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**TEACH  
WITH US**

**STANDWITHUS MONTHLY  
MAGAZINE FOR EDUCATORS**







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### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Table of Contents .....	2
<i>Protecting Our Future: Message from the Editor-in-Chief</i> .....	3
<i>My Experience: StartUp Trip to Israel - Ava Gray</i> .....	4-5
<i>My Experience: StandWithUs International Conference - Eliana Garfunkel</i> .....	6-7
<i>The Need for the Eretz Society - David Rayner</i> .....	8-9
Highlights from 2025 .....	10-13
Current Events in Israel .....	14
Answering A Tough Question .....	15

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## Protecting Our Future

As we navigate an increasingly complex and often hostile landscape for Jews and Zionists in Britain, one organisation continues to rise above the noise with clarity, conviction, and hope: StandWithUs UK.

In this moment of rising antisemitism and rampant misinformation about Israel, the vital work of StandWithUs UK cannot be overstated. Through education, advocacy, and unwavering support, this organisation is equipping the next generation with the tools they need to speak up, stand proud, and lead.

Over the past year alone, StandWithUs UK has reached more than **9,000 people in person**—a staggering achievement that includes over **5,000 school pupils** and **2,000 university students**. These are not just numbers; they represent young minds being empowered with facts, context, and confidence in their identity.

The launch of the Education Department has supercharged this effort, creating targeted programmes that resonate across age groups. On university campuses, a growing network of Campus Officers ensures that Zionist students are not alone. They are seen, supported, and heard.

One of the standout achievements this year was the inaugural StartUp Israel trip—a life-changing journey for student leaders to witness Israel's innovation and diversity first-hand. In parallel, StandWithUs UK has been at the forefront of supporting students facing real hostility. Whether by **organising pro-Zionist demonstrations on campus**, or hosting **powerful student roundtables at the House of Lords and the Israeli Embassy**, the organisation is giving young people a voice—and a platform.

These students have shared their deeply personal stories of being harassed, silenced, or excluded for expressing support for Israel. Their courage is matched by the steadfast commitment of StandWithUs UK to ensure they are never left to face such hatred alone.

As we publish this, our thoughts remain with the **hostages still held in Gaza**, and we pray for their safe return. We also stand firmly behind the **brave IDF soldiers** working tirelessly to complete their missions and bring security to Israel's borders.

In a world that so often seems to favour noise over nuance, StandWithUs UK is a beacon of truth, courage, and hope. And as we look ahead, one thing is clear: with StandWithUs UK leading the way, our future is in capable hands.

**Support our fundraiser on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> so that we can continue to empower you with knowledge about Israel, and to Protect Our Future.**



*Yehuda Fink, SWU UK Director of Education and Editor-in-Chief of TeachWithUs*



# MY EXPERIENCE: STARTUP TRIP TO ISRAEL - AVA GRAY

*I had the incredible opportunity to join StandWithUs, as a 2023 StartUp graduate, on a trip to Israel. This experience was a result of receiving the outstanding award at my graduation in March 2023. I was also joined with the graduates of the 2024 StartUp cohort.*

