

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. 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](mailto: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.**

- Name of Traveler: Nicholas Adams
- a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Dates: Departure: November 6, 2024 Return: November 15, 2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
- Departure City: Washington D.C. Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington D.C.
- Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)
- Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Our group met with several journalists, military officials, politicians, and victims of terror to discuss the security situation in Israel and the Middle East with a particular emphasis on October 7th. \_\_\_\_\_

- Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
- 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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 12/02/2024

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Laurel Lee Date: 12/02/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return. You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

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

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: November 6, 2024 Date of Return: November 15, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Nick Adams

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$3,073.51	\$2,710.00	\$1,093.89	\$754.64
Accompanying Family Member				

\*\*Kindly see below addendum for cost explanations

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 11/19/24

Name: Clifford D. May Title: Founder and President

Organization: Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1800 M St NW, Suite 800S, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202-368-0539 Email: swalsh@fdd.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

**Post-Travel Disclosure Form Addendum: FDD’s November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel**

Question 5:

- **Transportation Costs:** The actual per-person transportation cost for bus travel was higher than initially estimated on the Trip Sponsor form due to a decrease in the expected number of participants on the trip.
- **Meal Costs:** The actual meal cost was higher than listed on the Trip Sponsor Form as FDD added a group lunch on November 10 and a sit-down lunch rather than box lunch on November 12. Additionally, at two of the dinners, the beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks) were not included in the initial quoted costs received from the vendor. We have included those pro rata costs in the updated totals.
- **Other Expenses:** Below please find an updated chart of other expenses. These costs were higher than estimated on the Trip Sponsor form because they include the final cost of the counterterrorism training that took place on November 12, as described in the agenda submitted with the Trip Sponsor Form.

Activities and Entrance Fees (Yad Vashem, Kalia, Qaser el Yahud, CT Training)	\$621.78
Insurance	\$90.00
Snacks on the bus	\$42.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$754.64</b>

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Nicholas Adams

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

**I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Laurel Lee

Office Address: 15 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-5626

Email Address of Contact Person: nick.adams@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

**NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.**

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Nicholas Adams
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: November 6, 2024 Date of Return: November 15, 2024  
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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(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 the Legislative Director for Rep. Laurel Lee, this trip will help provide me an in depth look into the security situation in Israel and how the situation affects regional stability. There are several meeting and briefings scheduled with a diverse group of experts, journalists and military officials
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: \_\_\_\_\_

10/09/2024

# 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:

Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)

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: Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Founda

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): Cristian Diaz Hernan  
Communications Assistant for U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL); Nick Adams, Legislative Director for

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

6. Date of Departure: November 6, 2024 Date of Return: November 15, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Dulles, VA

b. Destination(s): Israel

c. City of return: Washington, D.C.

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:  
**\*\*See attached addendum**
- 
- 

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: Jeep ride and boat ride in the)
  - 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: <u>Inbal Hotel</u>	City: <u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$370</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</u>		
Hotel Name: <u>Magdala Hotel</u>	City: <u>Tiberias</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$290</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</u>		
Hotel Name: <u>Royal Beach</u>	City: <u>Tel Aviv</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$390</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>Close proximity to site visits and meetings</u>		

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	<b>\$2,867.46</b>	<b>\$2,610.00</b>	<b>\$1,060.00</b>
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	<b>\$209.70</b>	<b>Entrance fees, activities, insurance, beverages, bus snacks **see addendum</b>
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 9/26/24  
 Name: Clifford D. May Title: Founder and President  
 Organization: Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)  
 Address: 1800 M St NW, Suite 800S, Washington, DC 20036  
 Email: swalsh@fdd.org Telephone: 202-368-0539

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

**Q 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):**

FDD's November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel is a seven-day trip that offers a fact-based, nuanced understanding of a country that faces unique strategic communications and national security challenges. Throughout the week, trip participants will travel around Israel to participate in off-the-record high-level meetings with Israel's top national security brass; current and former Israeli, Palestinian, and American national security decision makers; journalists; military officials; and leaders in the private sector. These in-depth conversations will be supplemented by experiential exercises, including visits to elite military installations and a hands-on training exercise.

FDD believes that Israel serves as a useful laboratory for teaching the next generation of U.S. national security leaders best practices in national security, public diplomacy, and counterterrorism. Participants will do a deep dive into the complex issues that a democracy confronts in the face of ongoing national security threats to the homeland. It is part of FDD's strategic mission to provide educational opportunities for the next generation of U.S. national security leaders and communicators.

The trip experience will help Cristian and Nick better understand the region and advise their Representatives on how to best communicate current events in Israel and national security challenges in the region to their constituencies. FDD invited and selected Cristian and Nick for this trip. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation had no role in selecting the trip participants.

- Cristian Diaz Hernandez, Communications Assistant, Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)
  - The following is an example of a Press Release from Rep. Frankel:  
<https://frankel.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3666>
    - ♣ The trip will include briefings discussing the attacks of October 7, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war by Hamas terrorists on and since October 7. A firsthand understanding could help Cristian to better advise the Congresswoman on this issue.
  - Additionally, Rep. Frankel is on the following committees/subcommittees:
    - ♣ House Committee on Appropriations
      - Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

- Nick Adams, Legislative Director, Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL)
  - The following is an example of a hearing in which Rep. Lee participated:
    - <https://laurellee.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-laurel-lee-questions-witnesses-iranian-regimes-threats-homeland-security>
      - ♣ This trip will include briefings discussing Iran’s proxy strategy in the Middle East, and the threats its malign activities pose to the U.S. and its ally Israel. It will also include a visit to view an Iranian missile that was recovered after Iran's April 13 attack on Israel.
  - Additionally, Rep. Lee is on the following committees/subcommittees:
    - ♣ Committee on Homeland Security
      - Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection
      - Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security

**Q 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:**

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation is a private foundation which strives for a future in which the U.S. and Israel live up to their highest ideals. The Foundation has previously contributed to organizations that sponsor a range of educational activities designed to educate Americans about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

FDD believes that Israel serves as a useful laboratory for teaching the next generation of U.S. national security leaders some of the best practices in national security and counterterrorism. FDD recruited, selected, and confirmed the trip participants and is responsible for organizing and conducting the trip. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation has no role in selecting trip participants. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation has further informed FDD that it will conduct a review of the grant after the conclusion of the trip to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant.

