



**SWIPE UP
RISE UP
SPECIAL EDITION**

StandWithUs

UNITED KINGDOM

APRIL 2024

TEACH WITH US

**STANDWITHUS MONTHLY
MAGAZINE FOR EDUCATORS**



**ANY TIME.
ANY PLACE.**



YOU CAN NOW DOWNLOAD THE LATEST EDITION
OF TEACHWITHUS FROM OUR WEBSITE.

SIMPLY GO TO:

<https://www.standwithus.com/resources-uk>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
Editor's Note	2
Swipe Up Rise Up 2024 Highlights	3-6
Interview with Rachel Riley	7-8
Current Events in Israel	9
Tough Question of the Month	10

Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number

07706587313

E-mail

yehuda@standwithus.com

Website

www.standwithus.com/uk

Leadership comes from unity

The past few weeks have been some of the most inspiring since I joined StandWithUs UK nearly two years ago.

At the end of March, we held our second edition of *Swipe Up Rise Up*, our inter-school conference for Sixth Formers focussing on supporting them in the fight against antisemitism on social media. To see over 200 young people unite for that afternoon and be instilled with confidence in their identity was something that I believe the community should take great pride and hope in.

Too much of the past six months has focused on how Jewish people should be afraid, how Jewish people are hated, how there may not be much hope. We cannot ignore the threats, but we must remind ourselves that we have a duty for our young people, and to support their future as leaders of our community.

It was incredibly heart-warming to see so many elements of our community join together to support our school pupils. To officially partner with JFS, Yavneh College, JCoSS and Immanuel College for *Swipe Up Rise Up* highlights the wide spectrum that *StandWithUs UK* is working with to ensure that education about Israel, antisemitism and misinformation is empowering for all people of various backgrounds.

Furthermore, the organisations that supported us on the day of the expo showcased the best that UK Jewry has to offer. We had a wide range of guests, including youth movements such as Bnei Akiva and FZY, organisations such as UJS, CST and Tribe, educational groups such as CAA, Etgar, BICOM, as well as the Jewish Agency, MASA, The Warehouse, and Magen David Adom. We hope that there was something for everyone to engage with at the expo, with so many avenues of opportunity being offered to our pupils for whatever their next stage of life is after school.

We were honoured to be joined by Emily Schrader, Rachel Riley, and Konstantin Kisin for the event. All three have different thoughts and perspectives about a variety of issues. I was delighted that so many pupils showed examples of leadership and curiosity by asking questions of our panel. It is inspiring to see young people bravely step up and respectfully challenge the thoughts and opinions of someone else in a dignified manner. All three of our panel commented on how impressed they were by the questions asked by pupils in the panel and in private conversations afterwards.

I hope that the pupils have returned invigorated and confident in their identity for the future.

We are already looking forward to *Swipe Up Rise Up* 2025!



Yehuda Fink, Director of Schools & Youth Programming and Editor of TeachWithUs

SWIPE UP RISE UP 2024: OUR JEWISH TEENAGERS ARE NOT AFRAID!

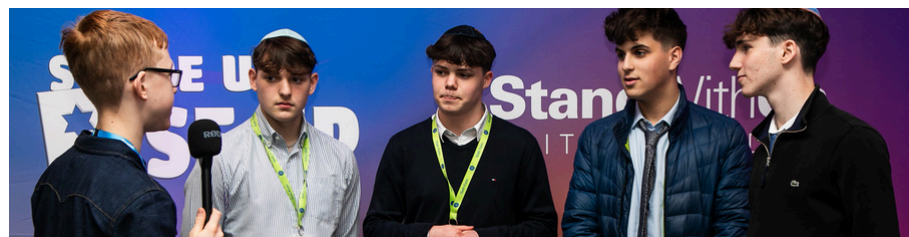
Highlights of a quite outstanding event.



200 Sixth Formers from multiple Jewish schools united together on March 28th at *Swipe Up Rise Up*, the conference that gives young people the confidence to stand up against antisemitism on social media.

Despite it being a rainy afternoon, that did not dampen the spirits of the attendees when they arrived at the StoneX Stadium with warm smiles and excitement to see friends from other schools!

The event opened immediately with an expo, and the guests were greeted with music and food, with a buzzing atmosphere! A number of communal organisations were present to offer the students a variety of opportunities and ideas for their future plans, be it on a gap year, campus or straight into work!



The event started with hundreds of young people connecting, reuniting, or meeting for the first time. With the support of the organisations, the guests were able to create a fantastic atmosphere whilst enjoying a virtual reality experience of walking through Israel, a chance to share their thoughts through art with Deborah Abram's canvas, or take a photo with their friends in the mirror selfie booth!

It was inspiring to see such a positive space following what has been a tough six months for the Anglo-Jewish community.



Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

TEACH WITH US





Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

TEACH WITH US



Following the expo, students were addressed by Emily Schrader, an Israeli journalist with a large social media presence. Emily shared her thoughts about the past six months, the mutation of antisemitism online, and the battle against misinformation.

