

Barak Sella

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- I am an educator, activist, author, researcher, and community organizer with high expertise in US-Israel relations, The Middle East, and World Jewry. I aim to use my rich background in executive leadership, strategic communications, and policy to support building bridges within Israel and worldwide to promote democracy and peace and fight extremism.
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EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Cambridge, MA

Master in Public Administration (Mid-Career)

magna cum laude

2023-2024

Kennedy School: American Public Policy, Op-Ed Writing, Data Visualization, Art and Science of Social Movements, Crisis Management, Middle Eastern Politics and Policy, Leadership and Social Transformation in the Arab World, Game Theory

Harvard Law School: The Role of Negotiation in Ending Wars, Law and Political Economy

Harvard Business School: Advanced Negotiations Advanced Negotiation: Great Dealmakers, Diplomats, and Deals

Harvard Divinity School: Exile, Diaspora, and Trauma in the Jewish Imagination

University of Haifa

Haifa, Israel

Master of Arts, American Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Israel Studies

2020-2022

summa cum laude

Coursework: 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

[Middle East Initiative Fellow](#), Harvard Kennedy School 2024-2025

[Circle of Fellows](#), The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education 2024-2025

[The Shared Values Project](#), Israel Policy Forum 2023-2024

[Student Fellow](#), The Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies 2022-2023

[ROI Global Network Member](#), The Schusterman Foundation 2022-2023

[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

[BarakSella.com](#) - Strategic Thinking, Research, and Public Speaking USA / Israel

Business Owner

2020-2024

- Providing strategic consulting and speaking engagements for clients such as BBYO, AJC, World Zionist Organization, Israeli Policy Forum, J Street, The Schusterman Foundation, The Ruderman Foundation, Brandeis University, The Histadrut, SparkIL, Hillel Israel, Momentum, The Ministry of Diaspora and The Jewish Agency for Israel.

The Reut Group

USA / Israel

Executive Director

2023

- Led research and policy initiatives around Israel-US relations, the Ukraine War, and Radical Islamist Movements.
- Orchestrated high-profile events in [Israel](#) and [the US](#) and liaised with Israeli Government branches and US organizations for 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](#), [American Zionism has Almost Disappeared](#), [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 \(Ministry of Diaspora\)](#), [Are the days of unreserved support for Israel over?](#)

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).
- Notable Publications: [Rooftop Festival during lockdowns](#), [The State closes - the neighborhood opens](#)

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.
- Notable Publications: [How this Youth Club Combats Racism](#) (Mako), [The youth movements in Israel - since then and forever](#) (Israel Today), [Relief activities during "Protective Edge"](#) (Kan11) ["We must support the volunteers"](#) (Maariv)

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."

LEADERSHIP

- **Op-ed contributor** (2020-2024) - Publishing dozens of articles on American politics, Israel-US relations, and World Jewry: [Ynet](#) (the leading Israeli news site), [Davar News](#), [Times of Israel](#), [Jerusalem Post](#), [The Forward](#), [Israel Hayom](#).
- **Harvard Students for Israel** (2023-2024) - 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"](#) - Globes
- **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, Co-Founder** (2017-2020) - A coalition of 20 organizations promoting Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day in North America.
- **Rabin Memorial Day Central Rally, Chief Spokesperson** (2013-2017) - Leading communication for Israel's national memorial assembly, coordinating with 80+ global media outlets. ["20 Years After Rabin's Assassination, Israelis Still Debate His Legacy"](#) - NPR
- **Class of 95, Creator and Executive Editor, two editions** (2013, 2022) - ["Class of 95"](#) - first ever-published literary ontology addressing the Rabin Assassination.
- **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](#). ["Despite Decades of Enmity, Israel Quietly Aids Syrian Civilians"](#) - The New York Times

SKILLS

Writing, Editing, Research, PR, Strategic Consulting, Social Media Management, Public Speaking, Graphic Design, Data and Information Visualization, Political and Campaign Organizing, Logistical Planning, Project Management, Team Facilitation, Emergency Response, Guitar (Professional)

LANGUAGES

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