**Q 16 (Continued):**

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

Hotel Name: Kedma Hotel      City: Sde Boker      Cost Per Night: \$410

Reason(s) for Selecting: Close proximity to site visits and meetings. The hotel exceeds the per diem rate. We need to include this hotel because it is the only reasonable secure facility that is available near the sites we would like to visit. Staying at a hotel further away would not enable us to visit all the sites that are part of the trip agenda.

**Q 18: Total Expenses for Each Participant**

Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)

Activities and Entrance fees (Yad Vashem, Kalia, Qaser el Yahud)	\$55
Insurance	\$90
Refreshments during sessions	\$29.41
Snacks on the bus	\$35.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$209.70</b>



**FDD's November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel  
November 6-November 15, 2024**

*Note: This is our optimal itinerary and is flexible according to federal travel restrictions and speaker availability.*

*\*\*Please do not circulate\*\**

**Guides: Iftah Burman, Enia Krivine, Shannon Walsh**

**Wednesday, November 6**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
15:30	Group meets at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
18:30	Group flight on Air France Flight AF0051 from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG)

**Thursday, November 7**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
08:00	Arrive to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) on Air France Flight AF0051
11:15	Group flight on Air France Flight AF7068 (Operated by El Al) from Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) to Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)
16:40	Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)
16:40-18:00	Travel by bus to the <b>Inbal Hotel</b> in Jerusalem
18:00-18:15	Check-in to the hotel
18:15-19:30	Prep for dinner
19:30-20:00	Travel by bus to dinner
20:00-22:00	<p>Welcome dinner with <b>Amos Harel</b>, military correspondent and defense analyst for Haaretz, and discussion on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and Israel's strategic posture in the Middle East</p> <p>Amos Harel is an Israeli journalist. As military correspondent and defense analyst for Haaretz, Harel has spent the last 25 years covering Israel's ongoing fight against terrorist organizations, its battle with the Palestinian</p>

	<p>intifada (uprising) and the conflicts with Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon. His published works include <i>The Seventh War: How we won and why we lost the war with the Palestinians</i> (2004), <i>34 Days: Israel, Hezbollah and the War in Lebanon</i> (2008), and <i>The New Face of the IDF</i> (2013). Prior to his current role, he worked as general night editor for Haaretz for four years. Harel has also been an anchorman for a weekly radio program about defense issues broadcasted on IDF Radio from 1999 to 2005. Harel has a bachelor's degree in law studies from Tel-Aviv University (1995) and is fluent in English and in Hebrew.</p>
22:00-22:30	Walk back to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>Inbal Hotel          Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem          +972 2-675-6666</p>

### Friday, November 8

Time	Activity
07:00-09:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:00-10:00	<p>Briefing with <b>Jonathan Conricus</b> on the attacks of October 7 and current developments in Gaza</p> <p>Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Conricus is a senior fellow at FDD focused on the Middle East. He served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for 24 years as a combat commander in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. He also served as a military diplomat, foreign relations expert, and international spokesperson. He recently retired as lieutenant colonel. Jonathan was the first Israeli officer to be seconded to the United Nations (UN), during which he provided military and strategic analysis for UN peacekeeping forces. He has directed social media and public diplomacy efforts and has extensive on- and off-camera experience from his years as a spokesperson.</p>
10:00-12:00	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Sderot</b> and 90-minute briefing with Jonathan Conricus on strategic communications during the Israel-Hamas war</p> <p>During this briefing, Conricus will share about his experience as IDF international spokesperson during the Israel-Hamas war and the importance of effective and accurate communication during times of conflict. He will also discuss the intersection between media coverage and national security.</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch on own in Sderot
13:00-13:30	Travel by bus to <b>Nova Music Festival Memorial</b> in Reim
13:30-14:30	Battleground walkthrough of the <b>Nova Music Festival Memorial</b> in Reim with <b>Amir Goren</b>

	Lt. Col. (Ret.) Amir Goren, veteran and security expert, offers 42 years of military insights. CEO of GSA Security Group and founder of the International Institute for Migration and Security Research, Goren's lectures blend personal stories with practical lessons, equipping audiences to face modern challenges. Goren's years in the military were spent on the IDF's High Level Negotiation Team, where he specialized in combat roles and counterterrorism. He has instructed at the IDF School of Counterterrorism.
14:30-16:30	Travel by bus to <b>Jerusalem</b>
16:30-18:30	Prep for dinner
18:30-19:00	Walk to dinner
19:00-21:30	Traditional Shabbat dinner with <b>Elie Pieprz</b> and discussion on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the Iran threat  Elie Pieprz is the director of international relations at Israel's Defense and Security Forum. Previously, he served as director of International Relations at the Yesha Council, as a lobbyist in the field of economic policy and taxation, and as director of political campaigns in the United States and around the world. Elie is a graduate of Yeshiva University.
21:30-22:00	Travel by bus to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Inbal Hotel Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem +972 2-675-6666

### Saturday, November 9

Time	Activity
07:00-08:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:00-08:15	Travel by bus to <b>Haas Promenade</b>
08:15-09:00	Strategic Depth Overview of Jerusalem with <b>Miri Eisin</b> at <b>Jerusalem Overlook</b>  Colonel (ret.) Miri Eisin is an intelligence, security, and diplomacy expert, and an international public speaker. She serves on the faculty of Israel's Reichman University in Herzliya, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate students. She is also an associate at the International Institute for Counterterrorism. During her 20 years in the Israel Defense Forces, she served as an intelligence officer in combat units, assistant to the Director of Military Intelligence, and Deputy Head of the Combat Intelligence Corps.
09:00-09:15	Photo at Jerusalem Overlook
09:15-09:30	Travel by bus to the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>

