

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, 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: Megan Ruane
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: May 23, 2025 Return: May 30, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Tel Aviv Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: J Street Education Fund
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We met and spent time with local political figures and advocates focused on the Israel/Hamas war, Israeli politics, Palestinian Politics, and regional conflict.
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 employee; **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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: _____ Date: 6/20/2025

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: Madeleine Dean Date: 6/20/2025

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: J Street Education Fund

2. Travel Destination(s): Tel Aviv

3. Date of Departure: 5/23/2025 Date of Return: 5/30/2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Megan Ruane

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	\$3,990	\$1,905	\$900	See Attached
Accompanying Family Member				

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: 6/9/2025

Name: Jeremy Ben-Ami Title: President

Organization: J Street Education Fund

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

Address: P.O. Box 66073, Washington DC 20035

Telephone: (917) 312-1869 Email: cooperboyar@jstreet.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.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Megan Ruane
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: May 23, 2025 Date of Return: May 30, 2025
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 Chief of Staff to Rep. Madeleine Dean, it is my responsibility to understand the issues that impact and affect our district. ~~the current Israel-Palestine conflict is of great importance to the constituents of our District.~~ This trip will provide me insight into the current humanitarian and security crisis taking place in the region and will better inform me as I perform my responsibilities.

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: Madeleine Dean

Date: 4/23/2025

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:

J Street Education Fund

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): _____

Please see attached

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

6. Date of Departure: May 23, 2025 Date of Return: May 30, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel

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:
 JSEF is a non-profit organization that works to promote a nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. JSEF alone has planned the trip, chosen the attendees, and shaped the itinerary
-

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): _____
 \$197
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
 To see issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
-

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

Hotel Name: Renaissance Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$360
 Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.

Hotel Name: Dan Panorama City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$395
 Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

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 Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2,500	\$1,905	\$1,050
For each Accompanying Family Member			

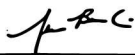
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	Please see attached	Please see attached
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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: April 11, 2025
 Name: Jeremy Ben-Ami Title: President
 Organization: J Street Education Fund
 Address: P.O. Box 66073, Washington DC 20035
 Email: cooperboyar@jstreet.org Telephone: 9173121869

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

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://ethics.house.gov>

May 20, 2025

Ms. Megan Ruane
Office of the Honorable Madeleine Dean
150 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Ruane:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for May 23 to 30, 2025, sponsored by J Street Education Fund.

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.

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:eme

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 staff for Members of Congress, the following trip participants are asked to understand and recommend votes 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.

Kate Kenworthy, office of Rep. Kevin Mullin
Emily Crerand, office of Rep. Andrea Salinas
Robert Edmonson, office of Rep. Robert Garcia
Rikki Miller, office of Rep. Hillary Scholten
Megan Ruane, office of Rep. Madeleine Dean
Rachael Bornstein, office of Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
Nathan Schelble, office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez
Wendy Clerinx, office of Rep. Jill Tokuda
Kimberly Espinoza, office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury
Sean Naron, office of Rep. John Olszewski
Megan Hondl, office of Rep. Kelly Morrison
Jeremy Tittle, office of Rep. Salud Carbajal
Kate Durkin, office of Rep. Jan Schakowsky

ATTACHMENT III. ADDITIONAL PER-PERSON EXPENSES

\$370 Logistics Coordinator fee
\$285 Tour bus for duration of trip
\$160 Meeting room rentals
\$160 Speaker honoraria
\$55 Printing
\$155 Security



Megan Ruane
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Megan,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of senior congressional staff 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 six days, will depart DC in the evening of Friday, May 23, and return to the US in the morning on Friday, May 30.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for congressional staff 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 congressional staff 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 House Ethics Committee rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting relevant paperwork in order to join this delegation.

Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for staff 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.

May 23 - May 30, 2025

ITINERARY

Friday, May 23

Early Evening Flights Depart DCA/Dulles

Saturday, May 24

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

6:30 PM Drive to dinner

6:45 - 8:15 PM Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment
A leading Israeli journalist will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: Amir Tibon (TBC)
Location: Porter & Sons

8:15 - 8:30 PM Drive to Hostages Square

8:30 - 9:00 PM Rally to Bring Home the Hostages
The group will stop by to observe the rally calling for continued implementation of the ceasefire and hostage deal to return all of the hostages.

