

UPJ

# Supporting pluralism in Israel

“For such a time as this”, we are urged in the Book of Esther ...  
“We must step forward to do our best at moments of true crisis.”

This was the message of Rabbi David Saperstein, shared during his visit to Australia earlier this year before he stepped down as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

And despite the bushfires, COVID-19 and the economic downturn, you – Australia’s wonderful Jewish community – have supported the UIA Progressive Appeal to just short of the record 2019 levels.

And before the calendar year’s end, if you have not yet had the opportunity to support its work, donations can still be made.

So, what is that work?

The Israel Religious Action Centre’s (IRAC) groundbreaking advocacy for religious equality, which, step by step, continues to win for all Jews – Progressive, Masorti, Renewal, and also Orthodox – rights, recognition and the beginnings of government support.

It also instills hope for those seeking to be married, and buried, in accordance with their religious conscience, and it continues to dream of an Israel that will welcome and treat equally all streams of Judaism.

The IRAC works to protect democracy and the rule of law, to support the rights of immigrants, and to fight against the growing presence of racism in Israel.

UPJ’s synagogues and rabbis, and the



Rabbi David Saperstein (back, on the right) with UPJ co-presidents Brian Samuel (back, on left) and David Knoll (back, second from left), meeting with students at The King David school during his visit to Australia in March 2020.

Progressive movement’s pre-IDF Mechina programs, are providing support to more than 1000 families, offering assistance to victims of domestic abuse, helping farmers with crop harvests, and providing online day care for kids of needy families so that parents with jobs can work.

Rabbi Saperstein added, “We’re growing rapidly in the former Soviet Union as we appeal to the sensibilities of the younger generation who are seeking spiritual meaning in their lives.

“We’re instilling in them a strong Zionist sensibility that has led to high levels of aliyah.

“And we look after many Russian-speaking olim communities in Israel – active, committed Jews, whose status as Jews is not always recognised by the Chief Rabbinate.

“For supporting all that and more, we thank you!”

To find out more about, or make a donation to, the UIA Progressive Appeal, visit [upj.org.au/index.php/progressive-trust/donate](http://upj.org.au/index.php/progressive-trust/donate).

To learn more about UPJ, its work, services, projects and member shules, visit [www.upj.org.au](http://www.upj.org.au).



Locations of UPJ congregations in cities in the Asia-Pacific region.



UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

**Todah rabah for supporting pluralism in Israel!**

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If you have not yet had the opportunity to support our work, visit:

<https://upj.org.au/index.php/progressive-trust/donate>