

Barak Sella

Cambridge, MA | Tel-Aviv, Israel

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Strategic leader, publicist, and educator with 20+ years shaping Israel engagement and Jewish peoplehood initiatives with deep expertise in U.S.-Israel relations, Middle East politics, higher education, and philanthropy. Led major think tank and grant-funded programs advancing World Jewry, Israel education, and combating antisemitism, with strong experience managing complex stakeholder ecosystems across academia, civil society, media, and government.

EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Cambridge, MA
Master in Public Administration (Mid-Career) 2023-2024

Focused on policy leadership, crisis management, social movements, Middle East politics, and strategic negotiation
Cross-registered at Harvard Law, Business, and Divinity Schools with coursework in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, U.S. Public Policy and Governance, Jewish Diaspora, Exile, and Collective Trauma

University of Haifa Haifa, Israel
Master of Arts, American Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Israel Studies 2020-2022

Focus on Jewish Immigration, Black and Jewish Relations, Contemporary American Jews, American Political History

Beit-Berl Academic College Kfar Saba, Israel
Bachelor of Education, Informal Education and History, The Martin Buber Center 2015-2018
Teaching Diploma in History, The Ministry of Education in Israel

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Elson Israel Fellow , The Jewish Federation of Tulsa	2025-2026
Witness Institute Fellow	2025-2026
Middle East Initiative Research Fellow , Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center	2024-Present
Circle of Fellows , The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education	2024-2025
The Shared Values Project , Israel Policy Forum	2023-2025
The Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies , Student Fellow	2022-2023
ROI Global Network Member , The Schusterman Foundation	2022-Present
ENCOUNTER Executive Leadership Program , focused on the Israel-Palestinian conflict	2022
iFellows: Master's Concentration in Israel Education , The iCenter - Israeli Education Center	2021-2022
Genesis Prize for Social Innovation , leading COVID-19 relief projects for senior citizens	2021
Jerusalem Unity Prize , Rebuilding Institutional Relations between Secular and Religious Youth	2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs | Harvard Kennedy School of Government Cambridge, MA
Middle East Initiative Research Fellow, Israel Program Lead 2024-Present

- Provide expert analysis on Israel, American Jewry, and the Middle East to the Harvard Kennedy School, working closely with leading international scholars, policy practitioners, and former heads of state.
- Leads the [Middle East Initiative's Israel Program](#), overseeing research fellows, teaching and study groups, and high-level events that advance policy understanding and public discourse. Includes development and fundraising.

[BarakSella.com](#) - Strategic Consulting, Research, and Public Speaking USA / Israel
Business Owner 2020-Present

- Providing strategic consulting, research, and speaking engagements to local and global clients across various fields, including the Israeli government, consulting firms, major Jewish American institutions, Youth movements, student organizations, universities, think tanks, synagogues, and many more.
- Regularly consulted by senior officials and foundations on geopolitical risk, regional strategy, and diaspora relations.

The Reut Group USA / Israel
Executive Director 2023

- Led a top Israeli think tank focused on leadership and national strategy, managing team operations, strategic partnerships, and program budgets.
- Led research and policy initiatives around Israel-US relations, the Ukraine War, and Radical Islamist Movements.
- Spearheaded strategic publications influencing Israeli and Jewish diaspora policy in the US, Europe, and the Gulf.
- Led fundraising efforts and donor relations with American Jewish federations and foundations.
- Orchestrated high-profile events in [Israel](#) and [the US](#), and liaised with Israeli Government branches and US organizations to facilitate research and strategic initiatives.

Deputy CEO

2021-2023

- Leading the Jewish Peoplehood Coalition, 500 professionals connecting Israel and World Jewry.
- Managed staff and content development. Team leader: Israel delegitimization, Jewish Peoplehood, Israel-US relations.
- Notable publications: [Mapping the challenges of American Jewry and the connection with Israel](#), [Strategies to Counter the Red-Green Alliance in the US](#), [Fighting Hate and Building Stronger Relationships in Light of the Abraham Accords](#), [The Ukraine Crisis Reveals the True Balance of Power in the Jewish World](#), [Israel's Path to Becoming a Middle Eastern Democracy](#), [The consequences of the war on the Jewish communities in Ukraine \(Ministry of Diaspora\)](#).