Location: Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv | +972 3 521 5555

Sunday, May 25

- 8:00 - 9:30 AM 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: Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin
Location: Renaissance Hotel
- 9:30 - 9:45 AM Short break
- 9:45 - 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
Location: Renaissance Hotel
- 11:15 - 11:30 AM Drive to the HaKiryat Base
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM 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, IDF goals and priorities for the ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts, as well as for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- Speakers: TBC
Location: HaKiryat Base - IDF Headquarters
- 1:00 - 1:15 PM Drive to lunch
- 1:15 - 2:45 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: Dr. Nimrod Noviki, Leadership Team, Commanders for Israel's Security
Location: Link Hotel
- 2:45 - 3:00 PM Walk to Hostages Square

3:00 - 4:30 PM	<p>Conversation with Relative of Hostage and Tour of Hostage Square <i>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. Hostage 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.</i></p> <p>Speaker: Maya Roman</p>
4:30 - 4:45 PM	Drive to hotel
4:45 - 6:15 PM	Executive time
6:15 - 7:00 PM	<p>Meeting with Israeli Member of Knesset - TBC <i>We will meet with a Member of the Israeli Knesset to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.</i></p> <p>Location: Renaissance Hotel</p>
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Drive to dinner
7:30 - 9:00 PM	<p>Dinner discussion: The Impact of October 7 on Israeli Society <i>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.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Ibrahim Abu Ahmad, Unapologetic Podcast Pnina Pfeuffer, Ultra Orthodox Feminist Activist Omer Lubaton-Granot, Chief Executive Officer, "Democrats" Party Noam Vidan, CEO, IDEA</p> <p>Location: Malka</p>
<i>I hotel:</i>	<i>Renaissance I hotel 121 Ilayarkon Street, Tel Aviv +972-3-521-5555</i>

Monday, May 26

7:30 - 8:00 AM	Bring Luggage to lobby
8:00 - 9:30 AM	Drive to Gaza border
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities

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

Location: Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Guide: Chen Kotler

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Drive to NOVA site

11:15 - 12:00 PM

NOVA site visit

We will 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.

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem - Boxed lunch on the bus

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Hotel check in and Executive time

4:00 - 5:30 PM

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: Adv. Michael Sfard, Human Rights Lawyer

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

5:30 - 6:15 PM

Meeting with Member of Knesset Mansour Abbas - Chairman of the United Arab List

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

6:15 - 6:30 PM

Short break

6:30 - 7:15 PM

Meeting with a Member of Knesset - TBC

We will meet with a Member of the Israeli Knesset to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner: Iran and the Gulf

This session will explore Iran's role in the region and its impact on Israeli and Gulf security, including missile threats, proxy activity, and nuclear ambitions. We'll examine how Gulf countries are responding—through normalization, defense cooperation, and shifting alliances—and what it means for U.S. interests.

Speakers: Eran Erzion, Former Deputy Head of NSC

Location: Sea Dolphin

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Tuesday, May 27

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp
- 9:00 - 10:30 AM UNRWA Site Visit: Briefing on Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank
We will hear from 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 Israeli legislation on UNRWA operations.
- Speakers: TBC
Location: Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp
- 10:30 - 10:45 AM Drive to Palestinian Political Meeting
- 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Palestinian Authority Political Meeting (TBC)
We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.
- 12:00 - 12:30 PM Drive to Millenium Hotel
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM Palestinian Politics 101
We will discuss the history of the Palestinian national movement, the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank, and the current state of Palestinian politics.
- Speaker: Sam Bahour
Location: Millenium Hotel
- 1:30 - 1:45 PM Short break
- 1:45 - 3:00 PM Lunch: Palestinian Public Opinion
We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.
- Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Director

Location: Millenium Hotel

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin

3:30 - 4:30 PM

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.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Sha'ar Benyamin Industrial Zone

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Drive to hotel

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Executive time

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner Discussion: Day After: Creating a Political Horizon 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:

Shira Efrom, Policy advisor, Israel Policy Forum

Bashar Azzeh

Location: Piccolino

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Wednesday, May 28

8:00 - 9:00 AM

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, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

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.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

11:00 - 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, learning how life in the city has changed over time.