09:30-11:45	<p>Explore the diversity and security installations of the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b> with <b>Iftah Burman</b></p> <p>The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount, sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through these sites and others, educating trip participants about their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.</p>
11:45-12:30	Lunch on own in the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>
12:30-13:30	Travel by bus to <b>Qaser El-Yehud</b> , traditional site of Jesus' Baptism.
13:30-14:00	<p>Explore Israeli-Jordanian military cooperation at <b>Qaser El Yahud</b>, traditional site of Jesus' Baptism</p> <p>According to Christian tradition, Qaser El-Yahud is the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan. It is one of the holiest sites in the Christian world. The site includes monasteries, churches, and lands belonging to eight different Christian denominations. The site sits along the Jordan river, which serves as the border between Israel and Jordan. The border is so narrow, that while standing on the Israeli side of the site, one can speak with Jordanian soldiers on the Jordanian side. Participants will learn about Israeli-Jordanian military cooperation and border security while visiting this site.</p>
14:00-14:30	Travel by bus to <b>Kalia Beach</b>
14:30-16:00	<p>Explore water and border security dynamics along the Jordan Valley at <b>Kalia Beach</b>, at the <b>Dead Sea</b></p> <p>For decades, Israel has been developing the agricultural potential of the desert. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has "made the desert bloom." The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Participants will receive a briefing on these issues, which has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional</p>

	cooperation, helping them to better understand Israeli relations with Jordanians and Palestinians.
16:00-17:00	Travel by bus to the hotel
17:00-18:30	Prep for dinner
18:30-19:00	Travel by bus to dinner at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b>
19:00-20:00	<p>Dinner briefing on Palestinian statehood with <b>Daoud Abulibdeh</b>, Palestinian security consultant at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b></p> <p>Daoud Abu Libdeh is a seasoned security professional with a keen focus on risk assessment and mitigation strategies. With a strong background in developing and supporting security initiatives, he excels in crisis management and driving continuous improvements across diverse teams. His career spans roles as a security consultant for political figures and non-profits, a procurement manager at Search for Common Ground, and a Palestinian Affairs Advisor. He holds a masters in Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Studies from Reichman University and is fluent in Arabic, English, and Hebrew.</p>
20:00-20:15	Short break
20:15-21:00	<p>Dessert briefing on the Israeli Arab community with <b>Khaled Abu Toameh</b>, journalist and Middle East expert at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b></p> <p>Khaled Abu Toameh is an awarding-winning journalist and TV producer who covers Palestinian affairs for The Jerusalem Post. He previously worked as a senior producer for NBC in the Middle East and has reported on events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for several media outlets. Khaled will brief participants on Israel's Arab population, reporting and the media in Israel, and other topics of interest.</p>
21:00-21:30	Travel by bus to hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>Inbal Hotel  Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem  +972 2-675-6666</p>

### Sunday, November 10

Time	Activity
07:00-08:30	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:30-09:00	Check out of the Inbal Hotel

09:00-10:00	<p>Briefing at the hotel with <b>Matti Friedman</b>, Canadian-Israeli journalist and author, on the current war in Israel and an overview of regional security dynamics</p> <p>Matti Friedman is a Canadian-Israeli journalist and author of three works of nonfiction. He is an op-ed contributor for the New York Times and a columnist for Tablet Magazine. Between 2006 and the end of 2011, Friedman was a reporter and editor in the Jerusalem bureau of the Associated Press. During his journalistic career, he also worked as a reporter in Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Moscow, and Washington, D.C. One of Friedman's most popular works was a 2014 essay on anti-Israel bias in the media, including sharp criticism of his former employer AP (Associated Press) News.</p>
10:00-10:45	Travel by bus to <b>Yad Vashem</b>
10:45-12:15	<p>VIP tour at <b>Yad Vashem</b>, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum</p> <p>To understand how Israelis view national security, one must understand the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to Israel's destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s when the German Reich's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. By visiting the museum, participants will better understand how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iran's commitment to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. A visit to Yad Vashem provides historical context for the Jewish state. A professional docent from the museum will guide the participants through the museum's main exhibit and the children's memorial.</p>
12:15-13:15	Lunch on own at <b>Yad Vashem</b>
13:15-13:45	Travel by bus to the Knesset
13:45-14:00	Security check at the Knesset
14:00-15:00	<p>Meeting with a <b>Member of Knesset</b></p> <p>Participants will meet with a member of the Israeli parliament. The member will discuss Israeli politics post-October 7 and their parties' current priorities with respect to national security.</p>
15:00-18:00	<p>Travel by bus to Tiberias and 90-minute briefing on <b>Israel's Narrow Waistline</b> with <b>Iftah Burman</b></p> <p>In this 90-minute briefing, participants will learn more about Israeli security considerations with respect to the West Bank, the Israeli settlement policy,</p>

	and the calculations behind the location of the security barrier whilst driving alongside it.
18:00-19:30	Check in to <b>Magdala Hotel</b> and prep for dinner
19:30-19:40	Walk to dinner
19:40-21:15	Group dinner and debrief at <b>Magdalena Restaurant</b>  We will use this opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to throughout the trip. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel's complex realities.
21:15-21:25	Walk to hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Magdala Hotel Migdal, 1495000, Israel +97246209900

### Monday, November 11

Time	Activity
07:00-07:30	Optional breakfast at the hotel
07:30-08:30	Optional overview of the archaeological excavations located on hotel property with <b>Father Eamon Kelly, LC</b>  This guided overview with Fr. Kelly, Vice Director of Magdala, will explore Magdala's Archaeological Park including a First Century Synagogue, Duc in Altum, and the Magdala Stone. This tour is optional. Participants who do not wish to participate in the tour can stay at breakfast until 8:30.
08:30-08:45	Check out of <b>Magdala Hotel</b>
08:45-09:00	Travel by bus to <b>Kibbutz Ginosar</b>
09:00-10:00	Briefing at <b>Kibbutz Ginosar</b> with <b>Shadi Khalloul</b> and <b>Neveen Elias</b> on the Kinneret pre-military program for Jewish and non-Jewish Israelis  Capt. (Res.) Shadi Khalloul is an Israeli Aramaic Christian Maronite from Kfar Birem and served as a lieutenant in a paratrooper division in the IDF. He is Chairman of the Aramaic Christian Association and acted for 2 years as spokesman for the IDF Christian Soldiers forum established by Christian Major Ehab Shlaian. He has a degree in International Business and Finance from the University of Las Vegas, Nevada. He has lectured in the United States about Aramaic Christian and Maronite history and about the history

