



# Raising Jewish Student Voices

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Annual Review 2021/22



THE VOICE  
OF JEWISH  
STUDENTS

“

I was immensely proud to be UJS Chairperson in the early 1990s. It gave me opportunities I would never get anywhere else, provided a framework and network that has stayed with me ever since, and gave me friends for life. UJS then, and now, creates a home away from home. Now, with my own kids at or heading to uni, I am once again seeing the work and vitality of UJS for and on behalf of the entire Jewish community. UJS is the heart and soul of Jewish life, a pillar of our community, and I am proud to count myself amongst its many committed alumni and supporters”.



**Tony Danker,**  
Director-General of the Confederation  
of British Industry (CBI),  
UJS President 1993-94

# Dear supporter...

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This year, 2021/22, was a little strange for everyone. The nation, and indeed, the world, was recovering and emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic whilst knowing we could also so easily go back.

We went into the year with a little hesitation and more questions than answers:

- Would students want to go back to in-person events?
- Would JSocs remember how to run events and maximise student engagement?
- Could Universities shut again?
- What would UJS' role be in all of this?

As a team we decided we had no choice but to try and do everything we could to help student life get back to the vibrancy we had enjoyed pre-COVID. So we hit the ground running...

Pizza in the Park was UJS' first in-person event in nearly 18 months. It focused around bringing students together, giving them a creative opportunity to express the impact of the pandemic, a chance to socialise with each other and a time to reintroduce UJS' plans for the year. We were expecting 30 to 50 people. We were wrong. Over 100 people turned up to Hendon park, ate pizza, socialised, met the UJS team and their fellow students and quite simply enjoyed themselves.

And the year continued from there! Hopefully you will discover from this annual review just a taste of the exceptional year we had, which included 5 new JSocs, 4,000 new sign ups and hundreds of events throughout the year.

We are very proud of our work, and we are particularly proud to have so many people behind us, beside us, and our thousands of students in front of us doing truly remarkable things in exceptional ways.

Please do be in touch should you have any questions.

Yours as ever,



**Arie Miller,**  
Chief Executive, Union of Jewish Students of the UK and Ireland



# Looking back...

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Looking back on my time at UJS, I am immensely proud of all that we achieved. In a year when the world was emerging from a global pandemic and we were all learning how to interact again, Jewish students were back and better than ever.

We saw record levels of engagement, with our biggest UJS Conference and Convention in recorded history! Our students pioneered innovative campaigns on a range of issues, from antisemitism to Jewish identity and stood up against an antisemitic culture in NUS. Jewish life on campus is stronger than ever, with growing numbers of JSocs being established and our Jewish community is thriving beyond anything I could have hoped. I am so proud of all of our student activists who are stepping up to be part of the next generation of Jewish leaders and I can't wait to see what comes next.

**Nina Freedman,**  
UJS President 2021/22



# Looking forward...

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I am exceptionally excited about the year ahead, which will bring tremendous opportunities for UJS. Having reconnected with Jewish students across the UK and Ireland in the wake of the pandemic I am inspired by the increase in engagement with UJS and our JSocs.

We have seen sustainable growth in Scotland and Ireland and welcomed several new Jewish societies into our national student community already. This includes Cork JSoc in Ireland at which thirty people attended a Succot event shortly after the society was founded.

Our sabbatical team are proud to be reviving some of the best programmes and events from UJS' history including the "Jewniversity Challenge" quiz show that brings different JSocs together; the Jewish student journal "Aleph" that is back in print after a few decades in hibernation and the "Lessons from Auschwitz - Universities" project which this year will bring hundreds of university leaders to the concentration camp as part of an educational initiative to educate about contemporary and historical antisemitism

Our team are also working on new projects including UJSix our flagship sixth form programme, shabbatonim bringing regional JSocs together, numerous speakers tours and sports programming that offers a new entryway into Jewish life on campus. It is an incredible privilege to lead UJS into 2023. I'm constantly energised by my visits to campuses which bring home to me the precious nature of Jewish student activity. I am proud to lead a team, and a union that will have a truly significant impact this year - one that will be felt for many years to come.



**Joel Rosen,**  
UJS President 2022/23

# Our Mission

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We are the voice of nearly 9,000 Jewish students, spanning more than 70 Jewish Societies (JSocs) on campuses across the UK and Ireland. We are traditional, progressive, politically diverse, cultural and spiritual; we are unified, not uniform, and advocate the unity of our one Jewish people.

Guided by our core values, the priorities of our elected President and policy passed at UJS Conference, we create and deliver powerful campaigns: fighting prejudice that targets Jewish people and other minorities; advancing the inclusion of Jewish people within wider society and of marginalised groups within our Jewish community; and inspiring education and action on the issues that matter to us.

Locally, nationally and internationally, we run diverse and dynamic programmes; facilitate access to kosher food and accommodation; offer career networking opportunities; proudly and passionately engage with Israel; initiate inspiring interfaith projects; and spearhead and support social action (tikkun olam).

For over 100 years, we've been leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life across the UK and Ireland, inspiring generations of future leaders of the Jewish community, and we're proud to be the voice of Jewish students.



# Our Core Values

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## Cross-Communalism

UJS and JSoc activities are open to all Jewish students regardless of political or religious affiliation or denomination. We strive to continually improve how we celebrate the diversity of Jewish students.

## Israel Engagement

We passionately and proudly connect our students with over 3000 years of Jewish and Hebrew culture, offering opportunities to strengthen, celebrate and explore a personal relationship with Israel as part of an evolving expression of Jewish identity.

## Peer-leadership

We are empowered and equipped to lead and direct our programming and campaigning with and for our peers.

## Representation

As the voice of Jewish students we ensure Jewish students' voices and views are heard locally and nationally. JSoc committees and the UJS President are elected roles which consider the views of their members and represent these and our democratically decided policy to the student movement, the wider Jewish community, politicians and policy makers.



# Our Impact

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**4,000**

new students  
joined UJS

**5**

new JSocs

**£663k**

raised to directly  
support Jewish  
campus life

**15,000**

Friday Night meals  
provided with funding  
from UJS

**100k**

comments, likes and  
shares across our social  
media platforms

**1,000+**

voters in the UJS  
Presidential election

**350**

participants in the  
UJS conference

**300+**

attendees at the UK's  
largest cross-communal  
student shabbaton

**100+**

motions submitted to  
the UJS Conference

**50+**

students nominated  
for awards at the UJS  
Student Awards

**40+**

visits to campuses in  
Wales, Ireland, Northern  
Ireland and Scotland



UJS' TikTok channel  
was launched



# Our Work

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## Pizza in the Park

Bringing nearly 100 students together to launch the year and reconnect after the isolation of COVID.

## Antisemitism awareness weeks

Through stalls, talks and events, raising awareness amongst the wider student population about the history and impact of antisemitism on campus



## Supporting Jewish Students Conference

A conference of academics, Vice Chancellors and welfare staff were brought together by UJS to learn about Jewish student life, hear from a panel of Jewish students, and understand the day-to-day experiences of students on their campuses.



# Our Work



## UJS Convention

Re-launched a national weekend of learning, Jewish cross-communalism, and community building celebrations in the centre of the country. Students from nearly every JSoc attended the weekend where they heard from exceptional speakers, had peer-led sessions and celebrated their Judaism together in every and whichever way they chose.

## Chanukah on Ice

Working with our London JSocs, Chanukah on Ice saw a sell-out crowd with a lengthy waiting list! More than 100 London students came together to skate, eat doughnuts and celebrate Chanukah across London Jewish Societies.



## UJS Policy Conference

With more than 100 policies to debate and discuss, and more than 350 people doing it, this year's conference was unlike any before. Motions from social action, to Israel, to Zionism, to LGBTQ+ rights, to fighting for justice and so much more were discussed, debated and voted on in the first of its kind hybrid conference.

## Uyghur Protest

UJS led the community and the worldwide student community in standing together with the persecuted Uyghur minority in China. From demonstrations, to letter writing campaigns, to representations to Governments in the UK and Europe.



## Piece to Peace

UJS relaunched our Piece to Peace campaign, hosting stalls and speakers across the country to engage all students, Jewish and not, on the prospects and hopes for peace.

## UJS Student Awards

With over 200 attendees, more than 20 award winners, esteemed UJS alumni and community leaders, the event was a wonderful awards evening celebrating the exceptional work of our students across the UK and Ireland.



# Our Students

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UJS conference, with the simchas and ruach on display, the friendships I made and rekindled from time long passed on re-meeting, felt like being on camp again! But more than that - the talks and education for example on The Rwandan genocide and modern incarnations of antisemitism were also essential. It was great to be working to make JSoc as a nation of JSocs the best it can be for Jewish students all over with democratic motions and sage advice from the Sabbatical Officers. Worth failing exams for in my opinion!

**Robbie Lazarus,**  
Edinburgh JSoc



UJS has been amazing in connecting Jewish students from around the country together, creating a real sense of community. Their annual awards night was a great event, and it was inspiring to see a real celebration of Jewish students' achievements in the past year. This event was a real testament to the work which UJS do in driving and facilitating accomplishments of Jewish students. Their Aleph Magazine has created an important space for engagement and discussion in what it means to be a young Jewish adult, and it was lovely to see a wide range of contributions from students across the UK, bringing their personal experience to the community. I found that UJS's sessions on the last Israeli election to be very helpful in creating this safe space for engagement in questions of Jewish identity, especially when Israel-Palestine is such a dominant issue within student politics.

**Hannah Haskel,**  
Cambridge JSoc



Throughout my university experience so far UJS has been a great support not only as a member of my JSocs committee but also an individual student. I find it very comforting to know if we need help of any kind whether directly JSoc related or personally as a student, there is always a sabbatical officer at the other end of the phone waiting to help and advise. And they aren't afraid to go above and beyond and get their hands dirty helping with whatever is needed, whether it's redecorating a kitchen or engaging with students at FND.

**Rebecca Myers,**  
Bristol JSoc



During my Oxford JSoc presidency, I saw first-hand all the crucial work UJS does behind the scenes on a daily basis. I spoke to our UJS Sab almost every day and got brilliant assurance, assistance or advice every time. Notwithstanding all the financial, security etc aid we receive from UJS, I know that the daily conversations with our Sab made my experience as Oxford JSoc President much more smooth, successful and enjoyable than it would otherwise have been - and the real beneficiaries are all our Oxford JSoc members. I can't thank UJS (and particularly our Sab) enough!

**Sam Kramer,**  
Oxford JSoc



# Our Future

## UJSix

UJS is excited and proud to launch this exciting project, bringing experience led campus-preparation to school 6th formers. This programme will focus on a number of areas including campus preparation and leadership development, will include shabbatonim for 6th formers to meet current students and hear about life on their campuses, and build a strong 6th form community, ready for the next step and university life. To find out more about this exciting piece of work, or if you know or work with 6th formers, contact the UJS Head of Programming and 6th form development, Jodie Franks, on [JodieF@ujs.org.uk](mailto:JodieF@ujs.org.uk).



## Alumni Network

UJS will be launching our alumni network, following a successful year of re-connecting and engaging with alumni across a number of events. This network will be an opportunity for alumni to meet each other but also to support UJS and Jewish students with expertise, mentoring, philanthropy, advice and access. If you are an alumnus and would like to know more contact our Alumni Engagement and Fundraising Executive, Oliver Levy on [OliverL@ujs.org.uk](mailto:OliverL@ujs.org.uk).



*“More Jewish Students doing more Jewish things” – Alan Senitt z”l*

This year UJS is focused on creating as many doors as possible for Jewish students to step through into Jewish life. From the launch of the “UJSports – year of Jewish Sport” project, encouraging more Jewish students to participate in sports activities, to reigniting UJS’ Israel trips, to exceptional speaker tours from leading UK, US and Israeli speakers and thinkers, to an even bigger and better peer-led convention, showcasing the very best of Jewish student life, and so much more. UJS is proud to be at the forefront of student activity, the only organisation providing core support for Jewish Societies, and the proud voice of Jewish students.

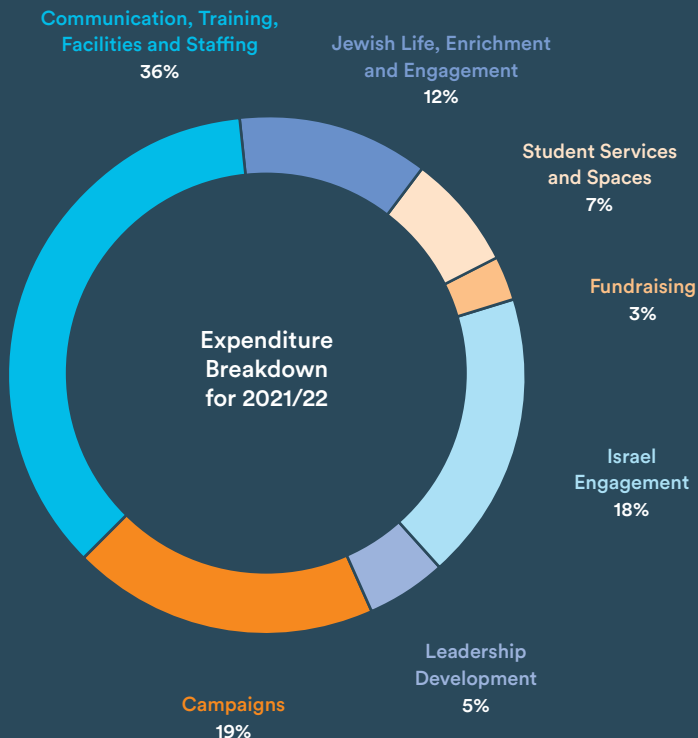


# Financial Review

UJS has continued to slowly work its way back to the level of income we were able to project pre-pandemic. This year our income has once again surpassed our projections, and we continue to see success in our fundraising, no doubt due to the ongoing exceptional delivery and programming each UJS team has produced.

Due to diligent spending, UJS has been able to keep productivity high whilst ensuring spending is kept at a sensible level without losing any quality.

The pie chart below shows the expenditure breakdown for 2021/22.





UJS is committed to ensuring our donations are spent as they are intended – supporting Jewish students. That is why almost 80% of our income is spent directly supporting Jewish students, with the remaining 20% spent on indirect support such as Fundraising costs and Head Office costs.

Without the support of our donors, we would not be able to do this. We are looking ahead to creating a break-even budget within the next 3 years, to ensure we continue to proudly be an organisation our donors can trust in and an organisation that spends those donations exactly where and how they are intended.

The bar graph below shows our income and expenditure from 2016/17 to 2021/22.



# Thank You...

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## Guardians and Patrons

Ed Barnett, Bill Benjamin, Ruth Berkotwiz, Keith Black, Sir Victor and Lady Blank, Leon and Cara Blitz, The Bloom Foundation, Richard Bolchover and Jo Rosenfelder, Paul and Peggy Brett, The Catherine Lewis Foundation, David and Nili Chinn, Sir Trevor and Lady Chinn, Simon Corney, Sir Mick Davis, Peter Dubens, Graham Edwards, The Exilarch's Foundation, Robert Gibber, David Goldberg QC, Jonny Goldstein, Marc Gordon and Caroline Marcus, Maurice and Danielle Helfgott, Alan and Louise Jacobs, Nick Leslau, Lord Jon and Nicola Mendelsohn, The Rachel Charitable Trust, Harry Rich, The Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust, Joshua and Mrs Michelle Rowe, Nina and Roy Sandler, Sir Harry and Lady Solomon, Hilda Worth.

## Friends of UJS

Mark Astaire, Mark Barnett, Sandra Blackman, Carolyn Bogush and Gideon Smith, Sue Charles, Dr Vivienne Cohen, David Uri Memorial Trust, The Craps Charitable Trust, Simon Fine, Ann Goldstein, Antony Grossman, Richard Goldstein, Ronnie Goldstein, Richard and Eliana Green, Francis and Anne Greibach, Henry Grunwald OBE, Robin Hilton, Inge Hyman, Mandy and Tim Isaacs, JE Posnansky Charitable Trust, Jewish Memorial Council, Joe and Rosa Frenkel Charitable Trust, John Black Memorial Trust, Jusaca Charitable Trust, Lord Kalms, Daniel Kay, Isaac Kaye, Paul Koopman, David Lewis, Stephen and Sharon Lewis, Steven Lewis, Steven and Alicia Lewis, Anthony Loftus, Alison Mendel, David Menton, Leo Noe, Marc Nohr, Nicholas Posnansky, Shelley Robinson, Stephen Rubin, Ruth Berkowitz Charitable Trust, Fiona Sharpe, Alison Sonn, Paul Summerfield, Sybil Shine Memorial Trust, Ron and Julie Tabbouche, Mr D Winter, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale.

## UJS Advisory Council

Sir Victor Blank (Chair), Baroness Ros Altman, Luciana Berger, Tony Bloom, David Dangoor, Baroness Ruth Deech, Sir Lloyd Dorfman, Jonathan Goldstein, Henry Grunwald OBE, Lord Daniel Finkelstein, Sir Brian Leveson, Laura Marks OBE, Lord Jon Mendelsohn, Sir Trevor Pears, Lady Elaine Sacks, Hilda Worth.

## Communal Supporters & Partners

Shoresh Charitable Trust, Pears Foundation, Rothschild Foundation, Jewish Youth Fund.



## UJS Team 2021/22

Nina Freedman (President), Amanda Sefton, Daniel Marcus, Faye Huberman, Jodie Franks, Shayna Wise-Till, Adi Peled, Dovi Wieder, Noa Dayan, Arie Miller (CEO), Emma Senitt, Marcus Mendleson, Shiri Wolff.

## UJS Trustees 2021/22

Paul Summerfield (Chair), Nina Freedman (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Bogush (Vice-Chair), Mark Barnett, Daniel Dangoor, Spencer Debson, Elana Dwek, Judith Flacks, Louise Goldberg, Toby Kunin, Adam Rose, Hannah Rose, Mitchell Simmons.

## UJS Honorary Life President

Sir Victor Blank

# Leave a Legacy to UJS

The Future of Jewish Student Life is in your hands

Every year, UJS needs to raise vital funds to continue our work in leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life.

Every pound raised goes to supporting the 9,000 Jewish students on campus.

Your gift, whatever the size, will help us ensure we can continue to deliver high quality programming and support to our Jewish student community for years to come.

As our community grows, the need for UJS grows too. Your legacy can help ensure our provision continues long into the future.

**Your legacy will have a direct impact on  
thousands of Jewish students**

To discuss leaving a legacy to UJS, please contact  
Arieh Miller on [ariehm@ujs.org.uk](mailto:ariehm@ujs.org.uk) or 020 7424 3280

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