



# 2025/26 Impact Report

**UJS** | THE VOICE  
OF JEWISH  
STUDENTS

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▶ **48,422**

student attendees at events

▶ **1,022**

Jewish Society events supported by UJS

▶ **302**

campus visits made by UJS sabbatical officers

▶ **9,947**

Friday night dinners served

▶ **1,817**

votes cast in Presidential Election

▶ **210**

university leadership meetings with 71 institutions

▶ **32**

meetings with Government and Shadow Ministers

▶ **1,465**

university leaders trained in tackling antisemitism

“

UJS is an incredible platform which uplifts Jewish student lives. As the President of a small JSoc, it was great to have their full support this year.” - Ethan, Surrey JSoc

“

Looking back, UJS has easily been one of the most defining parts of my student life. Being a part of the UJS Fellowship this year has truly molded me as an individual and completely reshaped the way I navigate university campus and conversations with peers.” - Tahlia, Durham JSoc

“

UJS has provided constant support, community, and development opportunities throughout every stage of university.” - Elie, Edinburgh JSoc

“

UJS helped me grow as a leader, build lasting friendships, and develop the confidence to create meaningful experiences for others. It was one of the most rewarding parts of my university journey.” - Abi, Nottingham JSoc

“

UJS has given me and my JSoc the most insane support in growing and developing the Jewish community in Liverpool.” - Kezzy, Liverpool JSoc

## Louis Danker, UJS President 25/26



**When I started my term as President of the Union of Jewish Students, one year ago, I set out a vision of how UJS must meet the moment.**

We are an organisation 107 years old, but each year the team is refreshed with new graduates energised to kick on and revitalise Jewish life on campus. As we welcomed this year's new sabbatical team through the office doors, the Jewish student world was reaching the end of a chapter. The 18 months that followed October 7th 2023 were necessarily defined by resilience in the face of adversity. My brilliant predecessors, Edward Isaacs and Sami Berkoff, drove UJS to support students navigating the emotion of October 7th, the unprecedented rise of antisemitism on campus, and the subsequent upsurge in those seeking Jewish communal life. The tireless work of their teams fostered green shoots of renewal, and the desire among our students to write a new Jewish student story – not defined by the hate we face, but by the vibrant campus life we continue to build.

Enter the 2025/26 UJS sabbatical team. Like their predecessors, they were shaped by the successes and challenges of their Jewish student lives. Together, our team were the authors of a new chapter, one that resolutely declares that the best way to fight antisemitism is through Jewish student pride.

Our Year of Jewish Pride was powered by hundreds of Jewish Society (JSoc) leaders, serving thousands of students on over 80 campuses. They organised over 900 on-campus events, from Friday night dinners to pub quizzes, sports tournaments to lunch and learns. This work was supported, in imagination, delivery and funding, by the UJS team. We also coordinated dozens of national projects. Take our flagship national Convention, delivering dozens of educational sessions in a cross-communal Shabbaton for hundreds of students. Or Jewish Experience Week, with over 40 events nationwide showcasing Jewish culture and tradition to our non-Jewish peers on campus. If you came to our annual Awards Ball, you would get a sense of the sheer Jewish joy on show on our campuses, this year empowered to reject hate and instead choose community, pride, and plain old fun. There are scores of ways that thousands of students have got involved in our work, building a stronger connection to their

community, and a pride and resilience in their Jewish identity that feels truly of the moment.

Meeting the moment also required a renewed approach to combatting antisemitism. October 7th precipitated a series of campus crises that required a reactive response, and UJS has developed best-in-class processes for dealing with incidents while supporting students. But as antisemitism becomes normalised on campus, a more proactive approach must expose the challenges we face in high definition, mobilising government, university leadership and civil society to respond. This year, our biggest-ever Campaigns team delivered a series of sharp campaigns that generated real cut-through. Time for Change diagnosed the nature of campus antisemitism and prescribed six recommended solutions, all of which are being progressed by Government. Our Best Practice Guidance makes 91 recommendations to universities, based on extensive research and partnerships. Alongside these and many other campaigns, we were there for our students when times were tougher than ever before – after the Heaton Park attack in Manchester and the stabbings in Golders Green. Reports that grab national media attention are powerful and important, but taking students for coffee and lending a shoulder to cry on must also be a core purpose.

UJS is the Jewish community's leadership pipeline – not just for tomorrow, but building leaders for today. Our Leadership Fellowship programmes have grown substantially, with record numbers of applicants for both the campus and sixth form tracks. We have created year-round development opportunities for the hundreds of newly-engaged Jewish students. Generations of Jewish community leaders cut their teeth on campus, and we have been intentional about meeting this moment by building leadership strength from crisis.

Our work has never been more impactful. It has also never been more needed. As polarisation grows and many in our community feel adrift, we are anchoring a British Jewish future in thousands of brilliant young leaders. Our new chapter is stubbornly steadfast, proactive in its intention, and committed to revitalising Jewish life on campus and beyond.

It has been my greatest privilege to lead the team and the organisation writing a new Jewish student story. Over the coming pages, I hope you enjoy reading it.

## Mervyn Kaye, UJS CEO



As I reflect on my first year as CEO of UJS, I feel enormously fortunate that Louis and the 2025/26 sabbatical team were my first President and student leadership team. This report rightly belongs to them, to the JSoc leaders they supported, and to the students across the country who led with courage, creativity and commitment.

Since 1919, UJS has carried a unique responsibility as the democratic, peer-led and cross-communal voice of Jewish students. That mandate comes from students themselves and from generations of young Jewish leaders who have shaped UJS before going on to serve the wider community. In a complex and often crowded environment, UJS ensures that Jewish students, in all their diversity, can organise, lead, speak and act for themselves.

My role, with the Chair, Board of Trustees and permanent team, is to strengthen the organisation behind that student leadership. UJS works best when the energy and insight of students are matched by strong governance, sound operations, trusted partnerships and sustainable funding. I am grateful for the foundations and support from my predecessor, Arieh Miller, previous student

leadership teams, trustees, staff, donors and communal partners. We have begun building on those foundations with renewed clarity, discipline and ambition, so UJS can be stronger, more resilient and better equipped to support Jewish student leadership in the years ahead.

This year marked the first year of UJS's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Ambition. Our task was to turn that ambition into practical delivery: clearer support for JSocs, stronger representation, deeper leadership development, better systems and greater organisational resilience.

The pages that follow show what student leadership has achieved this year. With continued investment, particularly in core funding, and with strong partnerships across the Jewish community, government, universities and civil society, UJS can respond flexibly, plan confidently and give each new student team the platform it needs to lead, while developing the lay and professional leadership our community will need for the future.

I am proud of what this team has achieved, and clear that this is the start of the next stage of our work

## Carolyn Bogush, UJS Chair



It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of UJS during such an important year for Jewish students. Having served for some time as a trustee and Vice Chair, I have seen closely the strength, seriousness and commitment that sits behind UJS's work. I was honoured to take on the role of Chair during the year, succeeding Daniel Dangoor, whose leadership, judgement and dedication helped guide the organisation through a demanding period.

