

# INSTITUTIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

## ALPHABET SOUP

Acronym	Institution	Definition & Explanation
APN	Americans for Peace Now	Americans for Peace Now is an American Liberal Zionist organization; it is the sister organization of Shalom Achshav (Peace Now), Israel's biggest peace movement, advocating for a two-state solution and an end to the occupation.
JCPA	Jewish Council for Public Affairs	The Jewish Council for Public Affairs is an umbrella organization that deals specifically with the issue of how the Jewish community relates with the community at large. It provides advice and support to the 125 Jewish Community Relations Councils that operate in their own locales. The JCPA regularly issues policy positions in the areas of 'Equal Opportunity and Social Justice,' 'Jewish Security and the Bill of Rights,' and 'Israel, World Jewry and International Human Rights.'
JFNA	Jewish Federations of North America	The Jewish Federations of North America is the umbrella organization for the 152 local Jewish Federations in North America. The JFNA and the local federations engage in charity work in the United States and abroad, support local Jewish communities and heavily promote Israel advocacy. Their annual "General Assembly" is one of the most important national gatherings of Jewish professionals and community leaders.
JNF	Jewish National Fund	Also known as the KKL, the JNF is a quasi-state institution in Israel/Palestine tasked with buying and owning land for the Jewish people. Founded in 1901, the organization was central to the initial colonization of Palestine in the early 20th century. The JNF officially owns 13% of land in the State of Israel, and through its power over the Israel Land Administration manages 93% of the land in the State of Israel. Official JNF bylaws dictate that land cannot be leased or sold to non-Jews. In the aftermath of the Nakba, the JNF was given control over many of the lands left behind by Palestinian refugees and planted trees, often non-native, over the remains of numerous Palestinian villages. Famous for its "blue box" collection tins in American and European synagogues, the JNF remains a tax-deductible charitable organization in the United States.
IAN	Israel Action Network	The Israel Action Network (IAN) is an initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America, and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which works to counter BDS and Palestine activism.
	Birthright Israel	Founded in 1999, Birthright-Israel (called 'Taglit', or 'discovery' in Hebrew) is a free 10-day guided tour of the State of Israel for Jews ages 18-26. The trip promotes the idea that connection to the State of Israel is important for diaspora Jews. Founded to discourage assimilation and promote endogamy, the trip is increasingly being used as a tool to encourage pro-Israel advocacy. Over 400,000 young Jews have participated in Birthright trips and the program is widely considered a success by major Jewish philanthropists. The primary funders include the Charles Bronfman, Michael Steinhardt, Lynn Schusterman, Sheldon Adleson and the Israeli government.
ADL	Anti-Defamation League	The Anti-Defamation League fashions itself as "the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency" and the leading voice against anti-Semitism and bigotry in the United States and around the world. It was founded in 1913 by B'nai Brith in response to the murder of a Jewish man named Leo Frank at the hands of a mob in Marietta, GA. Over the years the ADL has played a leading role in efforts to combat the growth of neo-Nazi groups and the KKK in the United States, and to maintain freedom of religion in the United States. In recent years, the ADL has sought to define all activity in support of Palestinian human rights as anti-Semitic and in 2013 named Jewish Voice for Peace one of the "Top 10 Anti-Israel Groups." For 28 years, the ADL has been headed by Abe Foxman.
AJCommittee	American Jewish Committee	The American Jewish Committee is one of the oldest Jewish advocacy organizations in the US. They do Israel advocacy on national and local levels, but also work on a variety of other political issues.
WZC/WZO	World Zionist Organization/Congress	The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is the governing body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Founded by Theodore Herzl in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland, the WZO was one of the most important pre-state Zionist institutions. The WZC holds elections every four years and all Jews who do not vote in the Israeli elections are eligible to vote provided that they sign onto the WZO's "Jerusalem Program." The most recent elections began in January 2015 and continue until April 2015.
SWC	Simon Wiesenthal Center	The Simon Wiesenthal Center researches and educates about the Holocaust and anti-semitism. They operate several "Museums of Tolerance," one of which is built atop a demolished Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem.
	Hadassah	Hadassah is the Women's Zionist Organization of America. They build community among Jewish women and engage in advocacy on domestic and international women's issues, as well as Israel advocacy.