Emily has a great wealth of experience in her field and has bravely stood up against the Islamic regime in Iran to speak up for Iranian women's rights.

Swipe Up Rise Up then welcomed Emily back to a panel alongside Rachel Riley MBE, a TV presenter and vocal activist against antisemitism. With them was Konstantin Kisin, a comedian and YouTube personality who is a *Times* best-selling author.

The three were faced with excellent questions from the pupils, ranging from specific issues regarding antisemitism, to what the future may look like for UK Jewry.



We want to thank our panellists for taking the time to engage with and support our pupils. We are grateful to have partnered with JFS, Yavneh College, Immanuel College and JCoSS for this event, with pupils from other schools also joining us.

We were also honoured to be joined by Matthew Offord MP and Mike Freer MP in the audience, who also took the time to chat with pupils and answer questions about UK politics.

Keep an eye out for *Swipe Up Rise Up* date for next year, likely taking place in late March 2025!

JOSH CHATS WITH RACHEL: SWIPE UP RISE UP AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Transcribed from a recording of Josh interviewing Rachel Riley at SURU on 28th March 2024

On March 28th, over 200 Jewish Sixth Formers came joined at *Swipe Up Rise Up*. We invited Josh, a reporter from Manchester, to come to the event to interview guests and some of our key speakers. Before the panel, Josh was able to chat to Rachel Riley MBE, TV presenter and activist against antisemitism, to hear her thoughts about the rise of antisemitism in the UK and how we can combat it.

Josh: *So the first question I want to ask you is how did you get into advocacy? Do you have a particularly strong Jewish identity or was it something else that got you into advocacy from the start?*

Rachel: *So I had been brought up knowing I'm Jewish, but it didn't I didn't think about it on a daily basis or put it that way until antisemitism reared its head, and I saw that there was a problem and I saw that the scale of the problem wasn't reflected in the scale of the coverage in the media. And I had a position with a platform in the media, and I'd done charity work for animal charities and for maths and the girls.*

And I thought this was something that was important to speak out about. And I didn't expect the reaction to say something pretty anodyne, you know, "antisemitism is bad" that I got. So it was the antisemites that exposed themselves to me and exposed the strength of their feeling that made me stronger and made me louder. So I'd like to credit all the antisemites for my advocacy.

Josh: *And do you think since October 7th, antisemitism has been permanently let out of the bag, or do you think it will like be brushed under the carpet again after the war's over?*

Rachel: *No, I think you've hit on it. And I think the way you phrase that is spot on: it's out of the bag. I think a lot of people under the, you know, false belief that Israel's actions are causing this massive backlash against Israel and Jewish people more generally in diaspora.*

“...it was the antisemites that exposed themselves to me and exposed the strength of their feeling that made me stronger and made me louder. So I'd like to credit all the antisemites for my advocacy.”

I'm a numbers person, if you look at the figures, the largest number of antisemitic incidents in the UK against British Jews was in the week following October 7th, before Israel had even counted its dead, picked up heavy weapons, even begun to respond, and there were 416 incidents in one week.

I witnessed a couple myself. I think, unfortunately, it's become socially acceptable in a lot of circles. I think it's always there. But I think the scale of it and the speed that it spreads, I mean, we think about how quickly coronavirus spread from person to person, but we're spreading information on the internet and these bad ideas are spreading really, really quickly. And I think it's going to be really, really, really difficult to put the lid back on that. We're going to have to face up to this new post-October 7th World.

Josh: *So you said it's socially acceptable, but do you think that it's socially acceptable now to be antisemitic under the guise of being anti-Zionist or is being overtly antisemitic now much more socially acceptable?*

Rachel: *I think most people don't understand what antisemitism is. I think if you look back, I mean, there's so many of Rabbi Sacks, his speeches that he's given, are so prophetic, you know, since he died*

Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

TEACH WITH US

and he talks about antisemitism as a mutating virus. And it's always, always throughout history, it's been the highest form of moral justification for it. So in the Middle Ages, it was religion and then it went onto Nazi antisemitism and it was this pseudoscientific stuff and now it's this, you know, this human rights. And on the surface, I think a lot of people are attracted to it because, you know, nobody wants to see children suffering and nobody wants pain and nobody wants war. But what's driving it is something far more malicious. It's this new anti-Zionist form of antisemitism, and it's parroting the same old stuff that the Nazis came out with the same old Soviet antisemitic lies and conspiracy theories. But because it's often not overt and because it's often from people who championed fairtrade bananas and go out and do the church clothing sale or whatever, people don't understand it and they can't put their finger on it. And because it's so irrational, if you try and rationalise it, it doesn't make sense. And the scale of it is so big that unless you understand a lot of stuff, it's just hard to fathom. And I think most people are living their lives and getting on with it and not thinking about foreign policy or Jews or anything, which is a really normal thing to do. But unfortunately, a lot of people are being, you know, drawn in by gentle messages from antisemites and then progressively being radicalised and indoctrinated. And it's, you know, something we have to combat.

Josh: So do you think many pro-Palestinians are consciously antisemitic or just they genuinely think that they're not antisemitic and they're just anti-Zionist?