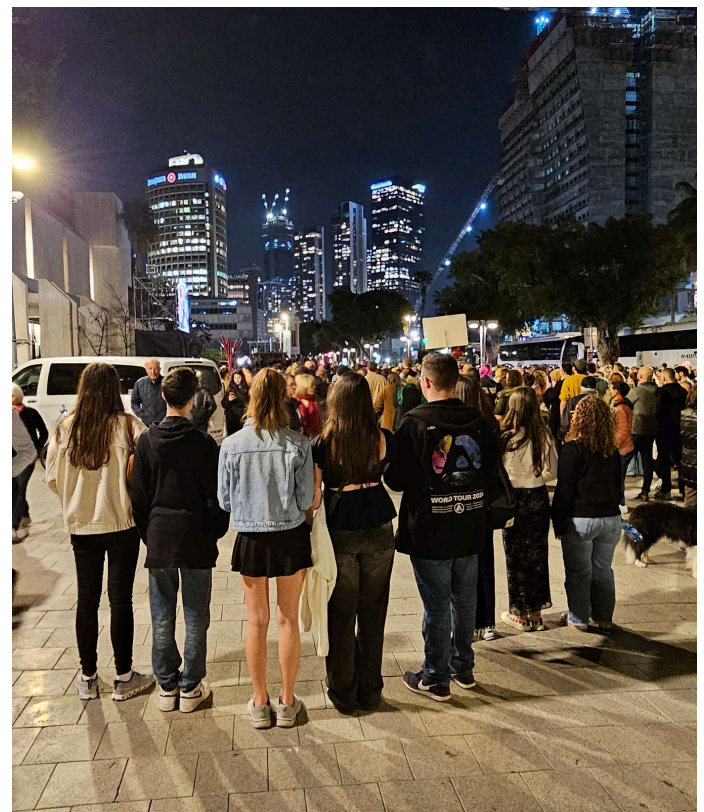
Our trip began exploring the evolving culture of Tel Aviv. We started with a tour of Neve Tzedek, Israel's first established Jewish town, where we learnt the origins of the vibrant and buzzing city we know today. We then visited Shuk HaCarmel. We strolled through admiring all of the local sellers' food and jewellery. Continuing the theme of Tel Aviv's innovation and growth, we visited the Wix campus, an Israeli startup that has made many people's aspirations become a reality by providing a platform for others to create functional websites for their businesses. Wix has become one of the largest tech companies in Israel, and witnessing first hand how a simple idea can lead to something so extraordinary and change the lives of many was truly inspiring. We then walked on the promenade of Tel Aviv and then concluded the day with dinner at Sarona Market, which was arguably my favourite part of each day as it gave us the opportunity to come together and reflect on everything we did that day. Hostage Square to take part in the rally, marking 500 days since the hostages were taken. It was a deeply moving and emotional experience, highlighting the unity and resilience of the Israeli people.



Israel under pressure. We then went on a walking tour of the Old City, exploring the Jewish, Arminian and Christian quarters. It was truly amazing to see so many cultures coexisting. Our tour guide then took us to Machane Yehuda, where we indulged in a variety of foods from different cultures. Later, we had the privilege of touring the ceremonial wing at the President's Residence, before concluding the day with dinner in Jerusalem and making our way back to Tel Aviv.



The following day we went to Jerusalem, where we were welcomed at the StandWithUs centre by Michael Dickson. We had a conversation about our StartUp projects and how we can be crucial representatives for Israel. He also led us an interactive experience, demonstrating some of the challenges that we may encounter when advocating for





On our final full day, we began with a visit to the ANU Museum of the Jewish People, where we explored the history and diversity of the Jewish people. This was then followed by a workshop where we had a conversation about challenging stories within our families and how overcoming adversity shapes our lives. We then visited the site where Yitzchak Rabin was assassinated, where we learnt about the impact that Rabin had on Israel at the time. We then had the privilege of meeting the deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, Assaf Zamir.



He shared insights into the development of the city and gave us a further understanding of his personal journey in the public service, providing us a truly unique perspective on leadership. We then made our way to Hostage Square to appreciate and admire the powerful art installations commemorating those that lost their lives or were taken on October 7th. Given the recent events that happened in Israel that week, it made our visit even more meaningful. We ended the evening at Sorona market again for our last night of the trip.



On the last day we travelled to Jaffa, where we explored the historic port, the infamous clock tower and the flea market. It was an amazing way to conclude our trip before we left for the airport. Having visited Israel multiple times, this trip stood out as the most enriching and unique experience I have had. Unlike other programs, StandWithUs provided us with exclusive opportunities to engage with Israel's history, innovation, and resilience in a deeply personal way. This unforgettable week left a lasting impact on both me and my peers, reinforcing our connection to Israel and our commitment to its future.





## **My Experience at the StandWithUs International Conference**

Now, before you get your knickers in a twist about an American writing about British Jews going to the states, you must be aware that I'm just as foreign to Los Angeles as you tea enthusiasts are. LA is alien territory, apart from one trip to Disney when I was eight years old, and although I sat behind Rihanna and Chris Brown on the flight, it didn't come close to the StandWithUs international conference.

