeli Society

We will explore the impact of October 7 on various segments of Israeli society and the Israeli political dynamics in the aftermath of the war.

Speakers:

Amal Oraby, Lawyer and human rights activist

Avi Widerman, Strategic Consultant for Governmental Relations and Expert for Ultra-Orthodox Society

Yotam Vilk, LL. M. Student, Former Combat Officer in the IDF Reserves

Elana Kaminka, Bereaved Mother following the October 7th attack

Naama Weinberg, Displaced family from Kibbutz Beeri and Kibbutz

Manara, Cousin of deceased Hostage Itay Svirsky

Location: Herzlina, 27 Rabenu Khanan'el St., Tel Aviv-Yafo

8:00 - 8:15 PM

Drive to Rally

8:15 - 9:15 PM

Rally to Bring Home the Hostages

The group will stop by the rally calling for continued implementation of the ceasefire and hostage deal to return all of the hostages.

Location: Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

Hotel: *David Intercontinental Hotel* | 12 Kaufmann St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-795-1111

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16: IMPACT OF OCTOBER 7 & ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

8:00 - 8:30 AM

IDF Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War

The security briefing by the IDF and COGAT will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today, IDF goals and priorities for the

ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts, as well as for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Speakers: Colonel (Res.) Reuven Ben-Shalom

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel, Gallery room

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Bus Briefing en route to Gaza Envelope

Overview of Israeli policy towards the Gaza strip pre-October 7, the situation on the ground and the humanitarian crisis, and Israeli policies and barriers regarding humanitarian assistance.

Speakers:

Jeremy Ben Ami, President, J Street

Nadav Tamir, Israel Executive Director, J Street

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Tour of the Kibbutz Kfar Aza

We will be led on a tour by local residents in a Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.

Speaker: Chen Kotler, Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza

12:30 - 1:15 PM

Lunch on the bust/at gas station

1:15 - 1:30 PM

Drive to NOVA Site

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Nova Site visit

Visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.

2:15 - 4:00 PM

Drive to hotel

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Executive Time

7:00 - 7:15 PM

Drive to Dinner

7:15 - 8:00 PM

Meeting with MK Shelly Tal Meron, Yesh Atid Party

Hear from a representative of the largest centrist party in Israel and learn about their agenda and priorities post-Oct. 7.

Location: Ola Ola, Simtat Hacarmel 27

8:00 - 9:30 PM

Dinner: Israeli Policy toward Gaza and Obligations under International Law

Discussion on Israeli policies toward Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's obligations to the civilian population of Gaza.

Speakers:

Tania Hary, CEO, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

Adv. Gaby Lasky, Human Rights Attorney

Location: Ola Ola, Simtat Hacarmel 27

Hotel: *David Intercontinental Hotel* | 12 Kaufmann St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-795-1111

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17: JERUSALEM & POLITICAL HORIZON

****Logistical note: We will be checking out of the hotel today. Before we meet, please (1) bring your luggage to the 2nd floor to be loaded to the bus; (2) settle any additional items charged to your room at the front desk and (3) bring your passports with you.***

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL MODEST DRESS FOR OLD CITY TOUR (LEGS COVERED TO ANKLES, SHOULDERS AND COLLARBONES COVERED)**

7:30 AM Load luggage onto van

7:45 - 9:15 AM Drive to Jerusalem

9:15 - 11:45 AM **Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem**

We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount, and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance.

Guide: Dr. Eran Tzidkiyahu, Geopolitical guide of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

11:45 - 12:00 PM Drive to Lunch

12:00 - 1:30 PM Lunch with East Jerusalem Leaders

We will be joined by Palestinian residents who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.

Speakers:

Ahmad Muna, Educational Bookshop
Mahmoud Muna, Educational Bookshop

Location: Old Bethlehem road, alley 3. Building 7

1:30 - 3:15 PM East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour

On this tour, we will learn how the Israel-Hamas War has impacted trends in Jerusalem, the role of Jerusalem in creating a political horizon and ways religious radicalization can be curbed to transform Jerusalem into a beacon of stability.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Founder and Director, Terrestrial Jerusalem

3:15 - 4:45 PM Executive time + Check in

*****DRESS CODE FOR LEADERS: BUSINESS CASUAL**

- 4:45 - 5:30 PM** **Meeting with Yair Golan, Chairman of The Democrats Party**
- 5:30 - 6:00 PM Leaders only: Drive to American Colony Hotel
- 6:00 - 7:15 PM** **Leaders only: Meeting with Israeli and Palestinian Teachers**
Meet with Israeli and Palestinian teachers to hear firsthand about their experiences and struggles since October 7. They will share the challenges they face in their classrooms and communities, as well as the complexities of expressing their thoughts on the war in an increasingly polarized environment.
- Location:** American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
- 7:15 - 7:30 PM Drive to Dinner
- 7:30 - 9:00 PM** **Dinner: Regional Strategic Opportunities + Creating a Political Horizon**
Gain an understanding of the complexities and dynamics influencing regional stability in light of the war in Gaza, as well as charting potential pathways towards a comprehensive regional peace and security agreement for resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.
- Speaker:** Dr. Nimrod Novik, Israel Fellow, Israel Policy Forum
- Location:** Sea Dolphin, Shim'on Ben Shatakh St 9, Jerusalem
- Hotel:** **Orient Hotel | 3 Emek Refa'im St., Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: PALESTINIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS MODEST DRESS (SHOULDERS AND KNEES COVERED)**