Speaker: Nadav Weiman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:00 - 1:30 PM

Drive to South Hebron Hills

1:30 - 3:15 PM

Lunch and Discussion in Susya

We will learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.

3:15 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Executive time

6:15 - 7:15 PM

Meeting with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In this meeting, we will discuss Israel's foreign policy priorities and the relationship the MFA has with the US Congress.

Speaker: Elad Strohmayer, Director of the Congressional Affairs
Department, MFA

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:15 PM

Dinner: USAID Cuts and the Future of Peace and Human Rights Advocacy

This dinner discussion will focus on the impact of USAID funding cuts on the Israeli and Palestinian peace movement. Key speakers will explore how these cuts are hindering civil society work and discuss strategies for sustaining activism in the region.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Tmol Shilshom

Hotel:

Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Thursday, May 29

- 7:45 - 8:15 AM Walk to Old City
- 8:15 - 10:30 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 – and learn about the city’s religious, historic, and political significance.
- Guide: Hava Schwartz
- 10:30 - 12:00 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
- 12:00 - 12:30 PM Drive to lunch
- 12:30 - 2:00 PM Lunch at the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem
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:
Mahmoud Muna, Manager, Educational Bookshop
Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop
Additional Speakers: TBC
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM Drive to US Embassy
- 2:30 - 3:45 PM Meeting with the US Embassy
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.
- Location: US Embassy

3:45 - 4:15 PM	Drive to Hotel
4:15 - 5:45 PM	Executive time + check out
5:45 - 6:45 PM	Meeting with USSC <i>We will be briefed by the United States Security Coordinator of the Israel-Palestinian Authority on the current volatile situation in the West Bank, settler violence, and a vision for security in Gaza.</i>
	Location: Dan Panorama Hotel
6:45 - 8:45 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: Dan Panorama Hotel
9:00 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Friday, May 30

Morning	Flights Arrive in at DCA/Dulles
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Actual Per-Person Expenses List:

On-site Logistics Coordinator - \$491

Tour bus for duration of trip - \$568

Meeting Room Rentals - \$300

Speaker Honoraria - \$286

Printing - \$64

Security - \$251



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.

May 23 - May 30, 2025

ITINERARY

Friday, May 23

10:55 AM EK 232 departs IAD

Saturday, May 24

8:05 AM EK 232 arrives DXB

9:55 AM EK 2363 departs DXB

12:25 PM EK 2363 arrives TLV. Participants will get luggage and drive to hotel.

2:30 - 4:30 PM Check in and Executive Time

4:30 - 5:00 PM

Introduction and Trip Overview

Personal introductions and review of the trip goals and itinerary.

5:00 - 6:30 PM

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: Yael Patir, J Street Policy Fellow

Location: Renaissance Hotel

6:30 - 7:00 PM

Drive to Dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment

Journalist Neri Zilber will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: Neri Zilber, Journalist and Middle East Politics Analyst
Location: Porter & Sons, 14 HaArba'a St, Tel Aviv-Yafo

8:30 - 8:45 PM

Walk to Derech Menachem Begin

8:45 - 9:30 PM

Stop by Rally to Bring Home the Hostages

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

Location: Derech Menachem Begin, Tel Aviv

Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv | +972 3 521 5555

Sunday, May 25

9:00 - 9:20 AM

Drive to Hostages Square

9:20 - 10:50 AM

Visit to 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. Hostage 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.

Speaker: Maya Roman
Location: Hostages Square

10:50 - 11:00 AM

Walk to Link Hotel

11:00 - 11:45 AM

Meeting with MK Shelly Tal Meron

We will meet with a Member of the Yesh Atid party to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Link Hotel, 39 Sderot Sha'ul HaMelech, Tel Aviv

11:45 - 12:00 PM

Short break and transition to lunch

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch Briefing: 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: Dr. Nimrod Novik, Leadership Team, Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)
Location: Link Hotel

1:00 - 2:15 PM

Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101

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

Speaker: Prof. Gilad Hirschberger, Ph.D, Professor of Psychology, Reichman University
Location: Link Hotel

2:15 - 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 - 3:15 PM

Meeting with MK Efrat Rayten

We will meet with a Member of the Labor party to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Link Hotel

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 - 4:45 PM

IDF Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War

The security briefing by the IDF 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.

