

Cross Party Group on Building Bridges with Israel

Agenda

22nd February 2021, 6pm (via Zoom)

Agenda

1. Welcome from Chair

MSPs in attendance:

Jackson Carlaw MSP

Fergus Ewing MSP

Paul O'Kane MSP

John Mason MSP

Rachel Hamilton MSP

Murdo Fraser MSP

Jeremy Balfour MSP

- Jackson discussed the Holocaust Memorial Day Debate in Chambers. Vision Schools Scotland Awards with Jackie Bailie MSP, & Michael Rosen special guest. Welcomed Cabinet Secretary to the Awards and now has funding from the Scottish Government.
- On March 17th portraits that Prince Charles recognised will be on display at Holyrood Palace.
- Noted that Oren will join later and wishes to support the CPG.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Proposed and supported by Sammy Stein & Stanley Lovatt

3. Presentation – The Nazareth Trust

June 14th, there will be a reception for the Trust to celebrate its 160th anniversary hosted by Jackson in Holyrood.

- Dr Morgan Jamieson MBE, Chair The Nazareth Trust-a constituent of Jackson's.
- Retired NHS Consultant
- Started in Edinburgh and Constantinople
- 1841 Foundation of Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society founded
- 1861 Dr Vartan establishes the clinic in Nazareth
- 1866 EMMS agree financial support
- 1904 EMMS funds the purchase of 25 acres of land on a hillside of the city
- 1912 First hospital building completed

- 1924 Nazareth Academic School of Nursing Inaugurated
- Now in collaboration with a Jewish College in Afula, so nurses can now train to a graduate level. Nurses now go other hospitals in and outside of Israel
- 1861-WW1 Ottoman Empire
- British Mandate
- 1948 State of Israel-establishment of a healthcare system
- 2012 The Hospital receives the Knesset award, the first non-Jewish organisations to receive the award for valued contribution to the nation
- Since 1990s the entire staff is Israeli
- Currently have over 700 staff, is recognised as a major UK employer in Israel
- The Nazareth Trust established 2001
- Volunteer program-Serve Nazareth
- Nazareth Village

- Professor Dr Fahead Hakim, Nazareth Hospital Director-heard from him at the last CPG meeting, was a paediatric consultant in the past.
- Welcomed all to visit Nazareth
- Integral part of wider hospitals in Israel, serves over a half a million people
- Main acute care facility, cath lab, stroke unit, trauma, ER sees 70,000 people a year. Rambam in Haifa sees 140,000
- Only facility in the area that deals with Mental Health
- Specialises in dialysis
- Only facility in Nazareth at a world standard to have a IVF Unit
- 30% of patients are not Arab
- Recognised by the WHO as a Health Promoting Hospital
- Affiliated with Bar Ilan University and Tzfat
- Awards from the Ministry of Health
- #1 NICU, School of Nursing, People Satisfaction and Infection Control
- Only lab during COVID that was running 7 days a week
- President of Israel visited in December 2021

- Questions
- What can Scotland do now to help with the practicalities of the trust?
 1. Private hospital, no formal backing
 2. Look to the Government for help but look to international partners for capital support
 3. Budgets were half during covid, so support from abroad
- What impact has the Amnesty Report had on the hospital
 1. Covid gave an opportunity to work together
- The future and the possibility of developing closer links to Scotland and Israel-links between medical students
 1. Serve Program
 2. Can plan towards June when they visit

- How reach students as part of scholarship program and how can support further
 1. Happy to engage with budgeting scholars

4. Embassy Update – Oren Marmorstein, Deputy Ambassador, Israeli Embassy London

- Introduced himself & his background
- Abraham Accords- R&D fund with the UAE, trade deals, Embassy in Morocco, warm peace
- Iran is the biggest challenge for Israel; immediate concern is the nuclear issue
- Iran is a global problem
- Trying to build something bottom up for the Palestinian people
- Helping Gaza
- UK trade deal-only 3% for Scotland and wish to grow it

Questions:

- Is the stability of the Accords at any risk, how solid do we feel is the relationship?
Does the public support the accords?
 - The real test will be the time of war
 - Saw challenges in Egypt
 - New relationships were tested in May 2021-new friends are serious in relationship with Israel
 - Has the potential to change the Middle East
- Are you missing Bibi, wanting Trump back (Nobel Peace Prize), thoughts on Russia.
 - Luckily enough we have stability now, everyone wants a stable government, we have a budget which we didn't have for two years.
 - This government is unique, compiled out of so many different sects and ideologies of Israel.
 - Government not driven by ideology but by objective approach
- Stats about trade, wish for more trade and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss further and improving trade in both imports and exports. Would be keen for a dialogue about specifics with regards to sectors to oil/gas. Meeting with Scottish Parliamentarians to discuss wider
 - Would love to have a follow up conversation as to how we can have more companies for bi-lateral trade
 - NHS Scotland
 - AI
 - Environment/renewables

5. Date of next meeting – 31st May 2021

6. AOB

7. Close

Participants

MSPs

1. Jackson Carlaw MSP
2. Fergus Ewing MSP
3. Paul O’Kane MSP
4. John Mason MSP
5. Rachel Hamilton MSP
6. Murdo Fraser MSP
7. Jeremy Balfour MSP

Former MSPs

1. Bill Bowman
2. Maurice Corry
3. Richard Lyle

Individuals

1. Walter Hecht
2. Stanley Grossman
3. Stuart Roy Mcivor
4. Evy Yedd
5. Stanley Lovatt
6. Morgan Jamieson
7. Sammy Stein
8. Ephraim Borowski
9. Jean Brannigan
10. Jessie MacLennan
11. Elspeth Masson
12. Liz Gibb
13. Deborah Menelaw
14. Doug Flett
15. Fahed Hakim
16. Donald Boyd
17. Atilla Inecik
18. Christina Jones
19. Myer Green
20. Edward Green
21. Nathan Wilson
22. Jonathan Connelly
23. Martin Taylor
24. Fiona Brodie
25. Gina Brown
26. Andrew Jones
27. Michelle Brannigan
28. Dorothe Kaufmann
29. Paul Smith
30. Euan Waddell
31. Anatasia Kourtis
32. David Goldberg
33. Oren Marmoustein
34. Nicola Livingston
35. Gina Brown