



Israel sees first-ever Hebrew-language Diaspora Conference

Summit Works to Make Judaism, Peoplehood Accessible for All

BOSTON, November 4th, 2019 — Last week the Ruderman Family Foundation along with The Jewish Agency for Israel, Haaretz and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem hosted the inaugural Judaism, Israel and Diaspora Conference in Jerusalem.

The conference sought to expand the definitions of Judaism beyond the narrow-religious boundaries, and to illuminate the existence of Judaism as a culture, a nation and a shared identity for Israelis and Diaspora Jews. Speakers at the conference included President of Israel **Reuven Rivlin**, Chairman of The Jewish Agency for Israel **Isaac Herzog** and **Shira Ruderman**, Director of the Ruderman Family Foundation, among others.

"This conference proves that Israel's understanding of its relationship with the American Jewish community is undergoing a transformation. Until today we were used to this conversation taking place in a closed room, but today that changes," Shira Ruderman said in her keynote speech.

Ruderman added: This event "is happening, in Hebrew, with an audience of over 1,500 people. This proves the topic is of utmost importance, relevant and affecting all fields of life. This relationship touches upon all of us, including issues of national security, health and higher education budget resources, and also the very essence of Jewish identity. Finally, this topic is in a worthy place on the public agenda. And this is only the beginning. Today's conference opens the door on turning Israel's relationship with the American Jewish community into a relevant issue, with the public having a voice as it does on issues of security or the economy. Today we are turning up the volume on this crucial discussion, so that as many people as possible participate in it."

At the conference, a poll revealed that 51 percent of Israeli Jews believe American Jews are not sufficiently supportive of the Jewish state. And while 33 percent said they are supportive enough, only 3 percent said they would prefer to see a higher level of criticism of Israel by American Jews.



Media Contact:

James Fattal, J Cubed Communications

Email: James@JcubedPR.com

Cell: +972.53.628.8755; US: 347.497.6900

About the Ruderman Family Foundation

The Ruderman Family Foundation is an internationally recognized organization, which advocates for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in our society. The Foundation supports effective programs, innovative partnerships and a dynamic approach to philanthropy in advocating for and advancing the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout America. It also works to strengthen the relationship between Israel and the Jewish American community, by educating opinion leaders and exposing them to the strategic importance the relationship has for both sides.

The Ruderman Family Foundation believes that inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing community and promotes these values through its leadership and funding.