Speaker: Lt. Col Roee Bloch
Location: Link Hotel

4:45 - 6:45 PM

Drive to hotel + Executive time

6:45 - 7:00 PM

Drive to dinner

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Meeting with Lt. Col. (Res.) Peter Lerner

We will hear from the former International Spokesperson for the IDF for an informal conversation on his personal reflections on Israel's security landscape, public discourse, and evolving challenges post-October 7.

Speaker: Peter Lerner, Director-General, International Relations Division, Histadrut
Location: Malka, 146 Derech Menachem Begin, Tel Aviv

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner Discussion: The Impact of October 7 on Israeli Society

Hear from a cross section of Israeli society about the social and political dynamics in the shadow of the war in Gaza.

Speakers:

Elana Kaminka, Bereaved mother of LT Yannai Kamnika z"l

Rula Daood, National Co-Director, Standing Together

Pnina Pfeuffer, Ultra Orthodox Feminist Activist

Omer Lubaton-Granot, Chief Executive Officer, "Democrats" Party

Noam Vidan, Co-Founder and CEO, IDEA - The Center For Liberal Democracy.

Location: Malka

Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-521-5555

Monday, May 26

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Bus Briefing en route to Gaza Envelope

Overview of Israeli policy towards the Gaza strip pre-October 7, the current status of the humanitarian crisis, and Israeli policies regarding humanitarian Assistance.

Speaker: Rebeca Metzger, Director of International Relations, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Tour of Nir Oz: Bearing Witness to October 7

We will be led on a tour to hear firsthand about life in the Gaza envelope region pre-Oct. 7, the Oct. 7 attacks, and how the community has fared since.

Location: Kibbutz Nir Oz

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Drive to NOVA site

11:15 - 12:00 PM

NOVA site visit

We will 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.

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem - Boxed lunch on the bus

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Check in and Executive Time

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Briefing: Israeli Policies and Obligations under International Law

Discussion on Israeli policies toward Gaza and the West Bank and legal implications according to international law.

Speakers: Adv. Michael Sfar

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

5:30 - 7:15 PM

Executive time

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner: Regional Challenges and Opportunities – Iran and the Gulf

Discussion on Iran's role in the region and its impact on Israeli and Gulf security, opportunities for defense cooperation and shifting alliances, and what it means for US interests.

Speaker: Eran Etzion, Former Diplomat and Strategist

Location: Sea Dolphin, 9 Shim'on Ben Shatakh St., Jerusalem

Hotel:

Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Tuesday, May 27

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Bus Briefing en route to Ramallah

Overview of the work of the infrastructure of international aid organizations operating in Gaza and the impact of shifting in funding on operations.

Speaker: Bushra Khalidi, Policy Lead, Oxfam

9:00 - 10:30 AM

UNRWA Site Visit: Briefing on Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank

We will hear from UNRWA representatives at the Jalazone Refugee Camp about providing services both in the West Bank and in Gaza, and the impact of recent Israeli legislation on UNRWA operations.

Speakers:

Roland Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs in the West Bank

Heidi Kumpulainen, Protection Team Leader

Sam Rose, Gaza Field Office

Nazmi Rishq, Deputy Chief of Central Area

Location: Jalazone Girls School, Jalazone Refugee Camp

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Drive to Palestinian Political Meeting

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting with Vice President Hussein Al Sheikh

We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.

Location: Negotiations Support Unit, Ramallah

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Millenium Hotel

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch Briefing: Palestinian Politics 101

We will discuss the history of the Palestinian national movement, the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank, and the current state of Palestinian politics.

Speaker: Sam Bahour, Co-founder & Emeritus Member, Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy (A4VPE)
Location: Millennium Hotel

1:30 - 1:45 PM

Short break

1:45 - 3:00 PM

Lunch: Palestinian Public Opinion

We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research
Location: Millenium Hotel

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council

We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank, about their lives and their hopes for the future.