	<p>and language of early Eastern Christianity, as well as about Jews, Aramaic Middle Eastern Christians, and Zionism.</p> <p>Neveen Elias is an advocacy fellow for The Philos Project and an Aramean Christian who serves as an IDF reservist. She recently became an IDF officer at the age of 39. Neveen assists with running the Kinneret pre-military program and is the primary recruiter.</p>
10:00-10:30	Walk to boat briefing on the <b>Sea of Galilee</b>
10:30-11:45	<p>Boat briefing with <b>Iftah Burman</b> on the strategic security importance of the Golan Heights and border demarcation issues on the Sea of Galilee</p> <p>In this briefing, Iftah will discuss Israel's northern border in the wake of recent escalations with Hezbollah. Hezbollah is the most powerful terrorist organization in the world—stronger than most national armies. They receive around \$700 million annually from Iran, along with advanced weapons, training, and political support. The briefing will discuss Hezbollah's capabilities, their damaged yet immensely prevalent terror infrastructure, its sustained attacks on Israel since October 7, and Iran's relationship to the terror proxy. Participants will also learn about the evacuated border communities in the north that are still unable to return given ongoing security threats.</p>
11:45-12:15	Travel by bus to lunch
12:15-13:15	Group Lunch
13:15-13:30	Travel by bus to Geopolitical Jeep Tour of the Golan Heights at <b>Kibbutz Ramot Menashe</b>
13:30-15:30	<p>Geopolitical Jeep Tour of the <b>Golan Heights</b> with <b>Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman</b> on strategies Israel employs to deal with northern threats</p> <p>Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geopolitical briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's Paratroopers Brigade, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a B.A. in Israel and Middle East Studies.</p>
15:30-18:30	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Tel Aviv</b> and two-hour briefing on Israel's Arab population and villages with Enia Krivine</p> <p>Arab citizens of Israel make up about 20% of the population, totaling 2 million as of 2021, according to the Israeli Bureau of Statistics. The majority</p>

	of Arab citizens are Sunni Muslims, though there are many Christians and also Druze. Arab citizens are not required to serve in the IDF, though Druze and Circassians are required to enlist. Many Arab communities reside in the Golan Heights, with notable Druze settlements including Majdal Shams, Mas'ade, Buq'ata, and Ein Qiniyye. In this briefing, Enia will discuss the demographics of the region and each community's participation in Israeli culture, government, and military service.
18:30-19:00	Check in to the <b>Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel</b>
19:00	Dinner and evening on own in Tel Aviv
<b>Overnight</b>	Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel HaYarkon St 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo +972 3-740-5000

## Tuesday, November 12

Time	Activity
07:30-08:45	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:45-09:00	Check out of <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b>
09:00-10:00	Briefing at <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b> with <b>Dr. Michael Milshtein</b> on Hamas and the Israeli intelligence failures on October 7  Col. (Res.) Dr. Michael Milshtein is a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy at Reichman University. He is former advisor on Palestinian affairs to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and headed the Department for Palestinians Affairs in the Israel Defense Intelligence. He has published several books and dozens of articles on Palestinian and Israeli-Arab society.
10:00-10:15	Short break
10:15-11:15	Briefing at <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b> with <b>MK Mansour Abbas</b> on Arab political parties and Israeli-Arab society post October 7  <b>Dr. Mansour Abbas</b> from the Joint List parliamentary group is the chairman of the United Arab List in the Knesset. Dr. Abbas serves as deputy chairman of the Southern Branch of the Islamic Movement. He is the formulator and author of the Islamic Movement Charter which reinforces Wasatiya Islam. In 2018, Radio Alshams named him Man of the Year for Reconciliation and Dispute Resolution in Arab Society. Dr. Abbas has doctorate in dental medicine from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is currently pursuing a master's degree in political science from the University of Haifa. He is married and has three children.

11:15-12:45	Travel by bus to Beit Guvrin for <b>Counterterrorism Training Exercise</b> , boxed lunches en route
12:45-17:15	<p>Learn best practices in counterterrorism with <b>Raveed Elfassi</b>, former IDF special forces soldier, and team</p> <p>Participants will step into the shoes of Israeli special forces soldiers for an experiential counterterrorism training exercise. Through the exercise, they will discover Israeli tactics to defend their homeland and gain a deeper understanding of why the IDF fights. The soldiers will demonstrate the values of the IDF – known as Ruach Tzahal (literally “The Spirit of the IDF”). This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operations resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. Participants will also gain an understanding of the makeup of the IDF and how the special forces operate.</p>
17:15-19:00	Travel by bus to hotel
19:00-20:00	Check into <b>Kedma Hotel</b> and prep for dinner
20:00-21:30	<p>Dinner with <b>Raveed Elfassi and team</b> and debrief on best practices in counterterrorism</p> <p>Participants will have dinner with Raveed and the other counterterrorism exercise instructors allowing them time to have informal discussions about the Israeli Defense Forces, life in Israel, current events in Israeli politics and society, and other matters of interest.</p>
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>Kedma Hotel Kibbutz Sde Boker, 8499300, Israel +972 08-623-8100</p>

### Wednesday, November 13

Time	Activity
07:30-09:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:00-10:45	Travel by bus to <b>Kibbutz Kfar-Aza</b>
10:45-12:15	<p>Briefing at <b>Kibbutz Kfar-Aza</b> with <b>Chen Kotler Abrams</b> on Israeli resiliency and life near the border with Gaza</p> <p>Chen Kotler Abrams is a member of Kibbutz Kfar-Aza located on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip where she raises her son - Orr. Chen's aunt and uncle are among the founders of the kibbutz and today most of her family lives there. For over 13 years, Chen has been an active force in Israel's thriving social sector. Her wide-ranging experience includes managerial roles</p>