Personally, I had the greatest time at the conference. When I originally applied to be chosen for the conference I wrote about why an American should be chosen to represent the UK. In my reflection of the past three years living in England I had to admit to myself that I had British Jewry all wrong. Originally it was my impression that British Jews were either ashamed to be Jewish, ashamed of Israel or a mix of both.

*Eliana Garfunkel*  
*StandWithUs UK Emerson Fellow 2025*

I've realized now that that is not the case at all, and it is the rest of the UK who has a problem with us in a way that American Jews simply do not have to deal with.

The conference really reaffirmed that observance. Being surrounded by the familiar ruach of American Jews in LA was home to me. It was a treat to be around such a loud, roaring crowd of Zionists again. . American universities have definitely had a hard time since October 7th, but I think it is important to note the harsh realities of British universities as well. Like the Jewish culture here, the antisemitic culture matches its tone with an aggressive subtlety.

Of course, I'm not British. The LA conference was American and I loved it because I'm an American. I cannot speak on behalf of my fellow... fellows, but I can say that the British Jewish and Zionist university experience could be easily overlooked when it shouldn't. For that reason, it was amazing that Michael Dickson was able to play such an active role in the conference for the Brits. I'm sure among the sea of American waves, it was nice to feel a splash of Englishness. In a more focused setting, the UK and Dutch delegation had the chance to meet with Mr. Dickson, Roz Rothstein and the Emersons themselves. Very lovely people, and even though we weren't discussing rainbows and sunshine, it was an excellent opportunity to share the realities of Jews and Zionists on campus in the UK (and the Netherlands).



Apart from meeting with the higher-ups at StandWithUs, we were able to form connections elsewhere. Whether it be hearing from speakers during the preliminaries (which were held after every meal, for about an hour to two hours), and then being able to meet them afterwards to network with just about anybody, the conference was good for it.

Possibly my favourite aspect of the whole weekend, apart from the food, were the fantastic breakout sessions that we were able to choose on Friday and Saturday. At the end of the day, we all bring different dishes to the table, and as helpful as it is to have a sense of community within our university bubble, and to have a relationship with the people in charge, it is essential that we can fight for Israel in the best way we know how to. There were so many amazing options, but I feel that a special shoutout needs to be given to Hailey Stern and Eitan Myers for leading a very informative presentation on the West Bank, and to Hailey Stern (again) and Charlotte Korchak for a helpful workshop on Answering Tough Questions About Israel. All in all, the StandWithUs international conference was a great success in my books. It's easy to forget that there are so many of us who are looking out for one another on university campuses, who are going through the exact same things, and the conference was a great reminder of just how special our community is and how important our fight is.

*Eliana is a final-year student at Royal Holloway, University of London, and is the President of the Jewish Society.*

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## **THE NEED FOR THE ERETZ SOCIETY: WHY I TOOK A STAND FOR ISRAEL AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY**

During my first year at Nottingham University, I was shocked by how little Israel education and advocacy were being done on campus. Everywhere I turned, the pro-Palestinian voice was being amplified, while the Israeli perspective seemed completely absent. It became clear to me that there was a gap in the conversation about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and our voices—the voices of those who support Israel—were nowhere to be heard.

One moment that truly stood out to me was during a protest around the time of October 7th. As I observed the event, a student approached me and asked if they could hear my side of the story. I was more than happy to share my perspective, explaining my views on Israel and the ongoing conflict. Their reaction surprised me—they had never heard our side of the story before. That conversation was a turning point. I realised that many students were either uninformed about Israel or had only been exposed to one side of the issue. It was clear to me that something needed to be done. I couldn't stand by and watch as the narrative around Israel remained one-sided. I knew that I had to create a space where people could learn more about Israel, its history, and the complexities of the situation, all from a place of respect and understanding.



So, at the start of this academic year, I set out to establish the Israel Society at Nottingham University. I decided to name it Eretz, a term that symbolises the land of Israel and its rich history. My goal was to create a community that would provide a platform for balanced dialogue, challenge anti-Zionist sentiment, and empower students with the tools to advocate for Israel with accurate information.