CoP	Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations	The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (CoP) is an umbrella organization for 51 American Jewish organizations. Its founding purpose is to present a unified Jewish voice to the President of the United States on all matters affecting the Jewish community. The CoP was the center of controversy last year when J Street applied for admission into the organization but was rejected. During the summer Gaza war, a group of young Jews activists calling themselves "If Not Now, When?" held a protest against Israel's assault on Gaza in the lobby of CoP's offices in New York City; nine were arrested.
AEPi	Alpha Epsilon Pi	With over 166 chapters internationally, AEPi is the largest and most significant male Jewish college fraternity. As efforts to combat the BDS movement on campus have grown, AEPi has become an important ally to pro-Israel groups on campus. AEPi's foundation donates money annually to Friends of the IDF and to the Jewish National Fund. In 2014, AEPi became the first organization of Jewish college students to become a full member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.
AIPAC	American Israel Public Affairs Committee	AIPAC is the leading pro-Israel lobby group in Washington D.C. Founded in 1953, AIPAC began its rise to power in the 1970s during the presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. One of AIPAC's most successful strategies has been bundling campaign contributions for candidates for office in order to ensure pro-Israel support upon their election. AIPAC officially supports a two-state solution, but opposes criticisms of Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza. For several years now, one of AIPAC's top policy agendas has been to impose heavy sanctions on Iran and sink any possible negotiated settlement on the nuclear issue.
ZOA	Zionist Organization of America	Founded in 1897 as an umbrella organization for American Zionists, ZOA was formerly one of the most important Zionist groups in the country. In the last twenty years, since Mort Klein became president of the organization, ZOA has shifted dramatically to the right and has since become one of the most explicitly right-wing Zionist organizations.
AJJDC	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	For over 100 years, the Joint Distribution Committee has collected money for Jewish communities around the world, as well as disaster relief for non-Jewish communities.
	J Street	Formed in 2008, J Street is a US lobbying organization promoting a two-state solution. They've established themselves as the "pro-Israel, pro-Peace" liberal alternative to AIPAC. They also advocate against BDS.
JCRC	Jewish Community Relations Council	The Jewish Community Relations Councils are a group of 125 Jewish organizations nationwide that work on promoting community relations between the Jewish community and the community at large. The umbrella organization for the JCRCs is called the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA).
	Ameinu	Formerly known as the Labor Zionist Alliance, Ameinu is a liberal Zionist advocacy group in the United States.
	B'nai Brith International	B'nai Brith is a secular global Jewish service organization, doing advocacy for Israel and Jewish communities worldwide.
	Hillel International	"The foundation of Jewish campus life," Hillel International holds offices on thousands of college campuses for Jewish students. Hillel's Israel guidelines forbid Hillel member groups from partnering with supporters of BDS and opponents of Israel. They are targeted by the "Open Hillel" campaign.
FIDF	Friends of the Israel Defense Forces	Friends of the IDF is a US-based non-profit that raises money to support Israeli soldiers by providing them with educational and recreational opportunities.
URJ	Union for Reform Judaism	The Union for Reform Judaism is the US Jewish religious denomination with the largest membership, consisting of reform congregations across the country. They provide Israel programming and engage in Israel advocacy. They operate a youth wing called National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) and a social action wing known as the Religious Action Center (RAC).
USCJ	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism	Conservative Judaism is the second largest US Jewish religious denomination with synagogues across North America. The United Synagogue operates the nationwide network of "Solomon Schechter" Jewish day schools, Ramah summer camps, and has a youth organization called Unite Synagogue Youth (USY). In recent years Conservative Judaism has been shrinking dramatically.
OU	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America	The Orthodox Union, as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America is more commonly known, is one of the largest Orthodox denominations in the United States. Typically associated with "Modern Orthodox" Judaism, OU is widely known for the symbol that appears on food that they have certified to be kosher.
RAC	Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism	The progressive political and legislative outreach arm of the Union for Reform Judaism. They have supported US civil rights and the welfare of Soviet Jewry.
	StandWithUs	A right-wing Israel advocacy organization that seeks to counter Palestine activism in communities and on college campuses.
CAMERA	Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America	CAMERA is a media-monitoring organization that fights anti-Israel bias in journalism.