

**כנס מנהיגות ישראלית עולמית
לונדון, 28 עד 30 במרץ 2014**

Global Israeli Leadership Summit
London, March 28th to 30th 2014

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Press Release, February 2014

Greetings,

From March 28th until March 30th a conference led by Israeli activists from various different countries will take place in London, UK. Four Israeli leaders from three different continents initiated the conference!

According to estimates from various institutions that deal with Israeli communities in the Diaspora, there are nearly a million Israeli citizens that live outside Israel, nearly 20% of Israel's population. Up till now there has been no acknowledgement of them in the agenda of Israel or the Jewish communities around them.

However, over the past few years an understanding has developed between the state of Israel and Israelis who live abroad, a growing recognition that they are a part of the Jewish people and an important asset to the state of Israel. In light of these changes in attitude there is a growing need for global cooperation between the various communities and the Israeli community leaders around the world in numerous fields such as advocacy, culture, education, business networking, Israeli identity, etc.

Continuance to similar conferences led by the Jewish Agency that took place in recent years in Toronto, Melbourne, New Jersey and Jerusalem, the organizers decided to expand the Israeli connection circuit worldwide. The conference in London will assemble leaders and Israeli activists from communities around the world in order to learn from the various activities performed today in their country and to encourage cooperation and the establishment of communities in other places where they are yet to exist.

The Conference will last for three days during the last weekend of March. The Israeli ambassador in the UK, Mr. Daniel Taub, will open the conference. Some Knesset (Israeli parliament) members and other dignitaries from around the world are also expected to attend the conference.

The conference will involve four key areas; the relationship amongst the various Israelis around the world, their connection to Jewish communities, their association with the state of Israel, and their relationship with the country in which they live.

The conference will involve panels and discussions regarding the issues encountered by Israeli leaders and activists in their day to day while introducing current initiatives they use to deal with these issues.

The conference will, among other things, create links between the various communities stress the importance of continuously building a common Israeli and Jewish identity among second and third generations, through programs and activities worldwide. Group discussions will take place in order to establish international committees that will handle the crucial issues that will arise at the conference.

The conference was initiated by four Israeli activists and leaders from four countries and three continents: Anat Koren – London, UK; Oren Heiman – New York, USA; Ran Mesterman – Toronto, Canada; and Eitan Drori – Melbourne, Australia. The conference in London will benefit from sponsorships and the active participation of representatives from the Jewish Agency, the Ministry of Absorption and the Israeli House in London.

“The Israeli leadership, the Israeli communities and the Israeli government must handle the challenges of building Jewish and Israeli identities among second and third generations living outside Israel and must work together to outline plans to implement programs that combine Judaism and being an Israeli” Explains Masterman.” We invite leaders and other Israeli activists around the world to contact us through the Facebook group we set: Israeli Global Leadership Summit”.

End.

Notes to the Editor

Information about the organizers:

- Anat Koren, living in the UK for the past 30 years. Publisher and Editor in Chief of “Alondon”, an Israel magazine and website. She is among the founders of the Israeli business club, IBC, and a part of its management team in the first three years; among the founders of “Seret”, the London Israeli Film &TV festival and its producer over the past three years. Currently Anat is a member of the Israeli “forum” in London, and represents the Israeli community in the umbrella organization of British Jews, the BOD.
- Ran Mesterman, a businessman living in Canada for the past nine years, as well as a volunteer at the Toronto Jewish Federation. Established the Israeli campaign for

fundraising established and led the developing communities committee and for strategic planning that provides services to the Israeli community. During the past five served as a director at the board of directors at the Toronto Jewish Federation. In 2011 organized on behalf of the federation an International Israeli conference in Toronto for activists in the Diaspora. Currently Ran is working on creating worldwide Israeli leadership and initiating projects in education, culture, leadership and Israeli identity among second-generation Israelis.

- Oren Heiman, an Israeli lawyer living in New York for the past 16 years. He was among the founders of the establishment of the New York council, the umbrella organization of the Israeli community in the New York region and was chosen to lead it in the first two years of its existence. Oren thrives to instill the Hebrew language to the second generation in the Diaspora, changing the discourse in Israel, and changes in legislation concerning the Knesset vote of the Israelis in the Diaspora.
- Eitan Drori, living in Australia for the past 15 years. Since 2006 he is the Executive Director of the "Australian Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem" in Victoria, and is encouraging joint academic projects between Australia and Israel. He was the Executive Director of the United Israel Appeal of Victoria Between 1998 and 2003. Eitan is Zionist Council of Victoria's Executive member, responsible for the Hebrew Language and Israel Culture portfolio. He is one of three founders of "AIA" -Association of Israelis in Australia and serves as the President. In May 2013 AIA organized together with the Jewish Agency and The Zionist Federation of Australia the first Leadership conference for Israeli Communal Leaders in Australia.

We would appreciate the added awareness of this conference in your newspaper. We will be glad if you could send reporters to cover the conference or give us contact information to provide you with interesting updates during the conference.

For further details please contact:

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