Speakers:

Yisrael Medad, Foreign Media Spokesperson, Yesha Council
Amichai Rahamim, Deputy Head of the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council
Location: Municipal Building, Sha'ar Binyamin Industrial Zone

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Drive to hotel

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Executive time

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner Discussion: Day After – Creating a Political Horizon and Revitalizing the Palestinian Authority

Speakers will discuss steps towards establishing a political framework post-war, aiming to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.

Speakers:

Shira Efron, Policy Advisor, Israel Policy Forum
Ihab Khatib, Founder & Executive Director, Negotiation Strategies Institute (NSI)
Location: Piccolino, 12 Yo'el Moshe Salomon St, Jerusalem

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Wednesday, May 28

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Introduction to Settlements

Overview of the Israeli settlement enterprise, the history, strategy, and vision of the settler movement.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Co-director, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Settlement Tour en route to Hebron

Learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.

Guide: Yehuda Shaul

11:30 - 1:00 PM

Walking Tour of Hebron and Kiryat Arba

On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area, see checkpoints in the city and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.

Speaker: Nadav Weiman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Lunch on the Bus - Drive to the South Hebron Hills

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Visit to Susya

We will hear directly from residents about life in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Executive time

6:15 - 7:15 PM

Meeting with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

In this meeting, we will discuss Israel's foreign policy priorities and the relationship the MFA has with the US Congress.

Speaker: Elad Strohmayer, Director of the Congressional Affairs Department, MFA

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:15 PM

Dinner: Peacebuilding in the Current Moment

Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) will lead a dinner discussion on peace work in the current moment, with an emphasis on the impact of MEPPA funding cuts on the peace movement.

Speakers:

Brian Reeves, Director of Strategic Relations, ALLMEP

Dr. Tareq AbuHamed, Executive Director, Arava Institute

Ayelet Harel, Political Science Professor, Ben-Gurion University

Yaniv Sagee, CEO, MEET - the Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

Location: Tmol Shilshom, 5 Yo'el Moshe Salomon St., Jerusalem

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Thursday, May 29

7:30 - 8:00 AM

Drive to the Old City

8:00 - 11:30 AM

Old City + East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour

A walking tour in the Old City including major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, emphasizing the city's religious, historic, and political significance, followed by stops at viewpoints overlooking areas of contention in East Jerusalem to evaluate the latest developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.

Guide: Dr. Hava Schwartz

11:30 - 12:30 PM

Visit the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem

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 Palestinians in East Jerusalem face.

Speakers:

Mahmoud Muna, Manager, Educational Bookshop

Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop

Location: Educational Bookshop, 19 Salah Ad-din St., Jerusalem

12:30 - 1:00 PM

Drive to lunch

1:00 - 2:15 PM

Lunch with the US Embassy

Discuss US policy in the region, the current approach and priorities of the 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: Stephanie Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy in Israel

Location: Jerusalem House of Quality, 12 Hebron Rd, Jerusalem

2:15 - 3:30 PM

Drive to hotel + Check out

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Farewell Session

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from the past week how this experience will impact their work in the US.

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

4:30 PM

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

7:45 PM EK 2471 departs TLV (all participants except Kate Kenworthy)*

Friday, May 30

12:05 AM EK 2471 arrives DXB

1:55 AM UA 163 departs DXB (Tittle)

2:20 AM EK 231 departs DXB (Clerinx, Naron, Hondl, Durkin, Crerand, Bornstein, Espinosa, Schelble, Ruane)

8:20 AM UA 164 arrives EWR (Tittle)

8:40 AM EK 231 arrives IAD (Clerinx, Naron, Hondl, Durkin, Crerand, Bornstein, Espinosa, Schelble, Ruane)

10:00 AM UA 2679 departs EWR (Tittle)

11:56 AM DL 3783 departs IAD (Hondl)

12:40 PM UA 1231 arrives LAX (Tittle)

1:49 PM DL 3783 arrives MSP (Hondl)

*Kate Adams (Kenworthy) extended her trip on personal expense through Wednesday June 4. She flew EK 2471 and EK 221 on June 4, returning June 5, at the same time as the flights listed above.