The road to creating the society wasn't smooth. Right from the start, I faced pushback from some individuals who claimed that establishing such a society would cause unnecessary tension on campus. They worried about how it might be perceived by student groups, particularly those advocating for Palestinian rights. But alongside the opposition, I also received tremendous support from others who recognised the need for a balanced conversation about Israel. They believed that what I was doing was crucial for filling the gap that existed at the university.

I quickly realised that there was a deep fear among many students when it came to discussing Israel. This fear stemmed from the potential backlash they could face for speaking out in support of Israel. But despite this, I refused to be deterred. I knew that what I was doing was right, and I couldn't let fear stop me. I understood that by standing up for Israel, I was creating a space for others who were either silent out of fear or unsure about the subject to come together and find their voice.



*David Rayner*  
*StandWithUs UK Emerson Fellow 2025*

During this journey, I was fortunate enough to receive support from StandWithUs, an organisation dedicated to educating people about Israel and combating antisemitism. Their guidance and resources were invaluable in helping me set up the Eretz society. StandWithUs offered me not just practical advice on how to establish the society, but also tools and strategies for navigating the challenges I faced. Their mentorship provided me with the confidence to move forward despite the obstacles and allowed me to build a foundation for the society that was rooted in education and advocacy.

The goal of the Eretz society is not just to advocate for Israel, but to create a campus environment where open-mindedness, respect, and understanding are the foundation for dialogue. The creation of the Eretz society is not just a personal achievement for me—it's a collective effort to bridge the gap in knowledge and create a space for inclusive and meaningful discussion. As the society grows, I am confident it will become a place where students can learn, ask questions, and develop their own understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way that is informed.



*Inaugural Eretz Society event with guest speaker Lorin Khizran, January 29th*

After a lot of hard work and determination, the Eretz society officially became a reality. It was an incredible moment, but I knew this was just the beginning. The society would serve as not only a platform for educating students about Israel but also as a place to combat misinformation and foster informed conversations about the conflict.

I firmly believe that the Eretz society is essential for tackling anti-Zionist sentiment, which can sometimes cross the line into antisemitism. Providing students with a space to learn about Israel and engage in constructive dialogue is crucial in today's university environment. It's also important to empower those who want to stand up against misinformation with the right tools and knowledge to do so effectively.

Education is the most powerful tool we have in the fight against hatred. By providing students with access to accurate information and promoting respectful conversations, I believe we can combat the misconceptions that fuel division and hostility.

The Eretz society stands as a reminder that through education and open dialogue, we can challenge misconceptions and foster a culture of respect and understanding. It's more than just a platform for advocacy; it's a movement for truth and education on campus. And as we continue to grow, we can make a real impact, one conversation at a time.

I am grateful to StandWithUs for their incredible support in helping me bring this vision to life. Together, we can ensure that the conversation surrounding Israel is diverse, balanced, and built on truth.

*David is a second-year student at the University of Nottingham, and the founder and inaugural President of the Eretz Society.*



# HIGHLIGHTS - SCHOOLS & YOUTH



StartUp Class of 2025



StandWithUs UK Activity at JCoSS, January 30th



StandWithUs UK "Stories of Resilience" Tour at JFS, October 7th



Lorin Khizran at Haberdasher's Boy's School, January 13th



StartUp students creating their projects



# HIGHLIGHTS - SWIPE UP RISE UP



Swipe Up Rise Up Expo, March 27th



Zach Margolin at Swipe Up Rise Up, March 27th



Swipe Up Rise Up, March 27th



A treat at the end of Swipe Up Rise Up, March 27th



Ben Rebeck, The Modern Maccabee, Hadassa Goldberg, Zach Margolin at Swipe Up Rise Up, March 27th



# HIGHLIGHTS - CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



Andrew Fox at Birmingham University, February 9th



Student Testimony at the Israeli Embassy, March 19th



Ed Husain and Amjad Taha in conversation at South Hampstead Synagogue, February 13th



Challah Bake at Westminster University, February 6th



Protest at LSE Against Hamas Book Launch, March 10th



# HIGHLIGHTS - CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



*An Evening with Natasha Hausdorff, April 7th*



*Lorin Khizran at King's College London, January 27th*



*Student Testimony at the House of Lords on the state of anti-Israel hatred on campus, March 11th*



*StandWithUs UK Delegation to March of the Living, April 23rd*



*StandWithUs UK Chair René Anisfeld with released hostage Amit Sousanna*



# CURRENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL

The Israel-Hamas war has raged on, coming close to entering its nineteenth month.



