



# PROGRESSIVE APPEAL 2025

**DON'T JUST GIVE TO ISRAEL, CHANGE ISRAEL**

WITH YOUR DONATION TO THE UIA PROGRESSIVE APPEAL



**MEET OUR HEROES** IDF Major General (Res) Noam Tibon and his wife Gali, who heroically travelled south on October 7 to save their son, Amir Tibon, and his family

## IDF MAJOR GENERAL (RET) NOAM TIBON AND GALI TIBON

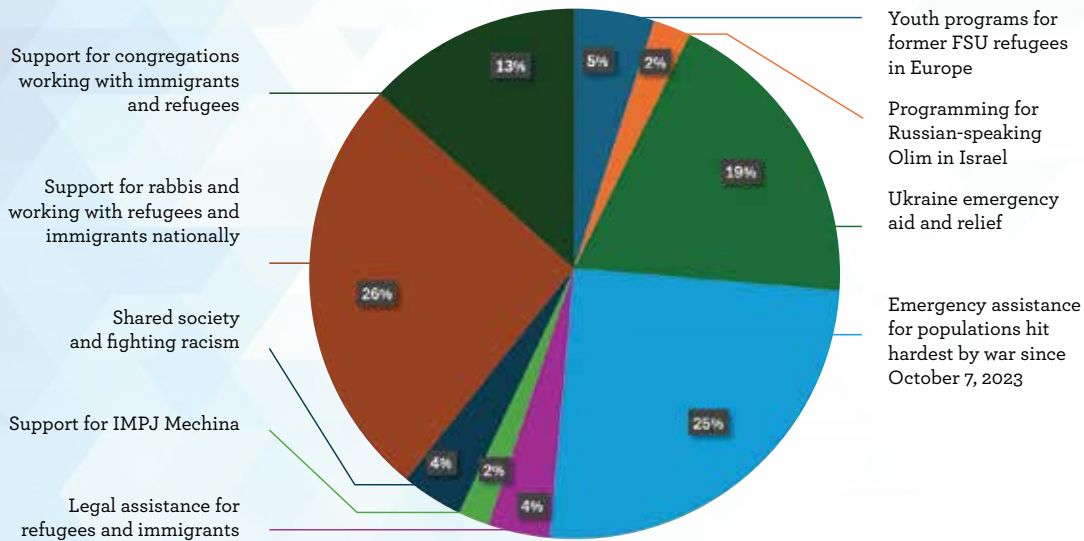
For Israeli husband-and-wife Noam and Gali Tibon, 7 October 2023 began like any other day until they saw a text from their son, Amir, that there were terrorists inside their kibbutz, Nahal Oz, in southern Israel.

Worried for their son and his family, the retired IDF Major General decided to head to Kibbutz Nahal Oz to rescue his son and young family. Gali insisted on joining him. Armed only with a pistol, Gali and Noam raced southward.

Their story has become the subject of legend, and a shining beacon on a black day. Their journalist son, Amir, has published a bestselling book about the rescue "*The Gates of Gaza*". In fact, the creators of popular Israeli television show, "Fauda", Avi Issacharoff and Lior Raz, are working on a new film titled "*October 7*" which will follow the story of Noam and Gali.



**WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE NOAM AND GALI TIBON  
AS OUR EXCLUSIVE GUESTS AT THIS YEAR'S  
UIA PROGRESSIVE APPEAL, TO TELL THE DRAMATIC  
STORY OF THEIR RESCUE MISSION TO SAVE THEIR  
SON AND HIS FAMILY**



## WHETHER YOU INVEST \$18, \$180, OR \$1800 OR MORE, IN ADDITION TO SUPPORT GIVEN TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY WAR, YOU WILL HAVE HELPED CREATE AN ISRAEL IN WHICH THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BE JEWISH

- Support a Jewish and democratic state that fulfills the promises its founders laid down in the Declaration of Independence - to build a country based on equality and dignity.
- Continue to build acceptance of Progressive Jewish values in Israel.
- Support Jewish refugees from, and those who remain, in the Ukraine.
- Support LGBTQ people's right to being treated equally and with respect.
- Support women who refuse to be excluded from the public sphere or treated as second class citizens.
- Support immigrants trying to secure legal status and all the rights and benefits that come with it to live a decent life as members of Israeli society.
- Support a shared society, a way for Jews and Arabs to live together in equality.





## REBUILDING THE GAZA ENVELOPE COMMUNITIES

The kibbutzim and moshavim along the Gaza Envelope remain devastated: some have been destroyed, families have been torn apart and the sense of security in the region has been shattered. Our activities include individual and group pastoral counselling, resilience workshops, supply packages and support for vulnerable groups such as displaced families returning home and low-income families.

In this moment of crisis, **Rabbi Yael Vurgan**, Regional rabbi in Shaar HaNegev – an area comprised of 10 kibbutzim along the Gaza border – has emerged as a pillar of spiritual solace integral to the region’s recovery.



*“Personally, the pain I have felt over the past year as an Israeli Jew has many layers. First and foremost is the unending sorrow at the massacre and destruction that struck the Gaza Envelope, devastating the communities I work in and residents I know.”*

Rabbi Yael Vurgan

## AIDING FAMILIES AND REFUGEES IN UKRAINE AND ISRAEL

As the tragic war in the Ukraine continues, your on-going support through the UIA Progressive Appeal allows the **World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)** to care for our displaced brothers and sisters both in Europe and in Israel: refugees, migrants, and those still living in this war zone today.

Despite the ongoing conflict, the **WUPJ** had the opportunity to organise family summer camps. These camps are invaluable to our participants— mothers, children, and youth—as they provide a space to come together, feel connected, and understand that they are part of our larger Progressive Jewish family. During the camps, participants also received psychological support to help them process their traumas.



*“During these tough days of war, my family and I participated in the family camp in Poltava. Shabbat services were very meaningful. I would like to thank Poltava’s congregation and the WUPJ for making the family camp happen. My family enjoyed the camp and they have felt more connected to Progressive Judaism.”*

Vera Zhaldybina, 39, from Bet Am Reform Congregation in Poltava, Ukraine



*“Since I arrived in Israel, I knew that this was my home. I cannot describe how I feel at this moment after being approved as an Israeli. I am shaking with joy, and I feel even more connected to the Jewish world than ever.”*

Yosef, upon receiving the long-awaited news

## CHAMPIONING RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

Yosef Kibita is a member of the Abayudaya community in eastern Uganda, a community that embraced Jewish practices over a century ago. Two decades ago, its members underwent conversions, mostly through the Masorti Movement.

In 2017, Yosef arrived in Israel, decided to make it his home and applied for citizenship as an *oleh* under Israel’s Law of Return. But the Ministry of Interior turned him down, claiming that he did not convert through a recognised Jewish community.

Working with **Israel Religious Action Centre’s Legal Aid Centre for Olim (LACO)** after four conversions, and years of legal struggles, Yosef was notified by the Interior Ministry that he is finally eligible for Israeli citizenship.



## KEREN B'KAVOD: BRINGING ARABS AND JEWS TOGETHER

Racial tensions in Israeli society have been rising due to the outbreak of war. In response, **Keren B'Kavod, the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism's centre for social responsibility and humanitarian aid**, has ramped up its shared society programming, including its “Meeting Neighbours” project. The program pairs Arab and Jewish communities across Israel, where similarities and differences between religion and culture are discussed, building a bridge of mutual understanding and empathy.

The IMPJ was recently honoured to receive the “Shared Society Award” by the Abraham Initiatives, in recognition of their commitment to fostering coexistence and building meaningful, lasting connections across Israeli society.



*“Since October 7, it has been clear that it’s not enough to fight against racism and racists; that we must offer Israeli Society an alternate vision — a vision for ‘the day after’.”*

Yair Lootsteen, Chair of the IMPJ

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SCAN THE CODE TO BOOK THE EVENT RELEVANT TO YOU:



**NSW**

**10am SUN 2 MARCH** Progressive Women (private home)

**7pm MON 3 MARCH** Emanuel Synagogue

**7pm TUES 4 MARCH** North Shore Temple Emanuel

**VIC**

**7pm THUR 6 MARCH** Temple Beth Israel

**WA**

**7pm MON 10 MARCH** Temple David



UNION FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM



For further information: [upj.org.au/uia-progressive-appeal/](http://upj.org.au/uia-progressive-appeal/)

All donations are tax-deductible

THE UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THE UIA ACROSS AUSTRALIA AMONG OTHER AMAZING PROJECTS, THE UIA FUNDS ABSORPTION CENTRES AND YOUTH VILLAGES, WHICH WORK TOWARDS ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN AT RISK.