	<p>in foreign relations and resource development at Gvanim Association in Sderot, Ma'ase Center, and Desert Stars. Previously, she was a producer for several TV series and the Managing Director of Channel 8, Israel's documentary channel. Chen is currently working with Desert Stars Organization promoting Bedouin youth, as Chief Development Officer. Chen holds a bachelor's degree in management and Public Policy from Sapir College.</p>
12:15-12:45	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Netivot</b> and 30-minute briefing on urban warfare</p> <p>In this 30-minute briefing, Iftah will discuss takeaways from the Rafah ground operation and some of the challenges the IDF has encountered during its operations in Gaza. He will also discuss the IDF's reserves model.</p>
12:45-13:45	<p>Lunch at <b>Ilan's Corner</b></p>
13:45-14:45	<p>Travel by bus to <b>Kerem Shalom</b> and one-hour briefing from <b>Iftah Burman</b> on IDF liaison units and military cooperation with Israel's neighbors</p> <p>The IDF Liaison Unit maintains continuous and direct communication (including meetings, direct phone, and fax lines) with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) members both in the Sinai and Tel Aviv. The Liaison Units' objectives regarding the MFO include representing the IDF and the Israel defense establishment in all issues related to operations, logistics, administration, and budget of the MFO. The Liaison Unit also deals with violations of the Peace Treaty and organizes forums to tend to these problems. In this one-hour briefing, Iftah will brief participants on Israeli-Egyptian military cooperation and securing the southern border.</p>
14:45-15:45	<p>Briefing on Israeli-Egyptian relations and military cooperation at <b>Kerem Shalom Border Crossing</b> with the Israel Defense Forces</p> <p>IDF soldiers in the liaison division and other units stationed along the Israel-Egypt border will brief participants on threats along the border, including Jihadi groups such as ISIS, drug smuggling, and more. They will also discuss Israeli humanitarian aid to Gaza amidst the Israel-Hamas war.</p>
15:45-17:00	<p>Travel by bus to the hotel</p>
17:00-20:30	<p>Arrive at the hotel and prep for dinner</p>
20:30-21:30	<p>Dinner at hotel</p>
21:30-23:30	<p><b>Group debrief</b> on key takeaways from the trip</p> <p>We will use this opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to throughout the trip. We have found giving our participants the opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them as a group helps in their ability to understand Israel's complex realities.</p>
<b>Overnight</b>	<p>Kedma Hotel</p>

	Kibbutz Sde Boker, 8499300, Israel +972 08-623-8100
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**Thursday, November 14**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
07:30-09:45	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:45-10:00	Check out of <b>Kedma Hotel</b>
10:00-11:45	<p>Travel by bus to Julis Base and briefing en route on Iranian's overarching proxy strategy.</p> <p>In this 90-minute briefing, Iftah Burman will discuss how the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and Operation Northern Arrows both play into Iran's broader proxy strategy. Other proxies covered will include Houthis in Yemen and militias in Iraq, Syria, and Jordan.</p>
11:45-13:00	<p>Briefing at the <b>Julis Base</b> on Iranian missiles, tunnel detection, and ammunition from Gaza</p> <p>In this briefing, an IDF representative will discuss Iranian missile capabilities and view a recovered missile that was fired directly from Iran into Israel on April 13. The briefing will also examine the IDF's methods for tunnel detection in Gaza.</p>
13:00-13:30	Travel by bus to Kiryat Gat
13:30-14:30	Lunch at <b>Hummus Eliyahu</b>

14:30-15:15	Travel by bus to the <b>National Police Academy</b>
15:15-16:15	<p>Briefing at the National Police Academy with Superintendent <b>Micky Rosenfeld</b>, Israeli Police National Spokesman</p> <p>Mickey Rosenfeld served a decade in the elite counterterrorism unit of the Israel National Police YAMAM, specializing in operations and intelligence. Here he trained counterterrorism units, techniques, and strategy to prevent &amp; respond to terrorism. Throughout his 23-year career, he has been responsible for coverage of all major terrorist attacks across the country and regularly corresponds with all foreign media and journalists stationed in Israel. He will brief participants on the counterterrorism practices of the Israeli police force and the intersection between Israeli national and local security.</p>
16:15-16:45	<p>Briefing with <b>Ran Yona</b>, Head of Policy and Organizational Innovation at the Israel Ministry of National Security</p> <p>Mr. Ran Yona is the policy and innovation manager at the Ministry of National Security, responsible for managing innovative strategic planning projects with the Israeli Police, Prison Service and the National Fire and Rescue Authority. He previously served as a strategic planner officer in the IDF Planning Directorate. He will brief participants on the different agencies working under the Israeli Ministry of National Security and the adaptations that have been made to the Ministry since the attacks of October 7.</p>
16:45-18:15	Travel by bus to dinner
18:15-20:30	<p>Closing dinner and briefing on the U.S.-Israel relationship with <b>Ambassador Michael Oren</b>, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.</p> <p>Ambassador Michael Oren is an American-born Israeli historian and author and was Israel's ambassador to the United States from 2009 to 2013. As a member of Knesset and deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, he interacted with foreign leaders and defended Israel in the media. He also spearheaded efforts to strengthen Israel-diaspora relations, develop the Golan Heights, and fight BDS. He will brief participants on the future of the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship and other topics of interest.</p>
20:30-21:00	Travel by bus to Ben Gurion Airport

### Friday, November 15

Time	Activity
01:00	Depart Israel on El Al Flight LY0027
06:00	Arrive to Newark Liberty International Airport on El Al Flight LY0027

08:45	Travel by train to Washington Union Station on Amtrak Northeast Regional 141
11:45	Arrive by train to Washington Union Station on Amtrak Northeast Regional 141

## **FDD's November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel**

### **Participant Bios**

*\*\*Please note that these bios are for internal purposes and should not be disseminated to others. \*\**

**Nick Adams** is the legislative director for U.S. Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL). During his time in the Congresswoman's office dating back to January 2023, he has covered Judiciary, Homeland, Armed Services, Intelligence, Energy, and other issues for the office. Prior to this role, Nick was involved in Pennsylvania politics, both on the official and political side. Nick is a graduate of the University of Florida and is a Florida native. His hobbies included anything outside, traveling and working out. He traveled to Israel three times in college through Passages, Maccabee Task Force, and AIPAC sponsored the trips. While his Christian faith led him to travel to Israel initially, he has remained interested in the geopolitics of the region as well internal Israeli politics.