This report shows what becomes possible when student leadership is properly supported, governed and resourced. Louis and the 2025/26 sabbatical team have led with energy, courage and purpose, supported by JSoc leaders across the country and by a permanent team working hard to strengthen the organisation around them. The Board's role is to support, challenge and protect that work, ensuring UJS remains true to its democratic, peer-led and cross-communal mandate while also building the resilience required for the future.

This has been a year of significant challenge but also progress. UJS has begun delivering its new Strategic Ambition, strengthened its governance and operations, deepened key partnerships and continued to build the organisational rigour Jewish students need. That progress matters because Jewish students need an organisation that can act quickly, speak clearly and sustain vibrant Jewish life on campus over the long term.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Louis, Merv, the sabbatical and permanent teams, our trustees, donors, partners and JSoc leaders. UJS's work has never mattered more. With continued support, we can ensure it remains strong, trusted and ready to serve Jewish students now and in the years ahead.

# A Year of Jewish Pride

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This year, UJS supported Jewish students across the UK and Ireland to meet a challenging moment with confidence, resilience and pride. Hundreds of student volunteers leading our 80 JSocs stepped up, and thousands of students engaged across the breadth of our work. Jewish students have reclaimed agency over their campus life, refusing to allow it to be shaped by hostility. Instead, we have built a union of dynamic, defiant communities, and built on the call to action of former UJS President Alan Senitt z”l – “more Jewish students, doing more Jewish things”.

The examples below give a flavour of our work, demonstrating how UJS powers peer-led, cross-communal Jewish life on campus that thrives amid challenge.



# Our Proud JSoc Communities

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80 JSocs across the UK & Ireland showcased the breadth and resilience of student life. Students led cultural programmes, social events, formal dinners, community projects and more, helping Jewish students feel connected and visible on campus.

We distributed 2,500 “freshers packs” at the start of the year, giving new arrivals onto campus all they need to engage in Jewish life. Our sabbatical officer team made hundreds of visits to campus, supporting the delivery of brilliant events and providing a space for connection at challenging times. The effect of UJS’s work from day one of the new year is to create a home away from home for new students on campus.

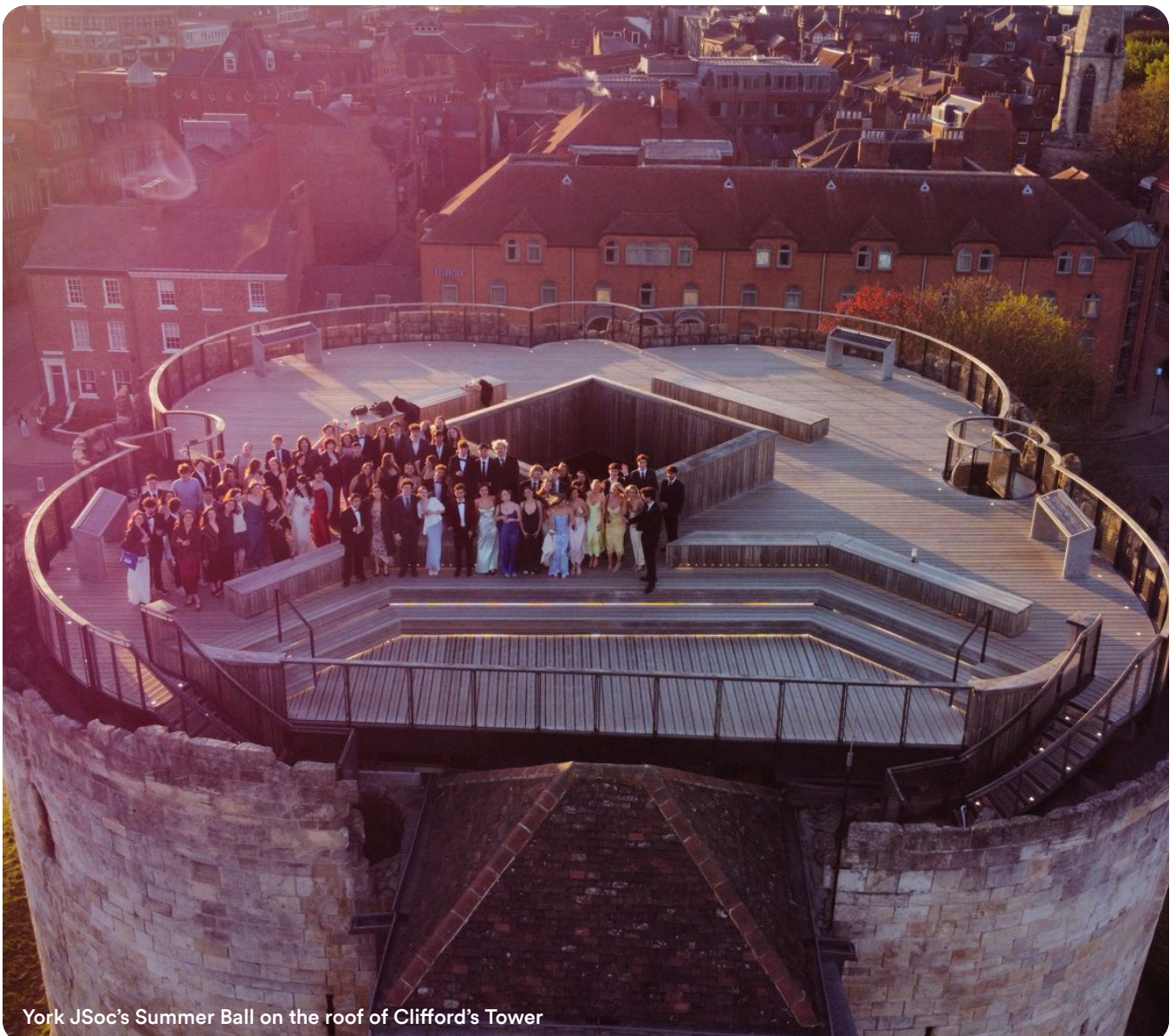
The JSoc event that perhaps best encapsulates our year of Jewish pride is York JSoc’s Summer Ball, held in Clifford’s Tower. They reclaimed a site associated with Jewish tragedy; instead, one of our fastest-growing Jewish student communities held a buzzing ball.

# 1,022

JSoc events supported by UJS

# 302

campus visits by sabbatical officers



York JSoc's Summer Ball on the roof of Clifford's Tower

# Jewish Experience Week

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Jewish Experience Week (JEW) gave JSocs a national platform to proudly share Jewish culture with their non-Jewish friends and the wider campus community. Students organised over 40 innovative events on 24 campuses, and UJS launched a new microgrant scheme which supported 13 events that would otherwise have been impossible. Nationally, our social media campaign about what it means to be a Jewish student received thousands of views.

Events ranged from a Tu B'Shvat fruit tasting in Cambridge, to a rogelach stall in Exeter, to a brilliant mock Bnei Mitzvah party in Liverpool. In Glasgow, the JSoc produced "many waters", an art exhibit exploring Jewish history and contemporary identity. The exhibit, displayed in a Glasgow art gallery, won UJS's coveted Event of the Year award.