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp
- 9:00 - 10:30 AM **Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank + Site Visit**
A joint briefing on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza during the war, as well as an overview of the humanitarian infrastructure in Gaza – the work, capacity, and impact of international humanitarian organizations.
- Speakers:**
Roland Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs, West Bank
Bushra Khalidi, Humanitarian Policy Lead, Oxfam
- Location:** Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp
- 10:30 - 11:00 AM Drive to Millenium Hotel
- 11:00 - 12:15 PM** **Palestinian Politics and Public Opinion 101**

The final portion of the 101 briefing to help us prepare for our Palestinian political meetings, we will learn about the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank and the current state of Palestinian politics.

Speaker: Sam Bahour, Policy Advisor, Al-Shabaka and Managing Partner, Applied Information Management (AIM)

Location: Millennium Hotel, Ramallah

12:15 - 12:30 PM Short break to grab food

12:30 - 1:30 PM Lunch: Palestinian Public and Civil Society

Speakers:

Obada Shtaya, Co-Founder and CEO, Institute for Social and Economic Progress (ISEP)

Majd Qouran, Research Associate, ISEP

Widad AbuQtaish, Research Assistant, ISEP

Mais Istaitiyeh, Research Fellow, ISEP

Location: Millennium Hotel, Ramallah

1:30 - 2:00 PM Drive to PM Office

2:00 - 3:00 PM Meeting with PM Mohammad Mustafa

We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the US-Palestinian relationship and the diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: Prime Minister's Office, Ramallah

3:00 - 4:00 PM Drive to hotel

4:00 - 6:00 PM Executive time

6:00 - 6:15 PM Drive to Dinner

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

6:15 - 7:15 PM Meeting with UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Sigrid Kaag

Location: Eucalyptus, 14 Felt St., Jerusalem

7:15 - 9:00 PM Dinner Discussion: Day After: Rebuilding Gaza and Revitalizing the Palestinian Authority

Speakers will discuss steps towards establishing a political framework post-war, while delving into strategic insights and visionary perspectives

shared by experts and leaders, aiming to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.

Speakers:

Celine Touboul, Co-Executive Director, Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF)

Samer Sinjilawi, Jerusalem Development Fund

Location: Eucalyptus, 14 Felt St., Jerusalem

Hotel: **Orient Hotel** | 3 Emek Refa'im St., Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19: WEST BANK IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

8:00 - 9:00 AM **Breakfast Briefing: Introduction to Settlements**
In the briefing, we will lay the necessary groundwork to understand the current state and political agenda of the Israeli settlement enterprise. We will learn about its history and evolution, as well as the long-term vision and strategy of the Israeli settlement movement.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

Location: Orient Hotel, Allenby hall, -4 floor

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Settlement Tour en route to Hebron**
In this tour, we will learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.

Guide: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

11:00 - 1:00 PM **Walking tour of Hebron**
On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.

Guide: Nadav Weiman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:00 - 1:30 PM Drive to the South Hebron Hills (Lunch on the bus)

1:30 - 3:15 PM **Visit to Umm al-khair**
Learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, including communities living under demolition orders.

3:15 - 5:00 PM Drive to Hotel

5:00 - 6:30 PM Executive Time

6:30 - 7:00 PM **MOCs Only: Prep for PM meeting**

7:00 - 8:30 PM **Dinner: Meeting with Israeli Settler**

We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.

Speaker: Yisrael Medad, Foreign Media Spokesperson, Yesha Council

Location: Orient Hotel, Allenby hall, -4 floor

Hotel: **Orient Hotel | 3 Emek Refa'im St, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-9090**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20: MOVING FORWARD

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

9:00 - 9:30 AM Drive to Yad Vashem Museum

9:30 - 11:00 AM **Tour and Ceremony at Yad Vashem Museum**

On this tour, we will visit the museum commemorating the Holocaust and the loss of six million Jews.

11:00 - 11:30 AM MOCs Drive to PMO, Leaders drive to lunch

11:30 - 12:30 PM **MOCs Only: Meeting with PM Benjamin Netanyahu**

11:30 - 12:30 PM **Leaders lunch**

Location: Tzidkiyahu Deli, 43 Emek Refa'im St., Jerusalem

12:30 - 1:00 PM Drive to Hotel

1:00 - 2:00 PM **MOC Lunch + PM meeting debrief**

2:00 - 3:30 PM **Meeting with the US Embassy in Israel**

We will hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region and the current approach and priorities of the US Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.

Speaker: Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Stephanie L. Hallett

Location: Orient Hotel, Allenby hall, -4 floor

3:30 - 7:00 PM Executive/Packing time

7:00 - 9:00 PM **Farewell Dinner**

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States.

Location: Orient Hotel, Allenby hall, -4 floor