



Women's International
Zionist Organization

WIZO

QUEENSLAND

Doing what matters

Newsletter

January 2026

The Children of Sderot *an urgent situation*



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Shalom Chaverot and Chaverim

2025: The year that was...

WIZO Queensland has had an incredible year! We have enjoyed many functions and friendships. All our projects have been so well supported with amazing donations that will go to our Queensland project in Israel.

Membership has been outstanding with so many new members joining our wonderful organisation. The love and support from our beautiful Christian friends is overwhelming; we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

On the first day of Chanukah, we were devastated by the massacre of our Jewish families and friends at Bondi Beach, resulting in the deaths of fifteen men and women, including beautiful ten-year-old Matilda. It is so hard to even comprehend this violent shooting at a Chanukah gathering. We must stay strong, united and refuse to stay silent.

As we begin 2026, membership renewal is imperative to keep our status at the United Nations (see membership renewal options on p12). When you renew your membership, consider including a membership for your husband (MIZO), daughter, son or a friend. You will receive six informative newsletters per year, which include many interesting articles on the wonderful work of WIZO, Israel updates, Zionism and much more. Of course you will be kept updated on everything happening throughout WIZO QLD.

With warm WIZO greetings,

Sylvia Lipski

President WIZO Queensland

QUEENSLAND'S 2026 PROJECT

The Children of Sderot

Sponsor a Child's Adoption Process



Our Queensland project, the *Children of Sderot*, continues. Beit Pa'amanim, a specific emergency foster care home for babies in Israel run by WIZO, continues to provide temporary shelter for abandoned infants awaiting permanent adoption.

The babies who became displaced after October 7, 2023, are now toddlers. Our WIZO Queensland project has much work to do.

Part of our *Children of Sderot* project is 'Sponsor a Child'. Through our Open House and Day Care

Centers, we are determined to provide therapy for over 1,500 children, offering everything from professional counseling to caring mentorship. Our programs provide vital emotional support, strengthening family resilience and promoting healing from trauma. By combining safe physical spaces, specialized counseling, and robust community resources, WIZO empowers the children and families of Sderot to envision and pursue a brighter future, even in the face of continued uncertainties.

Your sponsorship is not just a donation -it's a lifeline. With your help, these traumatized children can break free from the grip of fear and step forward into hope.

Time is running out, and every moment we delay could mean a lifetime of unresolved trauma. Stand with Sderot's children in their darkest hour. By sponsoring a child now, you can spark the change that brings them back to life.

DONATE TO THIS PROJECT

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. TDR: 55613639008

To donate online, you can do so through this link:

<https://square.link/u/LjX95gzB?src=sheet>

Or through online banking. Please put your name and 'Project' in bank details.

Please email: treasurer.wizoqld@gmail.com for a tax-deductible receipt.

BANK DETAILS

WIZO QLD

BSB: 484799

ACCOUNT: 000152145

May their Memory be a Blessing

Bondi Beach – Chanukah 2025



Reuven Morrison

Rabbi Yaakov Levitan

Dan Elkayam

Alexander Kleytman

Rabbi Eli Schlanger

Edith Brutmam

Peter Meagher

Tibor Weitzen

Marika Pogany

Matilda

Tania Tretiak

Boris Tetleroyd

Adam Smyth

Boris And Sofia Gurman



The Virus of Anti-Semitism

Mike Lyons – May 2025 (NAIN)

On October 7, Hamas carried out the most violent pogrom since the Holocaust. It was the third deadliest terror attack in modern history, murdering more than 1,200 civilian Jews and taking more than 250 hostages back into Gaza, giving rise to the Israel-Hamas war.

After October 7, a Hamas leader warned, “We will do this again and again.” In 2001, Ayatollah Khamenei stated, “It is the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to erase Israel from the map of the region.” In 2012, the Iranian chief of staff announced, “The Iranian nation is committed to the full annihilation of Israel” and in 2021, Iran’s Brigadier said, “We will not back off from the annihilation of Israel. We want to destroy Zionism in the world.”

And yet in Israel’s fight against Hamas, there has been no end to accusations of “genocide” by Israel. Retired Col Richard Kemp (who commanded Britain’s forces in Afghanistan) said, “None of us is aware of any army that takes such extensive measures as did the IDF last summer to protect the lives of the civilian population.” When he was challenged about the number of Palestinian casualties, he replied saying that it was the Hamas strategy to position its fighters in civilian areas, knowing that civilian casualties would result.

Antisemitism in Australia

There has been a global rise in antisemitism since 7 October 2023. It is a virus which infects people throughout the world, including in Australia.

After the October 7 attack, the Sydney Opera House (SOH) was illuminated in the colours of the Israeli flag. However, protesters massed at the SOH, flying Palestinian flags and chanting, “Gas the Jews” and “F..k the Jews.” Not a single one of them was arrested or charged. It was Sydney’s night of shame.

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Facing criticism for the government’s failure to take meaningful action to tackle violence against Jews, Prime Minister Albanese eventually called a national cabinet meeting to address antisemitism, but only after the firebombing of a childcare centre plus many other antisemitic incidents, including arson attacks and the targeting of synagogues, restaurants, private homes and vehicles.

When Holocaust Remembrance Day fell on 27 January (the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz) the Albanese government appointed foreign minister Penny Wong to attend. A petition calling for Wong to be replaced was signed by thousands complaining that she did not show the level of understanding or empathy which the Jewish community deserves. The petition fell on deaf ears. Albanese and Wong mouth Israel's right to defend itself while, at the same time condemning every Israeli act of self-defence.

Today, Jews live in a post-October 7 world. It is a world where the Jews are done with apologizing and done with seeking approval. Antisemitism did not prevent Jewish success. It caused it.

“Never Again” is not a slogan. It is a doctrine.

**Never Again is Now, (NAIN), is a Christian founded, grassroots movement with dedicated people from all backgrounds and faiths, committed to confronting and ending antisemitism in Australia.*

DONATE YOUR REFUND!



Every container makes a difference!
Drop off your empty containers, including wine bottles
and donate your refund to WIZO.



[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR GROUP.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR CONTAINERS.](#)

MARKING THE EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM MUSLIM COUNTRIES

Are there any Jews left in the Muslim Middle East?

Between 1948 and the early 1970's, the number of Jews expelled from Muslim lands (Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Morocco and Iran) was over 850,000. An estimated 650,000 (72%) of these Jews resettled in Israel. In the period between 1948 and 1951 alone, over 340,000 Jews left for Israel from the Islamic world.



Against the hardships of the newly established Jewish state, they built a new life in their historical homeland.

Country	Jewish Population Before 1948	Estimated Current Population
Iraq	135,000–150,000	Fewer than 10 individuals
Egypt	75,000	Fewer than 10 individuals
Morocco	250,000–350,000	2,000–2,500
Algeria	140,000	Non-existent (0)
Tunisia	105,000	1,000–1,500
Libya	38,000	Virtually non-existent (0)
Yemen	55,000–63,000	Fewer than 10 individuals
Syria	30,000	Fewer than 10 individuals
Lebanon	5,000	50
Iran	100,000	8,000

LAUGHTER... THE BEST MEDICINE



He who laughs last, didn't get it

Maurice and Isaac found themselves sitting next to each other in a New York bar. After a while, Maurice looks at Isaac and says, "I can't help but think, from listening to you, that you're from Israel."

Isaac responds proudly, "I am!"

Maurice says, "So am I! And where might you be from?"

Isaac answers, "I'm from Jerusalem."

Maurice responds, "So am I! And where did you live?"

Isaac says, "A lovely little area two miles east of King David's Hotel. Not too far from the old city"

Maurice says, "Unbelievable! What school did you attend?"

Isaac answers, "Well, I attended Yeshiva University."

Maurice gets really excited and says, "And so did I. Tell me, what year did you graduate?"

Isaac answers, "I graduated in 1984."

Maurice exclaims, "Amazing! This is Beshert. Hashem wanted us to meet! I can hardly believe our good luck at winding up in the same bar tonight. Can you believe it, I graduated from Yeshiva University in 1984 also."

About this time, Moishe enters the bar, sits down, and orders a beer. The bartender walks over to him shaking his head & mutters, "It's going to be a long night tonight, the Goldberg twins are drunk again."

Yankel (originally from Chelm) was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding. Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result. He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

Recent Event

Chanukah card making in Broadbeach



Next Event – WIZO Gold Coast

Join us on Sunday 25 January for our social evening in Oxenford, Gold Coast!

Time: From 6:00pm.

Contact for address: Luana 0466 548 625. Chris Bell: 0432 518 153

Cost: \$15.00pp for WIZO Sderot Project. Food and soft drinks provided.

BYO alcohol.



Israel ישראל News

PM Benjamin Netanyahu via ILTVNews.

Israel welcomed the ousting of Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro, with Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar praising the United States for decisive leadership and expressing hope for Venezuela's return to democracy. Israeli officials said the fall of a regime aligned with Iran and Hezbollah opens the door to restoring diplomatic relations, which were cut in 2009.

In Jerusalem, the move is seen as a major blow to global terror networks operating in South America. Leaders across Israel's political spectrum said the message is clear: regimes that fund terror and crush their own people are no longer untouchable and a new chapter with Venezuela may now be possible.

LEAVING A LEGACY THROUGH WIZO

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOUR LEGACY WILL BE?

It goes without saying that family comes first, but imagine being able to help future generations in Israel with a bequest to WIZO.

For over 90 years WIZO has been blessed with the philanthropic gestures of supporters from all over the world. This has enabled us to invest in projects that truly support the people of Israel who need our help.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU GIVE?

No matter how big or small, any bequest to WIZO is vital and greatly appreciated. There are a few ways in which you can approach your personal bequest and these include:

-  Leaving a **lump sum** of your choice to WIZO.
-  Choosing to leave a **percentage** bequest.
-  Giving a percentage of your **estate**.
-  Donating cash, bonds, stocks, real estate and tangible personal property such as art or antiques.
-  Assigning **life insurance** designating WIZO as one of your beneficiaries.



HOW DO YOU LEAVE A LEGACY?

Including WIZO as a beneficiary in your will is surprisingly simple. Ask your lawyer to ensure that your will or trust directs a bequest to WIZO for the purpose you specify.

Contact Sylvia Lipski for a Bequest Form
sylvialipski@gmail.com 0417 788 449

HOW WILL YOUR LEGACY BE USED?

You can either specify a Project to which you would like to direct your bequest or direct WIZO to apply its discretion, ensuring that your funds are used to support the most urgent needs as they arise.



RENEW YOUR WIZO QUEENSLAND MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026!

THERE IS NO NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT WAS PAID FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

By becoming a member of WIZO QLD, you become part of 250,000 Zionist women worldwide. In Israel, WIZO has the highest rating for accountability among charitable organizations. We support one out of four Israel citizens and are the NUMBER ONE welfare agency, after the Israeli Government.

For a mere \$40.00 per year, you can stay connected with all that is going on in WIZO Queensland. You will also receive our Queensland Newsletter, which you are reading right now, every two months. The Newsletter, as you can see, is filled with upcoming events, articles, photos and everything that goes on in the world of WIZO and current Israel news.

You can become a member through this link: <https://square.link/u/80Ai7eHo>

Or for an easy direct deposit, just put your name and 'Membership' in the details. Take a screenshot of the form with your details and email to: treasurer.wizoqld@gmail.com

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Email.....			
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BANK DETAILS			
WIZO QLD			
BSB: 484799			
ACCOUNT: 000152145			
We thank you for your support!			