At a time when the focus is so often on the challenges we face, Jewish students reclaimed their story and invited others in to experience the richness of Jewish life.



Live music at Liverpool JSoc's Bnei Mitzvah event

**1,000+**  
attendees at JEW events

# UJS Convention

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Each year, UJS Convention brings students together for a cross-communal Shabbaton. 250 students came together from across the UK & Ireland, joined by brilliant guest speakers from across the UK, Europe and beyond.

Participants had the choice of 39 educational sessions on Jewish history, political debate, popular culture and beyond. Our headline speakers were Dr Shoshan Haran, who shared her testimony as a former hostage in Gaza, and Lord Daniel Rosenfield, who recounted his experiences as a Jewish leader outside of the community, including as Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister. Many other sessions were student led, including a pub quiz and the launch of the "dialogue deli", designed to foster productive debate about controversial issues to build students' confidence and skills in leading a diverse community.

Convention puts UJS's value of cross-communalism into practice, with five separate Shabbat services enabling students to engage with Judaism in the way that suits them best.

Our annual Conference takes place during Convention, where students had the opportunity to vote on our democratic policy slate that shapes our work in years to come. It ensures UJS remains grounded in the priorities of Jewish students themselves.

The weekend concluded with the announcement of Raphi Leon (Warwick JSoc) as UJS President for 2026/27. He ran a phenomenal campaign, as did Anat Kraskin (Glasgow JSoc) and Jonah Levy (Bristol JSoc). They travelled the country, speaking to hundreds of students and setting out their visions for UJS, and participated in a revamped Presidential Debate. The second highest-ever voter turnout indicates a renewed level of engagement in UJS's work, strengthening our representative power.

**1,817**  
votes cast in UJS Presidential Election



Havdallah at UJS Convention



Students voting at UJS Conference

# Scotland Convention

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Held on the banks of Loch Long, Scotland Convention brought together students from across Scotland, Ireland and beyond. It was a shared Jewish space intentionally created for communities that are more geographically dispersed.

The weekend strengthened connections between students, who learned together in an array of student-led sessions, kicked back on a loch-side walk, and delivered the finest karaoke the Highlands may ever have seen. The weekend gave our students a stronger sense of belonging, and a network to take back to campus.

“

There's a feeling that swells in my throat at Friday Night Dinner, especially one so grand. It's as though – no matter how many of the words I stumble over – I am exactly where I am meant to be. I am not afraid to be loud. I am buzzing with excitement, clapping my hands and stretching my arms around new friends. UJS events tend to have this effect on not only me, but everyone who attends them. We all know exactly where we are meant to be”.

Cece Allentuck, student from St Andrews JSoc



UJS Scotland Convention on a loch-side walk

# Holocaust Education & Memorial

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For Holocaust Memorial Day, UJS worked with JSocs, universities and students' unions to ensure more non-Jewish students engaged in Holocaust education. 38 campuses hosted events including included first-hand survivor testimony, second and third generation testimony, memorial ceremonies and candle lighting.

To mark Yom HaShoah, UJS took a student delegation to March of the Living in Poland. The delegation stood at the front of the 8,000-person procession alongside Holocaust survivors, symbolising the responsibility of the next generation to carry remembrance forward.

**2,800+**  
students attended  
Holocaust education events



JSoc Holocaust memorial event

# October 7th Commemoration

UJS worked with JSocs to deliver more than 30 October 7th memorial events on the second anniversary of the attacks. These spaces provided over 1,000 students with a moment to remember, reflect and stand together, including many who lost family and friends on that day.

We produced a dedicated memorial ceremony booklet, distributing hundreds of copies nationwide, including prayers, readings and reflections for Jewish students to shape. Over 20 JSocs took part in a twinning programme with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum UK, while in London, Jewish students heard from peace activist Magen Inon, former hostage Ada Sagi and her son Noam Sagi.

**1,000+**  
students participated in memorial events across more than 30 campuses



## Jewish Education & Enrichment

Many students are far from their families and home communities during the year, making it vital that UJS supports them to celebrate Chaggin on campus. Across the year, thousands of students came together at JSoc events. On Yom Kippur, dozens of JSocs broke the fast together. Chanukah brought ice skating, doughnut crawls and candle-lighting. Purim saw parties and Megillah readings. For students still on campus during Pesach, UJS helped connect them with local communities so they could attend a Seder.

Throughout the year, we brought six leading rabbis from across denominations on fifteen campus visits as part of our Rabbi Road Trip, delivering cross-communal Jewish learning on campus and broadening students' horizons.

We also worked with Jewish communal partners to bring advocates for Israeli-Palestinian peace to students and the wider community, including Magen Inon, Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib and Samer Sinjilawi. Their perspective on reconciliation and drive for change provided a valuable opportunity for students to ask challenging questions and envision a better future.

“

By coming to Cambridge Jsoc, both Rabbi Josh Levy and Rabbi Miriam Lorie gave students the opportunity to learn and ask questions about forms of Judaism they might not have encountered before. This experience engendered lively discussion and encouraged students to be curious about each other and the wider Jewish world.”

Sam, Cambridge JSoc



The Rabbi Road Trip visits Cambridge JSoc



The Rabbi Road Trip visits York JSoc

# Interfaith Work

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Interfaith work creates crucial space for encounter, dialogue and friendship, and Jewish students led the way this year in building bridges with our peers. Events include “bring a friend” Friday night dinners, panel discussions and sports tournaments. For example, in Warwick, the JSoc have been a fundamental part of the Warwick Interfaith Network (WIN), co-organising joint balls and charity football matches.

We worked closely with partners in Government and civil society, nationally and locally, and look forward to deepening this work in the coming year. As students continue to face difficult and complex challenges, these networks of trust and understanding will be an important part of how we seek common ground and move forward together.

# 39

interfaith events supported  
by UJS during interfaith week



Our Interfaith Officer Tamzin at a ministerial roundtable during interfaith week

# Social Action

UJS partnered with HIAS+JCORE to launch the first ever Student Refugee Ambassador Programme (SRAP), helping students understand the lived realities of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK through the lens of Jewish values and history. The opening seminar brought together 50 students, while 35 delivered on-campus projects including art exhibitions, pub quizzes and Friday night dinners, bringing Jewish and non-Jewish students into meaningful conversations. The programme gave students a practical means to connect Jewish learning, public policy and social action, listening to lived experiences and bringing their peers into deeper conversations.

For Mitzvah Day 2025, JSocs across the UK volunteered in their communities in a variety of ways – rubbish picking, visits to older people’s homes, food collections and interfaith card making. Our JSocs are embedded in communities across the country, and Mitzvah Day gives students an opportunity to give back to their neighbours and local charities.



The Student Refugee Ambassador Programme has been an enlightening experience. The incredibly moving story we were exposed to at the first seminar set the tone for the rest of the programme, which has provided us with a truly empathetic perspective towards refugees that is often missed in immigration debates. I feel I have developed a much greater understanding of what it’s like to be a refugee in the United Kingdom, and I am very grateful to have had this opportunity.”