**Julia Bristol** is a public policy and national security professional who held various roles in federal, state, and local government. Currently, Julia is a vice president at American Global Strategies (AGS), an international strategic advisory firm co-founded by former U.S. National Security Advisor Robert C. O'Brien and former National Security Council Chief of Staff Alexander B. Gray. Prior to joining AGS, Julia advised defense, intelligence, and national security clients in her capacity as a government consultant. Previously, Julia served as a presidential appointee at the White House, on the National Security Council, and for the Secretary of Homeland Security. She has also worked in the Office of the Texas Attorney General and for an international law firm headquartered in Barcelona, Spain. Julia specializes in strategic planning, communications, program management, and domestic and foreign policy. She earned a B.A. in political science and a B.A. in international relations with a minor in religious studies from Southern Methodist University.

**Sean Patrick Calabria** is the associate vice president and director of research at American Global Strategies LLC. Prior to joining AGS, Sean worked at a political research firm conducting open-source research. Earlier, Sean completed an internship program with the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University where he assisted senior fellows with research and publications. Sean received his M.A. in international security at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University and his B.A. in politics from Catholic University.

**Cristian Diaz Hernandez** currently serves as the communications assistant for Congresswoman Lois Frankel (D-FL), co-Chair of the Women, Peace, and Security Caucus, and member of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee on the House Committee on Appropriations. Leading the digital media strategy and assisting in the communications agenda for the Congresswoman, Cristian covers crucial issues such as women, Israel, antisemitism, and foreign affairs. He holds a double bachelor's degree in political science and international studies, with a focus on European affairs, complemented by a minor in mass communications studies from the University of Florida.

**Thomas Hester** is a consultant advising on early-stage commercialization, acquisition strategy, and tech modernization. He previously directed marketing and communications for a startup and served as a senior advisor in Congress on national and economic security matters.

**Brandon Kirch** is a defense strategist with Systems Planning & Analysis Inc., where he designs strategy and doctrine for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Most of his career has focused on U.S. counterinsurgency and counterterrorism strategy in Afghanistan and the Arabian Gulf. Originally a military analyst at the Department of Defense's Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force, Brandon shifted to the Joint Staff in support of the 2021 retrograde. There he advised senior Pentagon officials, planned contingency operations for the evacuation of Kabul Airport, and provided threat assessments to the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Task Force. Following the withdrawal, he staffed the National Intelligence Council and coordinated intelligence integration for the Joint Staff J5 Directorate (Policy, Plans, & Strategy). Brandon has served on overseas military delegations, worked in uniformed and civilian roles spanning the tactical to strategic levels, and spent a combined five years forward-deployed to the CENTCOM theater, including 30 months in southern Afghanistan. A U.S. Navy veteran, Brandon holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from The Citadel and a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from Georgetown University.

**Anne Lord** currently serves as the Vandenberg Coalition's director of government affairs. Prior to joining Vandenberg, she worked with a small defense-oriented firm where she provided strategic policy research. Anne received her master's in strategic studies from the University of St. Andrew's in Scotland. During her time at St. Andrew's, Anne also served as a National Security Innovation Network X-Force Fellow. Anne also brings hill experience

with her to Vandenberg, having served three years on Capitol Hill in the office of Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE). Her portfolio included national security, defense, and foreign affairs issues.

**Alexandra "Lexi" Marten** is an executive advisor and public policy expert with extensive federal government experience serving in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress. Lexi spent a few years in the private sector where she advised national security clients on technology strategy, public policy, and communications. She is currently at DARPA serving on the Commercial Strategy team.

**Thomas Pack** is an associate producer and the director of the Film Incubator Program at Palladium Pictures, his family independent documentary film business. As an associate producer, Thomas is involved in every phase of all the company's film projects, a skill set he learned through a lifetime growing up in the film industry. He has worked as a production assistant on several films including *Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in his Own Words*, and *Rickover: The Birth of Nuclear Power*. Thomas also launched and runs Palladium Picture's Film Incubator Program, which provides funding, mentorship, and distribution for up-and-coming documentary filmmakers. Thomas brings considerable experience in educational programming to his work with the Incubator, having worked at several educational organizations including in leadership roles. Most recently he worked as head of operations at the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation, and as director of student programs at the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Thomas received his bachelor's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College, and his master's in education entrepreneurship from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a former Hertog Foundation Fellow, TFAS Woodhouse Fellow, and Claremont Institute Publius Fellow. When not working, Thomas organizes events through Moishe House, a Jewish young professionals' organization.

**Satyam Patel** currently serves as a senior consultant at Deloitte Government & Public Services and brings with him a decade of specialized expertise in defense and national security, with a focus on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, and high-performance computing. Satyam has led substantial research initiatives that support federal agencies and has engaged in meaningful collaborations with international research institutions, thereby contributing to the advancement of security measures through technological innovation. Holding an advanced degree in aerospace engineering with a specialization in computational science and engineering from the

Georgia Institute of Technology, Satyam's technical acumen is complemented by a commitment to leadership, innovation, and advocacy in his field.

**MJ Rubin** has held roles at several consulting firms, specializing in projects ranging from Aerospace & Defense to Healthcare, has contracted for both the U.S. and Israeli militaries, and holds an M.A. in counterterrorism & homeland security from IDC's Reichman University in Herzliya, Israel. MJ is currently chief of staff to the CEO at a defense start-up.

## **FDD's November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel**

### **Staff Bios**

*\*\*Please note that these bios are for internal purposes and should not be disseminated to others.\*\**

**Erin Blumenthal** is vice president of marketing and events at FDD. In this role, she manages a range of public affairs, communications, and development projects at FDD. She is also responsible for overseeing dozens of policy-focused events and discussions each year, ranging from small roundtables with key stakeholders to major policy summits. Previously, she worked for five years as director of events and marketing for a boutique strategic communications firm focused on national security, counterterrorism, and foreign policy. She holds a BA in Government and Economics from Claremont McKenna College.

**Enia Krivine** is the senior director of FDD's Israel Program and National Security Network. She joined FDD after nearly seven years at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where she helped strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship through education and advocacy. Prior to AIPAC, Enia worked on several political campaigns and served as director of congressional affairs for the Israel Allies Foundation. She began her career in DC over a decade ago as a Middle East fellow at the House Foreign Affairs Committee, serving under Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Enia holds an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a B.A. in broadcast journalism from Arizona State University. She is an FDD National Security Fellowship Program alumna.