Rachel: I mean, I think a lot of people think they're on the right side of history. You know, there's this caricature of Jews and Israel specifically that just doesn't match reality. It feels like to me, anti-Zionists have these binoculars that are focussed solely on Israel and they are missing the context and they're missing everyone around that.

If you look at chemotherapy, chemotherapy has loads and loads of horrible reactions to the body. My friend's going through chemo and it's painful and it's brutal and it's making her really ill. But she's being treated with chemo because she's fighting cancer and cancer's worse. And I think the problem is if you don't fight anti-Zionism, there are larger forces at work. If there is no Israel, then you have another caliphate in the Middle East.

You have another place with no human rights, with no protection for women, for LGBTQ people. You are actually harming the people that you say you want to advocate for. So on many levels, not just for Jewish people, but, you know, for Arabs, for Muslims, it's vital that we fight extremism. It's vital that we fight terrorism.

And whether they think they're antisemites or not, we still have to challenge these ideas.

Josh: What do you want people to get out of the event today?

Rachel: The event today is for Jewish students. I think there's a lot of work to be done speaking to outside the Jewish community and educating and having dialogue and just talking to people.

But also within the Jewish community, we're just as susceptible to media, to misinformation as anyone else. I think it's going to be important to direct people to good sources of information to have for how to advocate, how not to advocate, and online how to argue appropriately.



CURRENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL

The Israel-Hamas war has raged on, entering its seventh month, whilst escalations continue to threaten to erupt in northern Israel.

Here is what we know as of April 10th, 2024:

- IDF troops continue to eliminate terrorists and locate weapons in Khan Younis and Zaytun as operations in Gaza.
- The soldiers of the 932nd Battalion Combat Team have been operating against Hamas in Zeitoun area in the northern Gaza Strip.
- A 10-kilometre tunnel passing underneath a hospital and a university was found by the IDF. IDF soldiers located a tunnel network connecting the North and the South of the Gaza Strip.
- IDF Troops apprehended approximately 200 terrorists and coordinated the aid of hundreds of portions of food, water and medical equipment as operations conclude in the Nasser hospital.
- Rocket launcher was found in a medical laboratory, The Givati Brigade combat team intensifies operations in the Abasan area of eastern Khan Younis.
- On 18 March 2024, Israeli forces conducted an overnight raid on Al-Shifa hospital following intel that senior Hamas officials had regrouped and were using the hospital "to command attacks". After a two-week siege that ended on 1 April 2024, the Al-Shifa hospital was emptied of IDF soldiers following completion of the operation.
- As part of cooperation between Israel and the international community, Jordan, France, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and the USA. The airdrop operation of 160 packages of food and medical for residents of the southern Gaza Strip and the Jordanian field hospital in Khan Younis has been completed.
- 7 World Central Kitchen aid workers were killed unintentionally in Gaza strike. IDF conducted a full investigation and suspended responsible soldiers and commanders.
- Hamas reportedly does not have 40 humanitarian hostages currently alive – this includes children, women, elderly and vulnerable.
- Since the beginning of the war 600 IDF have fallen.
- Since the beginning of the war at least 32,000 people in Gaza have been killed.

On the northern border of Israel, clashes with Hezbollah continue:

- IDF fighter jets struck a number of Hezbollah terror targets in the area of Jabal Blat, including launch posts and a military site in which terrorists operated.
- Several launches were identified crossing from Lebanon toward Adamit and Shlomi in northern Israel. The IDF struck the source of the fire.
- Following the sirens that sounded in northern Israel, approximately 20 launches were identified crossing from Lebanon into northern Israel, some of which were successfully intercepted by the IDF Aerial Defence Array and the rest fell according to protocol.



Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

TOUGH QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Each month we will address a tough question about Israel and the conflict. These questions may be ones that your pupils may have asked, or you have thought of yourselves. Our suggested answers are aimed to support you in navigating these topics in the classrooms when pupils have thoughts or concerns about Israel and the conflict.

Send in your tough question to [**yehuda@standwithus.com**](mailto:yehuda@standwithus.com)



Are all participants at pro-Palestinian rallies antisemites?

Since October 7th, there have been weekly pro-Palestinian rallies. There has been a lot of hate and antisemitism on the streets of London in recent months. Does that mean everyone who attends these rallies are antisemitic?



There is no doubt that innocent civilians in Gaza are suffering and have lost their lives because of the war Hamas forced upon Israel. Many people who take to the streets in protest are concerned about the lives of the people in Gaza. However, those who protest for those reasons, should ask themselves when they see hate and antisemitism at these rallies: Are the organisers of the rally stopping this? Are they condemning such hate? If the answers to those questions are no, then they should reconsider attending the next rally. If their reason to protest is only for innocent civilians, then they should not want to attend the next rally if antisemitism is not condemned.



HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK

StandWithIsrael
StandWithUs

**Join Our
Campaign**



**19/20 May
2024**

BECOME A CHAMPION TODAY

standwithus.com/uk

