

BRIDGE TO ISRAEL AWARDS



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For Immediate Release

Further Details Announced Ahead of Inaugural MDA UK Bridge to Israel Awards

~ Mirroring the bridge-building humanitarian work of Magen David Adom, the Awards will celebrate the relationship between the UK and Israel, including through the amazing work of MDA and the generosity of its supporters in the UK ~

~ A key component of MDA UK's five-year *Towards Machratayim* campaign, the Awards form part of a set of new and existing initiatives to help raise funds for MDA – not only through emergencies and conflict but also for the time of recovery ~

~ Whilst most Awards will be decided by an esteemed judging panel, readers of the Jewish News, the event's media partner, will be able to send in nominations for the Community Organiser category ~

~ There will also be a public vote open for the MDA UK Social Media Influencer Award ~

~ Sponsors so far include hotel-chain Isrotel and IT services firm Cardonet ~

MDA UK is pleased to announce further details ahead of its inaugural Bridge to Israel Awards, which will take place in April 2026, with all funds raised directly supporting Magen David Adom's work.

Mirroring the humanitarian mission of MDA in Israel and around the world, the Awards will recognise the work and contributions of unsung heroes from across not only MDA UK's supporter base but also the media, political, philanthropic, business and diplomatic communities to build bridges with Israel. Announced at MDA UK's annual fundraising dinner in November 2025, the Awards are a key component of MDA UK's five-year campaign *Towards Machratayim* – which will culminate in MDA's Centenary in 2030.

Winston House, 2 Dollis Park,
London, N3 1HF
T +44 (0)20 8201 5900
info@mdauk.org
www.mdauk.org



BRIDGE TO ISRAEL AWARDS



Machratayim – Mak-hra-tai-yim – ‘the day after tomorrow’ – reflects the need for hope, healing and a better future which we can all be proud to support. Thus, *Towards Machratayim* is designed as an umbrella for new and existing initiatives, supporting MDA UK to raise funds for MDA not only through emergencies and conflict, but also for the time of recovery and a positive future.

Daniel Burger, MDA UK’s CEO, said of the Awards:

“Through its life-saving mission and workforce, MDA is a truly extraordinary example of bridge building between Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Druze communities in Israel. Reflecting this, the MDA UK Bridge to Israel Awards will celebrate those building bridges between the UK and Israel – not least through the amazing work of MDA itself and the generosity of its supporters in the UK.

“These Awards are intended to connect MDA not only to its existing network of supporters here but also to a wider UK community whose advocacy and efforts mirror that of MDA. When many want to build division between the UK and Israel, celebrating the shared values and the closest of ties between our two countries – on so many levels – is vital.

“Likewise, we know that even while, as we all hope, a steady peace emerges and ‘the day after tomorrow’ becomes the daily reality in Israel, more support will be needed to continue to fund MDA’s crisis and emergency response now and in the future.

“It is through new initiatives such as these Awards that we can best honour the vital humanitarian work of MDA, support its Stations in Israel and its first responders to save lives each day and continue to showcase MDA as the very best of Israel.”

The first of this year’s Bridge to Israel Awards – announced at MDA UK’s annual campaign dinner in November 2025 – was presented to Nivi Feldman, the lead for the UK Hostages Families Forum, in tribute to her amazing work over the past two years.

13 further Awards will be presented at the Ceremony with categories including for Corporate Impact, Community Organising, Culture & the Arts and Philanthropy. Recognising MDA’s role in the Red Cross movement, there will be a Red Shield Award recognising Humanitarian Services.

The vast majority of Awards will be decided by a judging panel, chaired by former criminal barrister and TV personality Robert Rinder MBE. He will be joined by an esteemed panel including MDA UK Chair Russell Jacobs, Prism the Gift Fund co-founder Anna Josse, former MICOM chair and businessman Edward Misrahi and philanthropist Elizabeth Wigoder.

BRIDGE TO ISRAEL AWARDS



Readers of the Jewish News, the event's media partner, will be able to send in their own nominations for the Community Organiser category. There will also be a public vote open for the MDA UK Social Media Influencer Award.

Hotel-chain Isrotel and IT services firm Cardonet are among the sponsors already confirmed for the Awards, with more being lined up across the full set of categories.

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Notes to Editors:

1. More information on MDA UK's five-year *Towards Machatayim* can be found [here](#).
2. The full judging panel for the inaugural MDA UK Bridge to Israel Awards is as follows:

Neil Blair	<i>Neil is a founding partner of The Blair Partnership and literary agent to both J.K. Rowling and Robert Galbraith. He is involved in a number of charitable causes, including Stand With Us, JW3, and The Atlas Foundation, and is a Trustee of the Donmar Warehouse.</i>
Charlotte Grundman	<i>A notable philanthropist and campaigner, Charlotte is a Partner at Capital-B with over 20 years' experience in the banking and asset management sector.</i>
Russell Jacobs	<i>MDA UK's current Chair of Trustees among a number of other charitable roles, Russell is a former international tax lawyer and Partner at Milbank LLP based between the UK and Israel and has recently made Aliyah.</i>
Blair Jacobson	<i>A dedicated voice and supporter for a variety of philanthropic causes within the Community and more broadly, Blair has built a highly successful career in finance. He is currently Partner and Co-President of Ares Management Corporation.</i>



BRIDGE TO ISRAEL AWARDS



Anna Josse	<i>Among her many charitable and philanthropic contributions, Anna is CEO and Co-Founder of Prism the Gift Fund. She built her career in high-tech industry and remains a Director of Regent Capital.</i>
Edward Misrahi	<i>Edward has built a career over decades in global finance including as a partner at Goldman Sachs and more recently as founder and Chief Investment Officer of Ronit Capital. A committed philanthropist, he has been heavily involved in Jewish and Israeli charities including as a former chair of BICOM.</i>
Maya Orr	<i>An award-winning marketing and communications professional, Maya founded her own talent agency, BNOC, to connect and celebrate individuals with inspiring impact and influence. Through this, she has helped to bridge relationships between the UK and Israel through visits and other campaigning work.</i>
Robert Rinder MBE (Chair)	<i>A former criminal barrister, Robert is now a well-known broadcaster, media personality and Sunday Times bestselling author. In 2020, he was awarded an MBE for services to Holocaust education.</i>
Tim Vince	<i>A major advocate for Christian education, Tim is Director of Christian Education Europe and is a presenter on Revelation TV, spreading the teachings of the Bible. A longstanding friend to Israel, he has also organised and led the Church Without Walls Israel tours since the early 2000s.</i>
Elizabeth Wigoder	<i>A Trustee of The Wigoder Family Foundation, Elizabeth has been a champion for charitable causes within and beyond the Jewish Community. She is also a patron of The Du Boisson Dance Foundation, which supports both the London Vocational Ballet School (LVBS) and West London School of Dance (WLSD).</i>