Alex Platt, University of East Anglia (UEA)



Social Action Officer Samantha makes soup with the Prime Minister on Mitzvah Day



A participant in the SRAP opening seminar

Our UJSport programme gave hundreds of students another route into Jewish student life, subsidising JSoc teams in university leagues and organising inter-JSoc fixtures nationwide. For many, playing for their JSoc football or netball team is the most natural way into Jewish student life, and breeds further engagement. The programme also connects JSocs across the country through inter-JSoc competition, strengthening our national UJS community.

Particular investment in recent years in women's football has seen uptake continue to grow, and hosts Birmingham JSoc won this year's tournament for the second-year running. It was a strong year for Leeds JSoc, who took home the UJS Netball Tournament trophy and won the men's football UJS Cup. The latter tournament saw 16 teams compete, from Brighton to Edinburgh, across six months. The final brought 350 fans to Wingate & Finchley FC for a festival of Jewish student football, complete with professional match officials, a Kosher food van and glitzy trophy presentation.

Leeds triumphed over Birmingham in a 1-0 win, and the event showcased the very best of Jewish student spirit. Through our UJSport programme we are broadening the ways in which students can engage in Jewish life, and we've created a thriving new campus community.

# 350

## students playing in inter-JSoc football tournaments



Leeds JSoc's netball team victorious in the UJS netball tournament



Maccabi Selly Oak, Birmingham JSoc's women's football team



Hapoel Hyde Park, Leeds JSoc's men's football team, lift the UJS Cup

# Student Support & Inclusion

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This year's UJS sabbatical team was the largest in recent memory (nine), enabling us to reach more campuses, support more JSocs and respond to students' needs. Our team have worked tirelessly to help students navigate welfare concerns, campus antisemitism, university processes and the many challenges facing young people. We have helped connect dozens of students to professional support where necessary, and have partnered with CST to launch an integrated student helpline for incident response. Moreover, our Mental Health Handbook has been produced to support JSoc committees and welfare officers on the ground.

UJS delivered several projects to raise awareness of mental health, including supporting four JSocs on Mental Health Shabbat, and building a relationship with Student Minds to highlight the specific challenges facing Jewish students.

Our inclusion work was year-round, from sharing the achievements and challenges faced by Jewish student women on International Women's Day, to highlighting the history of solidarity between Jewish and Black communities during Black History Month. We launched a period poverty campaign, Let My People Flow, which raised awareness of period poverty and provided free sanitary products for JSoc spaces nationwide.

UJS's first-ever participatory Cultural Review was published following a three-month research project, examining experiences of exclusion within UJS and JSoc spaces. Nearly 40 students participated in in-depth interviews, giving us a clearer evidence base for our continued work to build cross-communal spaces. The recommendations of the Review will shape how we train committees, design programmes and build Jewish student spaces that are as inclusive as possible.

## Booze 4 Jews and JSoc Balls

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In November, Leeds hosted the biggest UJS event in recent memory. Booze 4 Jews sold out 1200 tickets in just 21 minutes, bringing students from around the country together with Jewish student DJs and musicians for a night of unapologetic Jewish joy. The event carried additional meaning coming soon after the Heaton Park attack, giving students the chance to be together at scale, feel safe in Jewish company and show Jewish life continuing with defiance. It demonstrated UJS's unique ability to convene more than a thousand Jewish students for a shared moment of community.

We also supported numerous JSocs in running their own JSoc Balls – moments of celebration and Jewish joy that brought hundreds of students together. JSoc committees delivered impressive events complete with Kosher catering, student DJs and musicians, and black tie glamour.

**1,200**  
tickets sold for Booze  
4 Jews in 21 minutes



The dancefloor at Booze 4 Jews in Leeds

# UJS Awards Ball

The UJS Awards Ball capped a year of Jewish pride by celebrating over 200 brilliant Jewish student leaders. JSocs from Dublin to Oxford took home prizes, and Liverpool JSoc won the coveted JSoc of the Year gong. The event recognised not only our largest and most active communities, but the work that so many students are doing to enrich their community, engage with Judaism and build bridges. Our student leaders are volunteers, devoting a huge amount of time and energy to supporting their peers, and recognising their responsibility and dynamism was incredibly special.



“

We are beyond proud of winning JSoc of the Year at the UJS awards! This is such a testament to the tireless hard work that we have put in this year, making our JSoc bigger, louder and more inclusive than ever. Jewish students in Liverpool are thriving right now, and despite everything going on in the world, we have such a high spirit and sense of community.”

Kezzy Miller and Eva Myers,  
Liverpool Jewish Society Presidents



# UJS on Tour

This year, British Jewish students spread our message of pride and resilience far and wide. At Limmud Festival, we ran several sessions on what Jewish campus life is really like, and hosted student drinks. Our largest-ever delegation went to the European Union of Jewish Students' Summer U programme in Bulgaria. We attended conferences and seminars in Berlin, Barcelona, Washington DC and Jerusalem, lending British Jewish students' voices to key debates across the Jewish world.

This work was strengthened by UJS's partnerships with the European Union of Jewish Students, World Union of Jewish Students and American Jewish Committee, alongside a newly cemented partnership with Hillel International. These relationships connect British Jewish students to wider networks of Jewish student leadership, helping them learn from peers across the world and deepen their sense of Jewish peoplehood.



# Proactively Combatting Antisemitism

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Proud Jewish life on campus relies on students feeling safe, confident and able to fully participate at university. When Jewish life came under pressure this year, UJS defended it with confidence. Campaigning against antisemitism has always been a core function of UJS, but since October 7th 2023, a surge in hostility and intimidation has required a step change in response.

This year, we have supported students through incidents on campus and off it, including the Heaton Park attack and series of attacks in north London. Our work necessarily incorporated effective incident response alongside national advocacy and proactive campaigning for lasting change. New campaigns have generated national attention and meaningful policy change across government. We have held over 200 meetings with senior university and student union leaders on campuses nationwide, working with JSocs to improve how institutions support students. The effect has been to move Jewish students from the margins of the advocacy space to a central role in shaping local and national conversation, representing their voice and amplifying their needs.



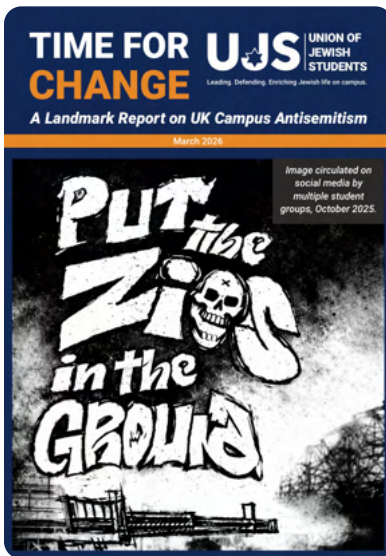
# Time for Change

In March 2026, UJS launched Time for Change, a landmark report setting out the most comprehensive data-led picture of antisemitism on UK campuses to date. It drew on national polling of 1,000 students across 170 universities, alongside extensive student testimony.