The Shahaf Foundation

Haifa, Israel

Project Director, 'Neighborhoods for Change' Urban Renewal Initiative

2020-2021

- Spearheaded urban renewal by overseeing community projects across education, welfare, culture, and safety; facilitated collaboration between Haifa Municipality, various departments, the Technion, and local organizations.
- Strategic planning, large-scale projects, media content, and grant management (\$500,000 annually).

Hakhel International Intentional Communities

USA / Germany / Israel

Global Project Director / Community Consultant

2018-2021

- Consulting for emerging Jewish communities, facilitating international seminars for 250 leaders worldwide, and founder of the Global Sister Communities Initiative, connecting Israeli and Global communities.

The Jewish Agency for Israel

New York, NY

Central Emissary, Habonim Dror North America

2017-2019

- Overseeing summer camps and leadership programs for 5,000 teens in the USA, Canada, and Israel.
- Providing mentorship for management and fostering relations with American Jewish organizations.

Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed - NOAL (The General Federation of Working and Learning Youth)

Tel Aviv, Israel

National Spokesperson

2013-2017

- Established PR, marketing, and social media and video department of 10 employees for a 100,000-member youth movement and Israel's official youth labor union. Member of Executive National Leadership.
- Oversaw national campaigns, developed media strategies in Russian and Arabic, and provided organizational training.
- Chief Spokesperson for the Rabin Memorial Day National Assembly, coordinating with 80+ global media outlets.

Regional Director

2009-2013

- Managed activities for 5,000 participants across 22 youth clubs in Israel's South District. 2.5 million NIS annually.
- Oversaw a team of 50 senior counselors and liaised with 20 local/municipal authorities

Local Director

2007-2009

- Leading activities for 300 participants in 2 youth clubs in Ashkelon, near the Gaza Border.
- Coordinating citywide educational relief programs in bomb shelters for youth during Operation "Cast Lead."

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- Featured in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *The Hill*, *Times of Israel*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Ynet*, *The Forward*, and *Davar News* on topics of strategic policy, US-Israel relations, Middle East, antisemitism, and World Jewry. [Link to all publications](#).
- **Class of 95, Creator and Editor, three editions** (2013, 2022, 2025) - A Literary Anthology on the Assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, published in Hebrew and English (theclasseof95.com)

LEADERSHIP & VOLENTEERING

- **Ruach Alumim, Founding Board Chair** (2025-2026) - Guiding the launch of the [Academic Kibbutz](#), a pioneering living-learning model developing Israel's next generation of educational and community leaders.
 - **We Are MENA Network, Consultant** (2024-2025) - offering advisory support to shape programs strengthening Middle East and North Africa civic engagement and youth development. (wearemena.com)
 - **Voice of the People** (2024-2026) - Member of the Inaugural Council, led by the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog. Part of the [Antisemitism Task Force](#).
 - **Harvard Students for Israel and Israeli Academic Activists** (2023-Present) - Organizing pro-Israel advocacy on campus and dozens of appearances on [Israeli](#) and [International media](#).
 - **Don't Surrender to Corona, Founder and Director** (2020-2021) - Israel's first COVID-19 civil relief initiative, assisting vulnerable populations with 400 volunteers. ["The communities that aren't waiting for aid from the state"](#)
 - **ConnectIL NYC, Co-Founder** (2017-2020) - Network for Liberal Israeli communities; large-scale events and a [viral campaign for Israeli elections](#).
 - **Stand Up for Democracy, Founder** (2017-2020) - Coalition promoting the Rabin Memorial Day in North America.
 - **Operation Human Warmth, Co-Founder and Communications Director** (2013-2017) - The first Israeli humanitarian aid drive for Syrian refugees. [Honors from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#), [NYT article](#)
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SKILLS

Strategic Foresight and Scenario Planning, Foreign Policy and National Security Analysis, Project and Budget Management, Fundraising and Donor Relations, Geopolitical Risk Assessment, Public Speaking and Media Engagement, Policy Writing and Op-Ed Publication, Stakeholder and Government Relations, Communications and Advocacy, Cross-Cultural and Interfaith Coalition Building, Research Design and Data Visualization, Grant Strategy and Program Evaluation, Israel Education and Engagement, Campus Climate and Dialogue Facilitation, Cross-Sector Stakeholder Relations

LANGUAGES

English (native), Hebrew (native), Arabic (Basic conversational)