**David May** is the research manager and a senior research analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies specializing in economic warfare. Prior to joining FDD, David was a senior research analyst at AIPAC where he focused on Israeli-Palestinian issues and the United Nations. David speaks Hebrew and Arabic. He earned a BA in History from the University of Maryland and an MA in International Affairs with concentrations in International Economics and the Middle East from the School of International Service at American University.

**Shannon Walsh** is deputy director of FDD's National Security Network, which houses all of FDD's mid-career professional development programming, national security trips to Israel, and the alumni network of 600+ national security practitioners. Shannon also manages a variety of projects for FDD's Israel Program. Before joining FDD, Shannon served as the associate director of research and education for The Philos Project, where she focused on developing seminars and educational resources highlighting the religious and geopolitical complexities of the Middle East. During her undergraduate studies, she interned in the U.S. House of Representatives, where her boss served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She also participated in the Jewish National Fund's Caravan for Democracy, a 10-day educational program for student leaders to explore Israel. Shannon holds a bachelor's degree from Tulane University in political science with a concentration in international relations and minors in Spanish and management.

**Alex Weinberg** is a program associate for FDD's National Security Network, where he focuses on creating and executing professional development programming for bipartisan mid-career national security practitioners. During his undergraduate studies, he held policy and research internships at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, the National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence, and the Jerusalem Institute of Justice. Alex holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in American studies with a concentration in government and politics.

## FDD's November 2024 National Security Trip to Israel

November 6-15, 2024

*Note: This is our optimal itinerary and is flexible according to federal travel restrictions and speaker availability.*

*\*\*Please do not circulate\*\**

**Guides: Iftah Burman, Enia Krivine, Shannon Walsh**

### Wednesday, November 6

Time	Activity
15:30	Group meets at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
18:30	Group flight on Air France Flight AF0051 from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG)

### Thursday, November 7

Time	Activity
08:00	Arrive to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) on Air France Flight AF0051
11:15	Group flight on Air France Flight AF7068 (Operated by El Al) from Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) to Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)
16:40	Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)
16:40-18:00	Travel by bus to the <b>Inbal Hotel</b> in Jerusalem
18:00-18:15	Check-in to the hotel
18:15-19:30	Prep for dinner
19:30-20:00	Travel by bus to dinner

20:00-22:00	Welcome dinner with <b>Amos Harel</b> , military correspondent and defense analyst for Haaretz, and discussion on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and Israel's strategic posture in the Middle East
22:00-22:30	Walk back to the hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Inbal Hotel <a href="#">Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem</a> +972 2-675-6666

### Friday, November 8

Time	Activity
07:00-09:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:00-10:00	Briefing at the hotel with <b>Jonathan Conricus</b> , former IDF international spokesperson and FDD senior fellow, on the attacks of October 7 and current developments in Gaza
10:00-12:00	Travel by bus to <b>Sderot</b> and 90-minute en route briefing with Jonathan Conricus on strategic communications during the Israel-Hamas war
12:00-13:00	Lunch on own in Sderot
13:00-13:30	Travel by bus to <b>Nova Music Festival Memorial</b> in Reim
13:30-14:30	Battleground walkthrough of the <b>Nova Music Festival Memorial</b> in Reim with IDF veteran and security expert <b>Lt. Col. (Ret.) Amir Goren</b>
14:30-16:30	Travel by bus to <b>Jerusalem</b>
16:30-18:30	Prep for dinner
18:30-19:00	Walk to dinner
19:00-21:30	Traditional Shabbat dinner with <b>Elie Pieprz</b> , director of international relations at Israel's Defense and Security Forum, and discussion on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the Iran threat
21:30-22:00	Travel by bus to the hotel

<b>Overnight</b>	Inbal Hotel <a href="#">Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem</a> +972 2-675-6666
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### Saturday, November 9

Time	Activity
07:00-08:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:00-08:15	Travel by bus to <b>Haas Promenade</b>
08:15-09:00	Strategic Depth Overview of Jerusalem with <b>Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin</b> , intelligence, security, and diplomacy expert
09:00-09:15	Photo at Jerusalem Overlook
09:15-09:30	Travel by bus to the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>
09:30-11:45	Explore the diversity and security installations of the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b> with <b>Iftah Burman</b>
11:45-12:30	Lunch on own in the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b>
12:30-13:30	Travel by bus to <b>Qaser El-Yehud</b> , traditional site of Jesus' Baptism.
13:30-14:00	Explore Israeli-Jordanian military cooperation at <b>Qaser El Yahud</b> , traditional site of Jesus' Baptism
14:00-14:30	Travel by bus to <b>Kalia Beach</b>
14:30-16:00	Explore water and border security dynamics along the Jordan Valley at <b>Kalia Beach</b> , at the <b>Dead Sea</b>
16:00-17:00	Travel by bus to the hotel
17:00-18:30	Prep for dinner
18:30-19:00	Travel by bus to dinner at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b>
19:00-20:00	Dinner briefing on Palestinian statehood with <b>Daoud Abulibdeh</b> , Palestinian security consultant at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b>

20:00-20:15	Short break
20:15-21:00	Dessert briefing on the Israeli Arab community with <b>Khaled Abu Toameh</b> , journalist and Middle East expert at the <b>American Colony Hotel</b>
21:00-21:30	Travel by bus to hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Inbal Hotel Jabotinsky Street 3, Jerusalem +972 2-675-6666

### Sunday, November 10

Time	Activity
07:00-08:30	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:30-09:00	Check out of the Inbal Hotel
09:00-10:00	Briefing with <b>Matti Friedman</b> , Canadian-Israeli journalist and author, on the current war in Israel and an overview of regional security dynamics
10:00-10:45	Travel by bus to <b>Yad Vashem</b>
10:45-12:15	VIP tour at <b>Yad Vashem</b> , Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum
12:15-13:15	Lunch on own at <b>Yad Vashem</b>
13:15-13:45	Travel by bus to <b>the Knesset</b>
13:45-14:00	Security check at <b>the Knesset</b>
14:00-15:00	Meeting with a <b>Member of Knesset</b>
15:00-18:00	Travel by bus to Tiberias and 90-minute briefing on <b>Israel's Narrow Waistline</b> with <b>Iftah Burman</b>
18:00-19:30	Check in to <b>Magdala Hotel</b> and prep for dinner
19:30-19:40	Walk to dinner

