

P2P – US-Israel Progressive/liberal Exchange Program

Participant Info Sheet

About the Program

The prestigious P2P dialogue and exchange initiative, launched by the Berl Katznelson Foundation in consultation with numerous organizations and thought leaders, seeks to reconnect young liberal and progressive American Jews and Israelis. It does so based on a foundation of shared values, leveled professional exchange, and meaningful peer-to-peer dialogue.

Following October 7, P2P sharpened its mission – aiming to bring together prominent liberals and progressives from Israel and the US, to counter the growing rift exacerbated by the war. Rather than allow this moment to drive a wedge between allies and potential partners, the program seeks to strengthen bonds, create a solid international network, and strengthen partnerships.

In place of distancing or boycotts, the program promotes partnership as the most effective path to meaningful change – fostering a process of mutual learning, resilience, and strategic collaboration among global progressives and liberals.

Core Approach:

- Peer-to-peer (P2P) model
- Built on liberal values, professional interests, and mutual goals
- Co-created initiatives with long-term impact

Program Highlights

- A professional exchange track of 10 Israeli and 10 American, mid-career professionals and leaders of prominence in policy and political-related fields that will be selected to join the initiative.
- High level lectures and discussions, backed by professional staff that will accompany the members throughout the process.
- Build meaningful connections and expand your professional network across the ecosystem.
- A process consisting of 6 virtual sessions and ongoing digital engagement
- Study tours in Israel and the US, one week each, mandatory to all participants, fully subsidized
- Engagement with key leaders and organizations, stakeholders and officials, from both countries
- Collaborative outputs like papers, articles, op-eds, social media outputs
- Shared platforms for broader impact

Planned Program Overview

May – December 2025

Title	Main Subjects
Online session 1- Kickoff & Connection: Launching Our Shared Journey	Welcome aboard! connect with your peers Yes we can! Inspirational talk with Krzysztof Śmiszek Krzysztof Śmiszek is a Polish lawyer, human rights activist, and politician. He is known for his work promoting LGBTQ+ rights and co-founded the Polish Society of Antidiscrimination Law. In 2024, he was elected to the European Parliament while serving as Deputy Minister of Justice in Poland.
Online session 2- Roots of Change: The Progressive Story Across Continents	A dynamic exploration of progressive movements in Israel, the U.S., and Europe – their histories, turning points, and shared struggles. We'll hear from a leading historian offering a broad perspective on the evolution of liberal thought, followed by Rami Hod, Executive Director of the Berl Katznelson Center, who will present his vision for building sustainable ecosystems of influence as a path to change. The session will close with an inspiring conversation with changemakers driving real impact on the ground.
Online session 3- Leading with Purpose: Defining Ourselves, Together	A reflective session on what it means to lead as a progressive today. Together, we'll explore evolving definitions of "leftist," "liberal," "progressive," and "woke" – and ask how these identities have shifted since October 7. Through personal reflection, group dialogue, and a critical lens, we'll uncover shared values and points of tension. The session will close with an eye-opening conversation with a leading journalist offering fresh insights on the political discourse of our time, and its impact on the left globally.
On the Ground in Israel: Encounters That Matter	Engage directly with key Israeli leaders and organizations active in parallel issues to the group members – labor, gender, Knesset, economic justice, and more. The tour will include in-depth site visits to socially and politically significant locations, joint sessions with leaders and political figures, an interactive 'roundtable speed-networking' event with local changemakers and leaders, and much more.
Online session 4- From Vision to Action: Designing	Participants co-design initiatives in mixed Israeli-American teams, developing bold ideas that extend beyond the cohort – shaping narratives, influencing communities, and driving real-world change. Throughout the session, expert mentors in policy,

Impact Together	advocacy, idea dissemination, and social-digital strategy will be available to support and guide the creation of impactful, strategic projects with long-term potential.
Online session 5 - New Realities: Progressives Navigating shifting U.S.– Israel relations and alliances	In a moment of global uncertainty, we'll take a hard look at the evolving dynamics between Israel and the U.S. The session opens with a challenging plenary conversation with a leading public thinker on the impact of October 7 and the second Trump presidency. In the second half, we'll split into groups by country: American participants will meet with leaders of Israel's protest movement, while Israeli participants will engage with representatives of American Jewish communities – opening space for reflection, dialogue, and mutual understanding.
Showcase session 6 – Looking Forward: Insights, Networks, and What Comes Next	We'll open with a series of fast-paced presentations of the joint outputs of the cohort, intertwined with short TEDs featuring politicians, strategy experts, and public opinion leaders who will share practical tools, real-world insights, and bold ideas for driving change. Then, we'll reflect on key takeaways from the program, celebrate our shared journey, and strengthen the network – laying the foundation for continued collaboration and long-term impact.
A week-long Study Tour in the US	To be designed and finalized in April 2025.

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