The findings were stark: nearly a quarter of students had witnessed antisemitic behaviour and almost half had heard chants glorifying proscribed terrorist organisations. The report set out six recommendations for government, universities, regulators and law enforcement, built to be implemented at pace.

Time for Change gave policymakers, universities and the wider community a clear diagnosis of the problem, and was intentionally solutions-focussed. It showed that antisemitism on campus is not just isolated incidents, but part of a wider pattern of normalised hostility, terror glorification, disruption and institutional inconsistency. All six recommendations are now being actively progressed, with significant success already across several areas.

The report received national coverage across outlets including The Times, the Guardian, The Telegraph, BBC Radio 4 Today and Times Radio, and spurred an emergency debate in the House of Lords. UJS hosted a parliamentary launch with over 80 attendees, positioning Jewish student voice at the centre of the national policy conversation.



# Best Practice Guidance

To complement Time for Change, UJS's Best Practice Guidance sets out what institutions can do next. Published in May 2026, the guidance translates student experience and extensive sector engagement into a practical framework for universities. It was developed in partnership with dozens of experts across the higher education sector, and covers a breadth of areas from protest activity and reporting processes to exam scheduling and Holocaust education.

The guidance, launched at our Vice Chancellors' Conference, gives institutions a constructive route to improve support for Jewish students. It will form the basis of UJS engagement with institutions in the coming months and years.

# 91

recommendations of best practice for universities

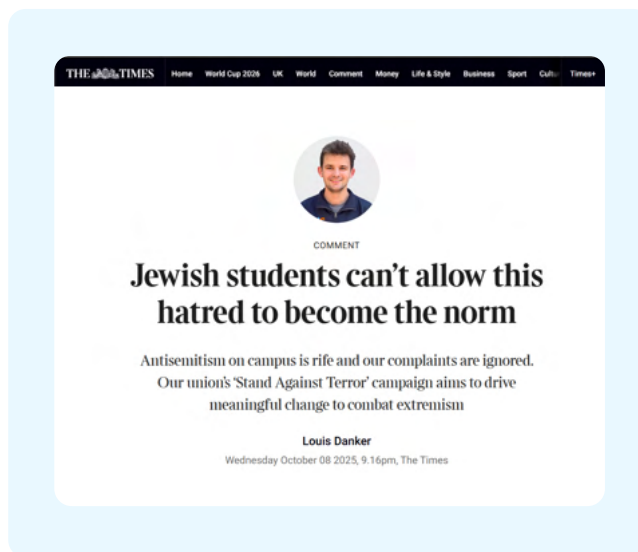


# Stand Against Terror

Responding to heightened protest activity on the anniversary of October 7th, UJS launched Stand Against Terror with an opinion column in The Times. The national campaign sought to confront the normalisation of terror glorification on campus, and called on universities and government to strengthen action against hate speech.

The campaign generated significant action. The Prime Minister called on students to refrain from protesting on October 7th, several campus protests were postponed, and police investigations into extremist content were initiated. The Office for Students issued clearer guidelines for universities on steps they could take to prevent harassment of Jewish staff and students. UJS leadership also presented alongside the Education Secretary to over 80 senior university leaders.

Stand Against Terror demonstrated UJS's ability to respond quickly and shift conversation, bringing Jewish student concerns into the public eye and achieving tangible results.



# Responding to Attacks

The attacks at Heaton Park Synagogue and across London underlined the severity of threats facing Jewish communities in the UK, and the impact of those threats on Jewish students. Working closely with CST, UJS provided timely safety guidance, signposted welfare and security support, and maintained regular contact with university senior leadership to ensure appropriate institutional responses.

Following the Heaton Park attack, every UJS sabbatical officer attended a JSoc Friday Night Dinner across the country. With UJS guidance, the Secretary of State for Education wrote to all Vice Chancellors imploring them to take further steps to protect Jewish students.

# 20

**campuses visited  
by UJS team in  
days following  
Heaton Park attack**

# Campus Incident Response

When antisemitic incidents arise, UJS works with affected students and JSocs, provides welfare support, advises on reporting routes and escalates concerns to universities, police, CST and government. We ensure that students are not left to navigate complex institutional processes alone. Our work also involves strong advocacy, raising awareness in public and behind the scenes when incidents occur, in order to initiate firm action. This year, we have continued to lead the communal response to campus antisemitism, from protests that glorify Hamas, to lecturers who teach blood libels.

Campus antisemitism remains significantly underreported, due to students lacking trust in systems and the normalisation of antisemitic rhetoric. UJS worked with CST, supported by CCOA, on the launch of a new student reporting pathway, alongside an online campaign to highlight the importance of reporting. It will enable better identification of patterns, strengthen our evidence base for advocacy, and escalate concerns where disciplinary action is required.



# Downing Street Summit

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Following the stabbing attack in Golders Green, UJS President Louis Danker addressed a high-level summit in Downing Street. He spoke to the Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers and senior leaders from civil society, including leaders in policing, business, culture, healthcare and beyond.

Louis' address was widely welcomed. It showed the power of UJS's student-led voice: serious, grounded in lived experience, and able to speak directly to those with national responsibility. The address received significant coverage, and was followed by media appearances across Sky News, BBC News, Times Radio and LBC. It reinforced UJS's national role as the strong, proud and representative voice of Jewish students and young Jews across the country.

# 385K+

views of Downing Street speech across social media



UJS President Louis addresses Downing Street summit on antisemitism



UJS team meet His Majesty King Charles III in Golders Green

# Political Engagement

UJS significantly expanded national political engagement this year. We brought Jewish student leaders into Parliament to speak to their MPs, and launched “Bring an MP to Friday Night Dinner”, bringing 13 MPs to JSocs from Bristol to St Andrews. This work gave parliamentarians the opportunity to experience Jewish student life first-hand and engage in meaningful conversations about identity, community, and the challenges Jewish students face on campus.

UJS had the most sustained high-level engagement with Government in its history. We met with the Prime Minister and his team on multiple occasions, brought him to Birmingham JSoc for a mock Seder and student roundtable, and developed a strong working relationship with Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson MP and her team. Regular contact with other key ministers, across the Home Office, Foreign Office, and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, ensured that Jewish student concerns are acted on across policy areas. We have also had extensive engagement with Opposition figures.

UJS’s advocacy work has driven legislative, regulatory and policy change. Many of our policy proposals were reflected in the Government’s social cohesion strategy, Protecting What Matters, and work is underway at pace to implement the recommendations of Time for Change.



UJS President and Head of Campaigns outside 10 Downing Street



The Health Secretary Wes Streeting MP at UJS’ “Latkes with Leaders” Chanukah Breakfast event



UJS host Prime Minister Keir Starmer at a mock Seder in Birmingham

# Tackling Antisemitism in Education Programme

In June 2025, UJS won a competitive tender for a £1 million Department for Education grant to deliver antisemitism awareness training for university and students' union leaders and improve their understanding of how to support Jewish students.

Since October 2025, our new Tackling Antisemitism in Education team, with four dedicated staff, have delivered training to over a thousand leaders across 62 universities. UJS recruited 18 current Jewish university students, alongside the UJS sabbatical team, to deliver sessions and ensure Jewish student voice and lived experience remained powerfully central.