19:40-21:15	Group dinner and debrief at <b>Magdalena Restaurant</b>
21:15-21:25	Walk to hotel
<b>Overnight</b>	Magdala Hotel Migdal, 1495000, Israel +97246209900

### Monday, November 11

Time	Activity
07:00-07:30	Optional breakfast at the hotel
07:30-08:30	Optional overview of the archaeological excavations located on hotel property with <b>Father Eamon Kelly, LC</b>
08:30-08:45	Check out of <b>Magdala Hotel</b>
08:45-09:00	Travel by bus to <b>Kibbutz Ginosar</b>
09:00-10:00	Briefing at <b>Kibbutz Ginosar</b> with <b>Shadi Khalloul</b> and <b>Neveen Elias</b> on the Kinneret pre-military program for Jewish and non-Jewish Israelis
10:00-10:30	Walk to boat briefing on the <b>Sea of Galilee</b>
10:30-11:45	Boat briefing with <b>Iftah Burman</b> on the strategic security importance of the Golan Heights and border demarcation issues on the Sea of Galilee
11:45-12:15	Travel by bus to lunch
12:15-13:15	Group lunch
13:15-13:30	Travel by bus to Geopolitical Jeep Tour of the Golan Heights at <b>Kibbutz Ramot Menashe</b>
13:30-15:30	Geopolitical Jeep Tour of the <b>Golan Heights</b> with <b>Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman</b>

15:30-18:30	Travel by bus to <b>Tel Aviv</b> and two-hour briefing on Israel's Arab population and villages with <b>Enia Krivine</b>
18:30-19:00	Check in to the <b>Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel</b>
19:00	Dinner and evening on own in Tel Aviv
<b>Overnight</b>	Royal Beach Tel Aviv Hotel HaYarkon St 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo +972 3-740-5000

## Tuesday, November 12

Time	Activity
07:30-08:45	Optional breakfast at the hotel
08:45-09:00	Check out of <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b>
09:00-10:00	Briefing at <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b> with <b>Dr. Michael Milshtein</b> on Hamas and the Israeli intelligence failures on October 7
10:00-10:15	Short break
10:15-11:15	Briefing at <b>Royal Beach Hotel</b> with <b>MK Mansour Abbas</b> on Arab political parties and Israeli-Arab society post October 7
11:15-12:45	Travel by bus to Beit Guvrin for <b>Counterterrorism Training Exercise</b> , boxed lunches en route
12:45-17:15	Learn best practices in counterterrorism with <b>Raveed Elfassi</b> , former IDF special forces soldier, and team
17:15-19:00	Travel by bus to hotel
19:00-20:00	Check into <b>Kedma Hotel</b> and prep for dinner
20:00-21:30	Dinner with <b>Raveed Elfassi and team</b> and debrief on best practices in counterterrorism
<b>Overnight</b>	Kedma Hotel Kibbutz Sde Boker, 8499300, Israel

+972 08-623-8100
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### Wednesday, November 13

Time	Activity
07:30-09:00	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:00-10:45	Travel by bus to <b>Kibbutz Kfar-Aza</b>
10:45-12:15	Briefing at <b>Kibbutz Kfar-Aza</b> with resident <b>Chen Kotler Abrams</b> on Israeli resiliency and life near the border with Gaza
12:15-12:45	Travel by bus to <b>Netivot</b> and 30-minute briefing on urban warfare
12:45-13:45	Lunch at <b>Ilan's Corner</b>
13:45-14:45	Travel by bus to <b>Kerem Shalom</b> and one-hour briefing with <b>Iftah Burman</b> on IDF liaison units and military cooperation with Israel's neighbors
14:45-15:45	Briefing on Israeli-Egyptian relations and military cooperation at <b>Kerem Shalom Border Crossing</b> with the Israel Defense Forces
15:45-17:00	Travel by bus to the hotel
17:00-20:30	Arrive at the hotel and prep for dinner
20:30-21:30	Dinner at hotel
21:30-23:30	<b>Group debrief</b> on key takeaways from the trip
<b>Overnight</b>	Kedma Hotel

### Thursday, November 14

Time	Activity
07:30-09:45	Optional breakfast at the hotel
09:45-10:00	Check out of <b>Kedma Hotel</b>

10:00-11:45	Travel by bus to Julis Base and 90-minute briefing on Iranian's overarching proxy strategy
11:45-13:00	Briefing with an IDF representative at the <b>Julis Base</b> on Iranian missiles, tunnel detection, and ammunition from Gaza
13:00-13:30	Travel by bus to Kiryat Gat
13:30-14:30	Lunch at <b>Hummus Eliyahu</b>
14:30-15:15	Travel by bus to the <b>National Police Academy</b>
15:15-16:15	Briefing at the National Police Academy with Superintendent <b>Micky Rosenfeld</b> , Israeli Police national spokesman
16:15-16:45	Briefing with <b>Ran Yona</b> , head of policy and organizational innovation at the Israel Ministry of National Security
16:45-18:15	Travel by bus to dinner
18:15-20:30	Closing dinner and briefing on the U.S.-Israel relationship with <b>Ambassador Michael Oren</b> , former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.
20:30-21:00	Travel by bus to Ben Gurion Airport

**Friday, November 15**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
01:00	Depart Israel on El Al Flight LY0027
06:00	Arrive to Newark Liberty International Airport on El Al Flight LY0027
08:45	Travel by train to Washington Union Station on Amtrak Northeast Regional 141
11:45	Arrive by train to Washington Union Station on Amtrak Northeast Regional 141

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**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. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Inc. (FDD)
2. Name of your organization: Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
  - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 9/27/2024

Name: Lisa Eisen Title: Co-President

Organization: Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

Address: 110 West 7th Street, #2000 Tulsa, OK 74119

Telephone: 202.549.9948 Email: leisen@schusterman.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

October 31, 2024

Mr. Nicholas Adams  
Office of the Honorable Laurel M. Lee  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Adams:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for November 6 to 15, 2024, sponsored by Foundation for Defense of Democracies and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, 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 employees 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc