

Annual conference
for European Jewish Leadership

FIGHTING BACK FOR OUR FUTURE

Amsterdam June 3-4, 2024



Dear friends,

Gam Zu L'Tova, this too is for the best. The world has changed completely since we met last year in Porto. Antisemitism, which had already become alarmingly common, has, to borrow from modern terminology, 'gone viral' since October 7th.

The word viral gives us a graphic yet honest visual of what we are up against. We have seen the devastating impact of antisemitism throughout our history, rising like a pandemic during the times of the crusades, in Spain, in countless pogroms, and of course during the Holocaust 80 years ago.

The Jewish people have seen it all before. We are hardwired to recognise the signs and signals. You would imagine that European governments would recognize the signs as well, but alas, 'Never Again' seems to have lost its meaning for them. Us Jews, however, are experiencing 'Never Again' right now.

I would like to take this opportunity to send our world leaders this message in the form of a story: A Zionist Jew and an antizionist Jew walk into a bar, the barman looks at them and says, "sorry we don't serve Jews."

In short, there is no doubt about what antizionism represents. "From the river to the sea" is simply the modern version of 'Judenrein'.

There is also no doubt that all Jews understand the meaning behind these chants. The sinister truth is that it is very likely that most university professors and faculty members, as well as politicians, understand it as well. They, however, are hesitant to do anything about it.

This reluctance emboldens the antisemites who freely use this kind of language, hold up signs at protests and spew hate speech that is reminiscent of Nazi Germany in the days leading up to Kristallnacht. And for now, these antisemites are getting away with it.

All things eventually come to a head, as we saw happen on October 7th. The whole world saw then who Hamas really are and what they intend. And it forced antisemitism, which, until recently, seemed to

be quite marginalized, into the mainstream. We can all see it and are all impacted by it.

Now we are meeting in Amsterdam amid an antisemitism emergency. We are meeting to smash the glass on the alarm and press it, and more importantly, we are meeting to discuss how we are going to fight back.

Europe is our home. And whilst Israel is our insurance policy, we are determined not to use it before all other options have been exhausted. We are not there yet, but in truth, we are not far off.

At our conference we will find concrete answers within the political, legal and educational systems. We will then present these conclusions to all European governments. Here in Amsterdam we approach the challenges of the present with our eye on the future.

I started off by saying Gam Zu L'Tova, this too is for the best. What can possibly be good about any of this? The answer is right here, at this conference, as unity of purpose is reignited amongst the Jewish people. It is here, in the new communities that have joined us, growing our numbers, amplifying our collective voice. And it is here, because we will never give up being Jewish, it is our identity. And if what we are facing today is necessary to remind us of who we are, then let us take this momentum and turn it towards becoming a force for good and a force for change.

Thank you for being here, and being part of this fight back.

Yours most respectfully,



Rabbi Menachem Margolin
Chairman





EJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FIGHTING BACK FOR OUR FUTURE AMSTERDAM,

3-4 JUNE 2024

EMERGENCY SUMMIT OF JEWISH LEADERS

Monday 3 June 2024

9:00 Registration at Hilton Schiphol Hotel

10:00 Why We Must Fight Back - Opening Remarks

- Rabbi Menachem Margolin, Chairman of European Jewish Association
- Kalman Szalai, President of Action and Protection League
- Special guest remarks from Dr. Eddo Verdoner, National Coordinator on

Combating Antisemitism (NCAB), Ministry of Justice, the Netherlands.

- Message by H.E. Yoav Gallant, Minister of Defense of the State of Israel (video)

Moderator: Alex Benjamin, EJA Vice-Chairman for Communications and Content

11:00 Fighting Back – Demanding Action Not Sympathy

- Max Lowenstein, Vice-President, NIK Nederlands-Israëlitisch Kerkgenootschap
- Sydney Bialistock, President of Amsterdam Jewish Community, the Netherlands
- Pascal Markowitz, Attorney at the Paris Bar and EJA Legal Forum member
- Stefan Hansel, Hamburg Antisemitism Commissioner, Germany
- Thomas Urdy, Adviser to French Minister for Fighting Against Discrimination,

responsible for combating antisemitism

- Ruth Daskalopoulou-Isaac, Head of EU Relations, European Jewish Association

Moderator: Ruth Wasserman Lande, former member of Knesset and EJA Senior Advisor

12:00 Fighting Back – Safety and Security, Ensuring the Safety of Jewish Institutions (Closed session – not recorded)

- David Cohen, Security expert
- Sammy Levi, Security expert
- Tomer Reuveni, Shmira Antwerp Security

- Yael Landman, EU Care Project Director
- Peleg Sagi, Dutch Jewish Security Organisation
- Name to follow, Vice President of Security Organisation SPCJ, France

Moderator: Chris den Hoedt, President of Rotterdam Jewish Community

13:00 Fighting Back – Safety and Security, Ensuring the Safety of Jewish People on the Streets

- Chanan Hertzberger, Chairman, Central Jewish Committee (CJO), the Netherlands
- Daniel Sherman, Director of Operations, Community Security Trust, UK
- Anna Sjöberg, Head of European Counter Terrorism Centre, EUROPOL
- Torsten Krückemeier, Police President of Middle-Hessen, Germany

Moderator: (to be confirmed)

13:45 Working Lunch

- H.E. Dr. Cyrill Jean Nunn, Ambassador of Germany to the Netherlands
- Special remarks by Katharina Von Schnurbein, Coordinator on Combating

Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, European Commission

14:45 Self Defense Session

A practical demonstration and participant session on how to defend oneself from attacks.

15:15 Fighting Back – On campuses and in Schools

- Prof. Gerald Steinberg, President and Founder, NGO Monitor
- Alana Ebin, Director of Mosaic Teens, Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, Israel
- Oliver Rak, C TEEN Jewish Youth Movement, Hungary
- Jonathan Feldmar, Campus and Education Manager, Stand With Us
- Samuel Lejoyeux, President of France Union of Jewish Students
- Achira Beck, President of Dutch Union of Jewish Students
- Prof. Bart Wallet, Professor of Jewish Studies, University of Amsterdam

Moderator: Yanki Jacobs, Youth Rabbi, Netherlands Student Rabbinate

16:30 Fighting Back – In Sports

- Michael Sweetney, Former NBA player (NY Knicks) and Jewish Advocate
- Dean Furman, Professional football player and Jewish advocate





Moderator: Eric Rubin, Global Ambassador for Maccabi World Union

17:00 Fighting Back – in the Media

- Chrystian Orzeszko, Editor, The Jewish Word, Poland
- Jonatan Megyeri, Editor-in-Chief, Neokohn, Hungary
- Elias Levy Bennaroch, Editor-in-Chief, Enfoque-Judio, Spain
- Kemal Rijken, Editor-in-Chief, Jonet Jewish News, the Netherlands
- Miriam Assor, Journalist, Portuguese Jewish News, Portugal
- Laetitia Enriquez, Journalist, Actualité Juive, France
- Adam Levick, Co-Editor of CAMERA UK

Moderator: Yossi Lempkowicz, Editor-in-Chief, European Jewish Press (EJP)

18:00 End of Conference

19.45 Annual Conference Dinner with Special Guests

- Rabbi Menachem Margolin, Chairman of European Jewish Association
- Greetings by H.E. Modi Ephraim, Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands (tbc)
- Message by Prime Minister of the Netherlands, H.E. Mark Rutte (video)
- Message by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, H.E. Israel Katz (video)
- Rev. Frank Heikoop, Chairman of Christians for Israel International
- MP Mirjam Bikker, leader of Christian Union Party, Netherlands
- King Solomon Award to Mr. Gert-Jan Segers, former Party Leader of CU
- Joel Mergui, President of Consistoire of Paris in France and

Chairman of EJA Jewish Leaders Council

Moderator: Eli Edelkopf, Director of European Jewish Development Fund

Tuesday 4 June 2024

Breakfast available from 7:00 AM (Check-out from hotel)

09:00 Fighting Back – Public Engagement

- Claudia Mendoza, Chief Executive of Jewish Leadership Council, UK
- Mordejay Guahnich Bitán, President of Jewish Community of Melilla, Spain
- Leonard Ornstein, Editor of VPRO, the Netherlands

- Sacha Stawski, President of Honesty Concern and ILI, Germany
- Frank van Oordt, Director of Christians for Israel, the Netherlands
- Élie Petit, Journalist and Editor of Revue Affixe

Moderator: Tal Rabina, EJA Director of Strategy and Head of EJA Israel office

10:00 Fighting Back – On Freedom of Religion

- Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs, IPOR Interprovinciaal Opperrabbinaat and EJA Chair of Committee against Antisemitism
- Philippe Markiewicz, President of Consistoire Central of Belgium
- Ellen van Praagh, EJA Jewish Leaders Vice-Chairwoman on Equity and Diversity, and President of IPOR Jewish Communities in the Netherlands
- Fr. Manuel Enrique Barrios Prieto, Secretary General of COMECE Catholic Church in the European Union

Moderator: Jonny Gould, British Journalist and Presenter, UK

11:00 Concluding Plenary Session and Vote on EJA Resolution

11:45 Bus transportation to Amsterdam City Centre

12:30 Tour of Portuguese Synagogue and greeting by Mr. David Samama, Chairman of Board of Portuguese-Jewish Community of Amsterdam

13:15 Visit to National Holocaust Museum and Hollandsche Schouwburg Deportation Centre at Jewish Cultural Quarter

14:15 Bus transportation to Anne Frank House

14:30 Anne Frank House Visit

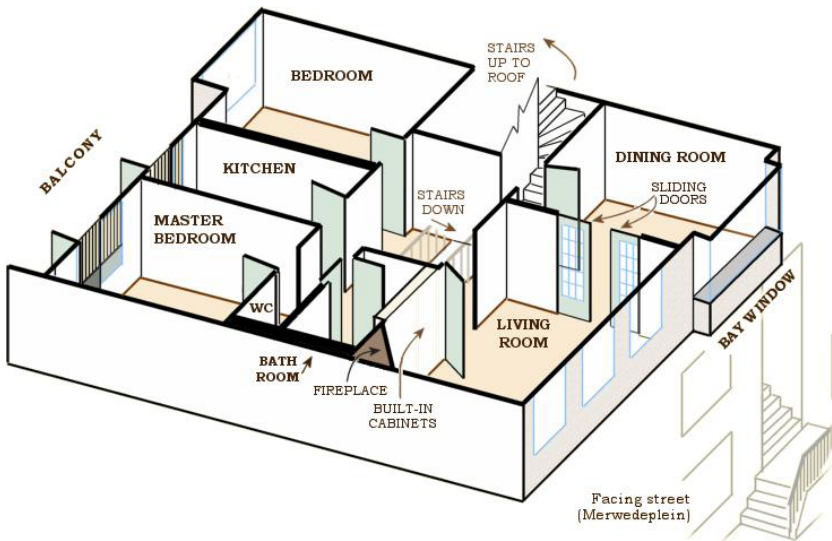
15:30 Bus transportation back to hotel/airport and end of summit





On 6 July 1942, the Frank family went into hiding in a building on Prinsengracht 263. The building housed Otto Frank's business. Later, they were joined by the Van Pels family and Fritz Pfeffer. The building consisted of two parts: the main house and the annex. The eight people hid on the top floors of the annex.

When Otto Frank was the only one to return from Auschwitz in June 1945, the annex was empty. In 1960, the Anne Frank House opened its doors as a museum, but at Otto's request, the annex remained empty.





European Jewish Association

The European Jewish Association is the Jewish voice of Europe.

We are the leading Association of Jewish organizations in Europe, representing hundreds of communities across the continent.

Based in the democratic and political heart of the European Union - Brussels, we have built lasting and meaningful contacts with the key decision makers and opinion formers in European Institutions and various permanent representations and embassies.

We advocate for European Jewry by working closely with national governments and parliamentarians, and with key decision makers and legislators within the EU Institutions.

Whether it be a matter of freedom of religion, the security and safety of the Jewish community, the kosher slaughter of animals or other aspects of practice and faith. Wherever and whenever a Jewish issue is raised, you will find the EJA hard at work.

We work closely with Israeli leaders, diplomats and experts in standing up for Israel, promoting the world's only Jewish State, and combatting the antisemitic Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

We count Commissioners, special envoys, MEPs and ambassadors as our friends, colleagues who we can call upon for help and support.

Our mission is to put Jews front and center in any European conversation affecting minority groups and minority interests. To strengthen Jewish Identity and expand Jewish activities in Europe.

To advocate for a Judaism that engages, that influences, that matters.

This is the EJA.

Notes