The impact has been clear. Immediate feedback showed improved understanding of antisemitism and stronger confidence in how higher education leaders should respond. Before training, 9% of respondents strongly agreed that they understood what antisemitism is. After training, that rose to 66%. The same increase was seen in those strongly agreeing that they wanted to challenge antisemitism at university.

UJS also launched the Understanding Antisemitism digital resource library in April 2026. Two online e-learning modules, Understanding Antisemitism and Understanding Jewish Life, are in development for launch in late 2026.

Through TAE, UJS takes Jewish student experience and translates it into a programme that equips university leaders to understand antisemitism and respond decisively.

# 122

antisemitism training sessions delivered Oct 2025-May 2026

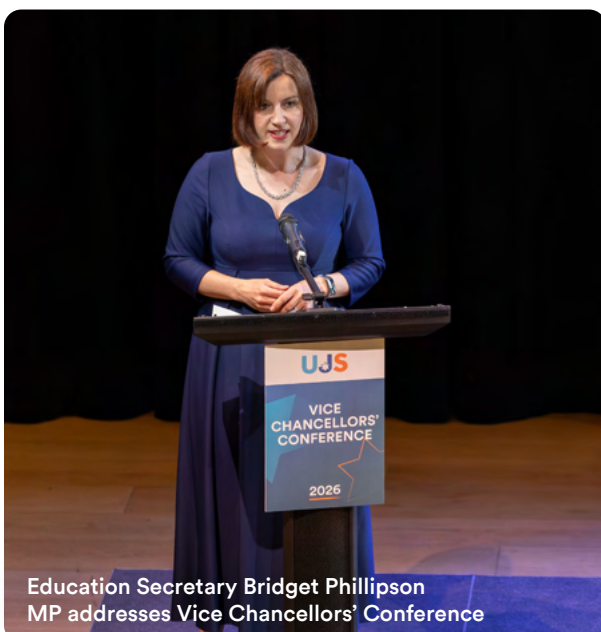
# 1,465

university leaders trained Oct 2025-May 2026

## Vice Chancellors' Conference

In May 2026, UJS held our inaugural Vice Chancellors' Conference: Tackling Antisemitism in Higher Education, at JW3. The conference brought together 90 attendees, including representatives from 55 higher education. Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson MP gave the keynote address and was in conversation with UJS President Louis Danker, along with sessions from Jewish students, the UJS sabbatical team, and experts in security and academic freedom.

The conference generated rich conversation among university leaders, and created a real sense of energy. UJS's Best Practice Guidance was well received, and in platforming Jewish student voice, senior university leadership heard directly from those who they have a responsibility to support.



Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson MP addresses Vice Chancellors' Conference



Attendees at UJS's Vice Chancellors' Conference



Panel of student leaders at UJS's Vice Chancellors' Conference

# The Community's Leadership Pipeline

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UJS develops Jewish leaders before, during and beyond university. Leadership begins in school JSocs and sixth form programmes, grows through JSoc committees and national fellowships, and continues as students move into communal, professional and public life. Development of skilled, confident and engaged student leaders, ready to contribute to Jewish communal life, is a core strategic priority.

A strong Jewish future depends on young people who can organise, disagree well, speak with confidence, take responsibility and build community. This year, UJS strengthened our leadership pipeline, developing leaders of today's campus communities and the communal leaders of tomorrow.



# UJS University Leadership Fellowship

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The third cohort of the UJS Leadership Fellowship, UJS's flagship leadership development programme for university students, received more applications than ever before (109). 40 fellows were accepted from 20 different campuses.

Whole-day seminars helped fellows develop the skills required for modern Jewish leadership. Fellows questioned assumptions, encountered new perspectives and built dialogue across difference, with speakers including Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Lord Michael Levy, former MP Mike Freer and Dame Tamara Finkelstein.

The programme included an educational trip to Cyprus, where fellows explored Jewish history, communal life and geopolitical conflict, including the history of British detention camps for Holocaust survivors and the UN buffer zone in Nicosia. When the planned Israel trip was prevented by war with Iran, UJS pivoted to the East Coast of America, where fellows explored Jewish immigration into New York, American Jewish denominational diversity, Jewish student life, and policy and diplomacy in Washington DC.

Each graduating fellow delivered a campus project to enhance Jewish life. Projects included a mixed football tournament for Shalva, an Israeli charity supporting children with disabilities, at Birmingham JSoc, a mock Bnei Mitzvah party at Liverpool JSoc and Edinburgh JSoc's first women's Megillah reading.

The Fellowship incorporates broad international perspectives, challenging conversations and national network-building. It connects our community of Jewish leaders for today and the future, and empowers students to live out their Jewish values and step up to lead their own communities.



UJS Fellowship cohort at opening seminar



UJS Fellowship cohort at the Statue of Liberty

# UJSix Fellowship

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The UJS Sixth Form Fellowship is a year-long Jewish leadership programme for school students. In this year's second cohort, 28 students were accepted into the programme, a three-fold increase on the previous year.

Fellows took part in 5 in-depth seminars and heard from 15 expert speakers from a wide range of professional and ideological backgrounds. The programme explored identity, leadership, democracy and civic responsibility, using productive discomfort to help participants engage with different viewpoints and respond constructively.

The programme culminated in an immersive educational trip to Israel, deepening learning through direct engagement with the country's historical, cultural and political realities. It helped students develop the confidence, knowledge and habits of leadership they will take with them into university and beyond. The UJSix fellows will be supported as they arrive on campus, and we will continue to work with them to craft their Jewish leadership journey at JSoc and beyond.



UJSix Fellowship cohort in Israel

# Preparing for University

Our UJSix programme supports sixth form students in Jewish schools as they prepare for university. It strengthens identity, builds confidence and connects students to Jewish life before they arrive on campus.

This year, UJSix developed programmes with schools and synagogues, expanded campus preparation and helped students and parents understand what Jewish life looks like at university. Three campus roadshows visited eight campuses, giving sixth formers a cost-free opportunity to explore their university options. UJS also hosted a virtual JSoc open day so students and parents could learn about Jewish life on campuses nationwide.

Our Gap Year Shabbaton in Israel brought together future Jewish students on gap year programmes in Israel for a weekend in Jerusalem. Sessions included making the most of university, being proud of your gap year and approaching difficult conversations. Students also experienced Kabbalat Shabbat in the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem, a late-night visit to the Kotel, Havdallah in Independence Park and a scavenger hunt around Jerusalem.

The Shabbaton, UJSix programmes and campus roadshows ensure young Jews are connected, informed and prepared to start at university. It strengthens our leadership pipeline, fosters a sense of Jewish pride, and prepares students for the transition to university life.



Havdallah in Jerusalem on Gap Year Shabbaton

# School JSocs

UJS runs 31 Jewish Societies in mainstream schools around the country. These JSocs create spaces for Jewish pupils to explore identity, religion, activism and education, build relationships across year groups and begin developing communal leadership.

This year, school JSocs delivered hundreds of diverse sessions, creating opportunities for dozens of communal organisations to engage with Jewish pupils at non-Jewish schools. UJS also began delivering antisemitism sessions for JSocs, covering how antisemitism manifests in wider society and schools, and what support is available.

School JSocs are often a young person's first experience of peer-led Jewish organising. They help pupils practise leadership early: inviting speakers, shaping discussion, creating Jewish space and learning how to respond to challenges in their own school environment. They also form the first stage in our leadership pipeline, and many UJS Presidents and sabbatical officers get their first taste of Jewish leadership in school JSocs.

“

I have been lucky enough to work with UJS for many years now. Their efforts ensure that JSoc runs smoothly at my school. From providing an interesting variety of speakers, to keeping our students informed about Jewish events, and providing practical support as we live through the rise of antisemitism, their team has been amazing. Thank you, UJS.”

A teacher running a JSoc

# 383

sessions delivered in school JSocs

# 10,000

interactions with Jewish pupils at JSocs

# JSoc Committee Training

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At the start of the academic year, UJS held our biggest training in recent memory for new JSoc committee members from across the UK and Ireland. The training helped elected student leaders plan their year, meet one another and build practical skills.

Students received training on recognising and responding to antisemitism, finance, communications, event planning and creating inclusive JSoc spaces. The programme supported students to lead successfully on campus and develop skills they will carry beyond university.

JSoc committee members are often volunteers balancing academic pressure, campus politics and community responsibility. UJS gives them the tools, confidence and peer network to build Jewish life locally.



JSoc committee members at training day

# Israel Educator Course

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UJS delivered a six-week online Israel Educator Course for 26 student participants, hosting 10 expert speakers. The course equipped students with knowledge, confidence and practical skills to navigate complex conversations about Israel on campus.

It focused on two aims: strengthening understanding of Israel in historical, political and regional contexts, and developing students' ability to facilitate difficult conversations with empathy and clarity. Students explored media literacy, misinformation, diplomacy, the Israeli political system and the wider Middle East landscape, while learning how to run educational sessions for peers.

Israel education on campus requires knowledge, judgement, confidence, sensitivity and the ability to hold complexity. UJS helped students build those skills so they can support better conversations in their own communities and beyond.



Israel Educator Course cohort on an online seminar

# UJS Women's Network

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The UJS Women's Network has created a supportive and empowering space for Jewish women to connect with accomplished professionals across a range of industries. It provides guidance, mentorship and practical insight to help women enter and navigate the workplace.

The network launched with a drinks reception in Central London and hosted opportunities including coffee with, and a lecture by, Professor Susannah Heschel. It extends UJS leadership beyond campus roles and into the early stages of professional life, helping Jewish women build confidence, access role models, share advice and envision a future leading in communal, public and professional spaces.



UJS Women's Network launch event

# Looking Ahead: Our Strategic Ambition

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Our 2025-2029 Strategic Ambition sets a clear direction for the years ahead: to lead, defend and enrich Jewish student life as the democratic, peer-led and cross-communal voice of Jewish students.

The strategy focuses on six priorities: co-producing rich, secure campus life; supporting JSocs to have agency and impact; developing leaders now and for the future; representing Jewish students to universities, government and the wider community; building an open organisation with strong alumni engagement; and strengthening UJS as a professional, sustainable organisation.



# Progress Against Our Strategy

This report demonstrates the clear progress UJS made in the first year of our strategy. We championed Jewish pride through JSocs, Convention, Jewish Experience Week, commemorations, interfaith work, sport, social action, Chaggim and national events. JSocs remained the beating heart of Jewish student life.

UJS strengthened our representative voice through Time for Change, Stand Against Terror, the Student Helpline, Best Practice Guidance, parliamentary engagement, government relationships and direct support to students after antisemitic incidents and terrorist attacks.

We also invested in leadership, from school JSocs and UJSix through to the University Leadership Fellowship, JSoc committee training, Israel education, the Women's Network and international opportunities.

Organisationally, UJS began the work needed to deliver the strategy over the longer term: strengthening staffing, systems, fundraising, partnerships, safeguarding, governance and programme infrastructure. This next stage will require sustained core support alongside restricted project funding.



The transformative impact of the work UJS has done this past year has been simply phenomenal. At the same time, UJS' role in leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life remains ongoing. I look ahead to the new year at UJS with excitement, determination and alacrity to continue empowering Jewish students - in campuses across the UK and Ireland - to build thriving, enduring communities."

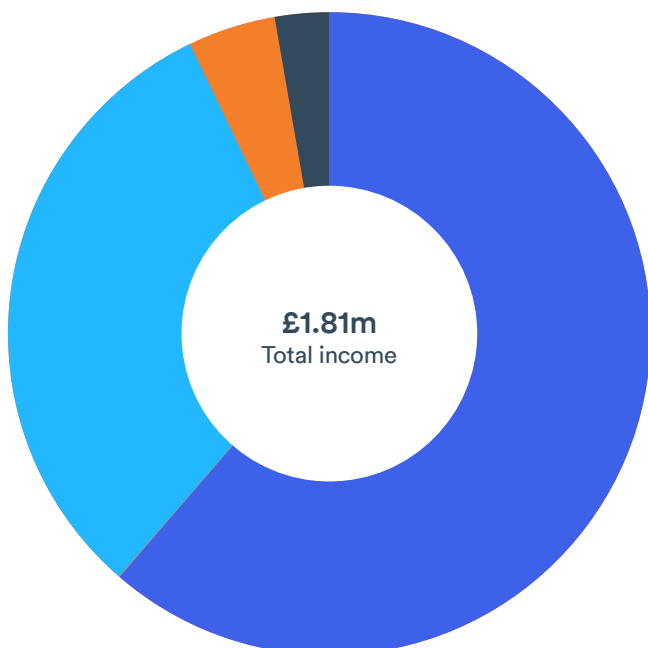
Raphi Leon, UJS President 2026/27



# How We Raised And Spent Our Money

In 2025/26, UJS expects to raise around £1.8 million to lead, defend and enrich Jewish student life. This income came from generous donors, trusts and foundations, restricted project grants, student events, sponsorship, rental, interest and other income. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported UJS in a year when Jewish students needed us to meet the moment.

Core funding from donors is especially important. It allows UJS to respond quickly to student need, support JSocs across the country, and sustain the people, systems and infrastructure behind high-quality student-facing work.



