

8 December 2014

Dear Bentzi,

I am writing this on behalf of all of us at UJIA, but in truth it is also on behalf of the entire UK Jewish community, over 1000 of whom you spoke to over the past week.

Your commitment to bringing the real face of the IDF and of Israel to the masses, is something truly admirable and something we all appreciated. Every community you addressed, young or old, religious or otherwise, was massively inspired. Some of the communities very rarely hear speakers from Israel, some have people coming over more regularly, but that element did not affect whether you inspired them or not – all attendees came home profoundly impacted by your presentation.

I think I mentioned this to you, but it is not often that UJIA and the United Synagogue work together on a project like this. You facilitated the partnership of 2 of the UK's largest Jewish organisations and helped to unite our community behind Israel. Your message is as important for us to hear here, in the leadership organisations of our community, as it is for the young people who need to be equipped on the campuses for the future. Do not underestimate the impact you have had, and what this can do for the support of Israel here in the UK.

Finally, on a personal level, it was a privilege to get to know you over the last week and share in your life experiences and good humour. Please send my best regards to Yehudit and your whole family.

All the very best,

Avi Gillis

Head of Community Engagement

UJIA

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