## Here is what we know as of April 2025:

- On March 18<sup>th</sup> IDF attacked Hamas targets in Gaza. The wave of airstrikes on Hamas targets in Gaza started at 2:10 am.
- 80 targets were struck during the wave of strikes. Over 300 Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists eliminated during the initial 10 minute strikes alone.
- The IDF said the strikes were launched after Hamas had planned to carry out attacks on Israel
- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the IDF and ISA struck and eliminated the head of Hamas' general security forces alongside additional terrorists. The IDF continues limited ground activity in Gaza and they are conducting ground activity in the area of Rafah and in northern and central Gaza
- The IDF and ISA eliminated the head of the Hamas military intelligence in southern Gaza.
- On March 23<sup>rd</sup> the IDF and ISA eliminated a senior terrorist in Hamas' political bureau who directed the strategic and military planning of Hamas.
- On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Israeli Defence Minister Katz confirmed the elimination of Ismail Barhoum who was the new Hamas Prime Minister in Gaza.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup> the IDF and ISA successfully eliminated the successor to the head of the Hamas government and head of Hamas finances and institutions
- Only 5 out of 22 Hamas political bureau members from the Gaza Strip remain in the strip, with the other surviving members having fled overseas prior to October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Hamas terrorists told rescued hostage Shlomi Ziv that the terrorist organisation had operatives on American campuses.
- The IDF confirmed it struck a Hezbollah drone storage site and says that the state of Lebanon bears responsibility for upholding the agreement.
- Towards the end of March and beginning of April, there were discussions over a potential hostage deal to bring a ceasefire throughout Ramadan and Passover. These talks failed and the violence continued.
- Hamas quietly removed over 3000 names from its death toll, 1080 of these names are children. According to the Henry Jackson Society, there is a disproportionate number of military-aged casualties in the death toll of Hamas, suggesting that it proves that the IDF has been fighting a just war.

## Israel has been fighting a war on multiple fronts:

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, sirens sounded across central Israel as another missile from Yemen launched by the Houthis was intercepted outside of Israeli territory.
- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:35 AM local time sirens were sounded in Metula due to three rockets from Lebanon, thankfully all rockets were intercepted.
- On March 27<sup>th</sup> the IDF eliminated a senior Hezbollah Radwan commander in Lebanon.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> a huge terror attack was averted by the IDF: Hezbollah terrorists were planning a massive attack targeting Israelis overseas with Hamas. The leading organising terrorist was eliminated by the IDF.



## ANSWERING A TOUGH QUESTION

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 [evaj@standwithus.com](mailto:evaj@standwithus.com)



### **"Could there be a nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USA ?**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, poses an existential threat to Israel and must be dealt with. The question is how and in what way?

*As of April 16, 2025, the prospect of a new deal between Iran and the United States remains uncertain, marked by significant diplomatic tensions and internal divisions within both governments.*

*The Trump administration has initiated a renewed diplomatic effort, with special envoy Steve Witkoff engaging in indirect talks with Iranian representatives in Oman. These discussions aim to address Iran's nuclear program, including uranium enrichment levels and potential military dimensions. However, Witkoff's recent demand for Iran to completely eliminate its nuclear program has complicated negotiations, drawing criticism from Iranian officials who view it as a reversal of earlier, more moderate positions .*

*Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has expressed skepticism about negotiations with the U.S., labelling them as attempts at "bullying" and asserting that Iran will not discuss its nuclear program under pressure . Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has emphasised that Iran's right to uranium enrichment is non-negotiable .*

*Internally, the Trump administration is divided. Vice President Vance supports diplomatic engagement, while National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Secretary of State Marco Rubio advocate for a more confrontational approach, including military options if diplomacy fails.*

*In summary, while diplomatic efforts are underway, significant obstacles remain. The success of these negotiations will depend on overcoming entrenched positions. Ultimately, Iran poses a grave threat to Israel and the rest of the world. If diplomacy fails, experts say a military solution may be the only solution.*





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