- £1.12m Donations, trusts, foundations and core supporters
- £558k Restricted grants and funded projects
- £90k Student events, programme income and sponsorship
- £44k Rental, interest and other income

# How We Spent Our Money

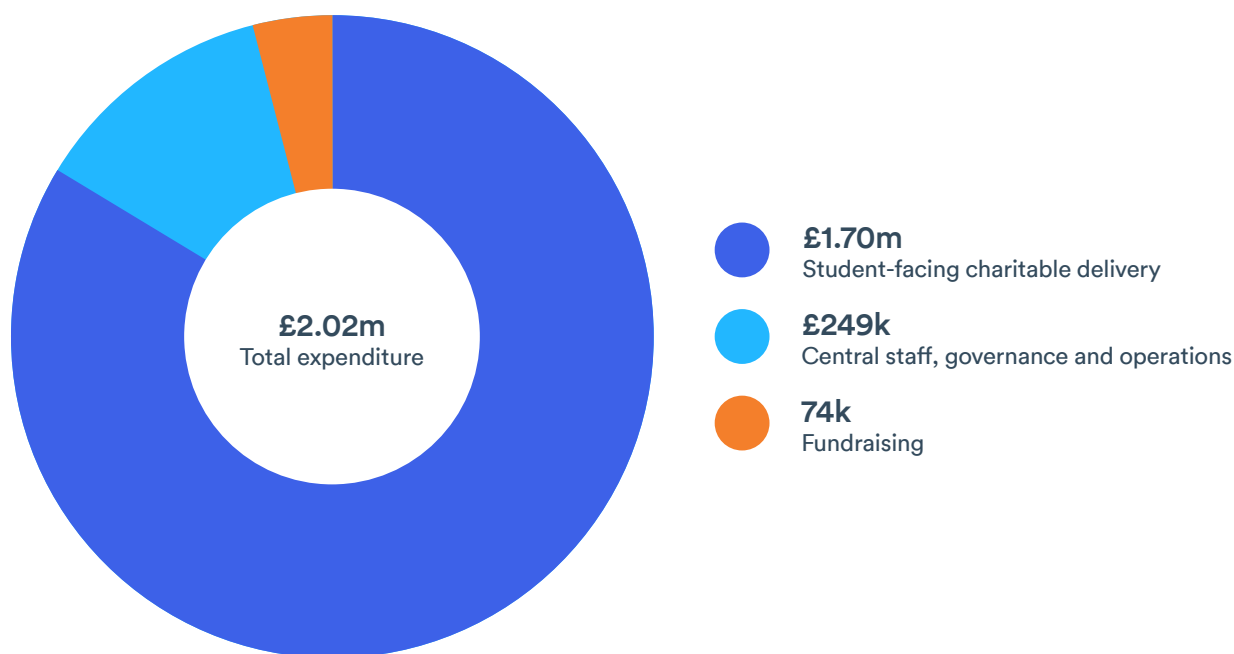
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In 2025/26, UJS expects to spend around £2.0 million supporting Jewish students and strengthening Jewish life on campus.

On our impact-report grouping, around 84p in every £1 spent supported student-facing charitable delivery. This included programmes, funded projects, JSoc support, student spaces and the direct infrastructure needed to sustain Jewish student life across the UK and Ireland.

Student-facing charitable delivery included Jewish life on campus, JSoc support, national events, student leadership, schools and sixth forms, campus engagement, Israel education, social action, interfaith work, sport, inclusion, welfare, representation, student spaces and funded projects including Tackling Antisemitism in Education.

The rest of our expenditure supported the central staff, governance, finance, safeguarding, systems, operations and fundraising needed to deliver responsibly and plan for the future.



## Investing in the Future

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Our forecast shows a planned deficit of around £208,000 for the year. This reflects a deliberate decision to invest in Jewish students at a time of high need, while using reserves responsibly to protect and extend impact.

This was also the first year of UJS's new 2025-2029 Strategic Ambition. Alongside the President and sabbatical team's peer-led work on campus, UJS began the organisational work needed to deliver the strategy over the longer term. A new CEO came into post, work began to rebuild the permanent team, core people and operational systems were strengthened, and the Tackling Antisemitism in Education programme was recruited, mobilised and launched.

This work is not complete. Further investment in people, systems, fundraising and infrastructure will be needed in 2026/27. Restricted grants help us deliver important projects, but core funding enables UJS to respond flexibly, support students wherever need arises, and maintain the organisational capacity required to deliver well.

To deliver our Strategic Ambition, UJS must continue to raise significant funds each year. Continued support will help us strengthen JSocs, build confident Jewish leadership, stand up to antisemitism, complete the next stage of our organisational rebuild, and create the proud, open and vibrant Jewish student life that young people deserve.

# Thank You

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As we reflect on another remarkable year for UJS, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the people who have made this work possible. Every achievement highlighted throughout this report is the result of an extraordinary collective effort.

We would like to thank our 2025/26 President, Louis Danker, for his thoughtful leadership and unwavering dedication to championing Jewish students across every corner of communal and political life, amplifying their voices and influencing those with the power to effect real change. Our Vice President Campaigns, Samantha Cass, whose passion, courage and tireless advocacy have helped shape a stronger future for Jewish students on campus. And our outstanding 2025/26 Sabbatical Officer team, whose energy, dedication and drive have helped ensure Jewish students across the UK and Ireland can thrive, lead and feel proud of their Jewish identity: Arianna Sultan, Eve Cohen, Harry Isaacs, Louis Gringras, Naomi Bernstein, Ruben Persey, Samantha Lewkowicz and Tamzin Lester.

We are equally grateful to our CEO, Mervyn Kaye. His leadership, deep commitment to UJS's values and steadfast belief in a democratic, peer-led organisation have shaped so much of our success this year. We would also like to thank the current and past permanent UJS staff team, Sarah Rose, Romy Molho, Matt Plen, Emma Senitt and Oli Gladstone-Levy for their support and hard work this past year. And the outstanding contribution of the Tackling Antisemitism in Education Team, Ruth Wagner, Anne Holdorph, Nathalie Freedman and Chloe Rixon whose training and advocacy have helped ensure Jewish students are safer and better represented on campus.

We would like to thank our Chair, Carolyn Bogush and Board of Trustees, National Council, Advisory Board, JSoc committees, student leaders, alumni, communal partners, supporters and donors. Your guidance, support and belief in our mission enables UJS to continue leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life.

Together, we are building a stronger future for Jewish students.



# UJS continues to power proud Jewish student life



# Support the Future of Jewish Student Life

Throughout this report, you have seen the impact that UJS has made over the past year.

Today, more than 10,000 Jewish students across the UK and Ireland rely on UJS and their JSoc as a source of community, belonging and support. At a time when Jewish students continue to face significant challenges, your support helps ensure they can thrive, build meaningful Jewish lives and become the next generation of Jewish communal leaders.



**On 6-7 September 2026, UJS will launch our 36-hour matched funding campaign, Our Students. Our Future.**

Every donation made during the campaign will be doubled by our matched funders, helping us raise vital funds to support Jewish students across the UK and Ireland.

Whether you give, share the campaign with your networks, or become a Champion, you can play a part in strengthening Jewish student life for the future.

## Become a Champion

Champions are at the heart of our campaign. By creating a personalised fundraising page and sharing it with your friends, family and contacts, you can help us reach more supporters and maximise the impact of every donation.



Scan the code to register as a Champion and help ensure that Jewish students continue to have the support, opportunities and community they deserve.

## Become a Supporter

Every donation helps create safer, stronger and more vibrant Jewish student communities across the UK and Ireland. To support UJS's work and invest in the future of Jewish student life, visit: [ujis.org.uk/donate](https://ujis.org.uk/donate)



**UJS** | THE VOICE  
OF JEWISH  
STUDENTS

Supporting 10,000 students in 80 JSocs

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