

פורום דבורה

Forum Dvorah

נשים במדיניות חוץ ובטחון לאומי

WOMEN IN FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY



Dear friends

This newsletter is dedicated to our **Annual Forum Dvorah Awards Ceremony**, celebrating trailblazing women in foreign policy and national security.

The event was graced by the presence of **First Lady Michal Herzog**, spouse of the President of Israel, and held a special significance: Due to the tragic events of October 7, 2023, the awards were not presented last year. This year, we are proud to recognize and honor achievements spanning **2023-2024**.



Forum Dvorah Award Recipients for 2023-2024:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Journalist Tali Lipkin-Shahak
- **National Security Award:** Generations of IDF Lookout Soldiers
- **Foreign Policy Advancement Award:** Ambassador Aliza Bin-Noun
- **Young Leadership Award:** Researcher Ofir Dayan

In the photo: The award recipients alongside First Lady Michal Herzog and Forum Dvorah representatives – Col. (Res.) Maya Heller and Chairwoman of the Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.

On December 1st, 2024, we gathered at ANU – The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv for the annual Forum Dvorah Awards Ceremony, celebrating extraordinary women who are **trailblazers**, shaping Israel's security, diplomacy, and leadership.

This year's award recipients exemplify **courage, professionalism, and unwavering commitment** to advancing women's roles in critical fields.



"All of today's award recipients are first-class Israeli heroes. The decision to honor the IDF Lookout Soldiers highlights the significance of their work and the need to amplify their voices."

First Lady Michal Herzog



The atmosphere at this prestigious event was both powerful and deeply inspiring. A diverse gathering of distinguished guests from various fields came together, showcasing their unwavering commitment to advancing female leadership and celebrating the achievements of trailblazing women.



Exciting moments



"This year's winners are role models and an inspiration for women in Israel and around the world. We are proud to recognize their work and share their impressive achievements with the public."

The Chairwoman of Forum Dvora's Executive Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.



Pioneering women: the signal winners

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: Journalist Tali Lipkin-Shahak

As the first female military correspondent and the Director of Programs and Chief Editor at radio station Galei Tzahal (IDF Radio), Tali Lipkin-Shahak is a pioneer for women in media. Through her groundbreaking career, she has championed the integration of women in security-related journalism and advocated for gender equality in Israeli society.

Tali continues to inspire generations of journalists and women in Israel and around the world.



Tali Lipkin-Shahak at the award ceremony, alongside First Lady Michal Herzog and Forum Dvora representatives – Chair of the Forum Dvora Award Committee, Col. (Res.) Maya Heller, and Chairwoman of Forum Dvora's Executive Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.

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Foreign Policy Advancement Award

Recipient: Ambassador Aliza Bin-Noun

Ambassador Bin-Noun, the Head of the Political-Strategic Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is Israel's highest-ranking female diplomat. Since October 7, she has been leading Israel's diplomatic front, coordinating efforts worldwide 24/7.

Ambassador Bin-Noun's unwavering professionalism and leadership serve as a model for success and a source of inspiration.



Ambassador Aliza Bin-Noun at the award ceremony, alongside Forum Dvorah representatives – Chair of the Forum Dvorah Award Committee, Col. (Res.) Maya Heller, and Chairwoman of Forum Dvorah's Executive Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.

National Security Award

Recipient: Generations of Female IDF Lookout Soldiers

Forum Dvorah honors the IDF Lookout Female Soldiers for their critical contributions to Israel's security, including their heroic role in detecting the October 7, 2023, attack. Despite the harrowing circumstances, these soldiers performed their duties with unmatched professionalism and dedication. This award emphasizes the essential role of women in defense and underscores the importance of equitable recognition for their service.

The award was received on behalf of the Lookout Female Soldiers by: The founders of the social initiative "Achoti" ("My Sister"), which has supported female soldiers since the onset of the war, and by the parents of Sergeant Avigdor Hajaj z"l and the mother of Sergeant Yael Leibushor z"l.



Mira and Pinchas Hajaj – parents of the late Sgt. Avigdor Hajaj, Gili Leibushor – mother of the late Sgt. Yael Leibushor, and representatives of "Achoti" ("My Sister") at the award ceremony, alongside First Lady Michal Herzog and Forum Dvorah representatives – Chair of the Forum Dvorah Award Committee, Col. (Res.) Maya Heller, and Chairwoman of Forum Dvorah's Executive Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.

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Young Leadership Award

Recipient: Ms. Ofir Dayan

A doctoral candidate and researcher at the Israel-China Policy Center at INSS, Ms. Dayan is also a prominent media commentator. Her advocacy for equal representation of women in decision-making bodies is shaping public discourse. As the former President of the Students Supporting Israel (SSI) chapter at Columbia University, Ofir remains a powerful voice in promoting Israel's image globally.



Ofir Dayan at the award ceremony, alongside Forum Dvorah representatives – Chair of the Forum Dvorah Award Committee, Col. (Res.) Maya Heller, and Chairwoman of Forum Dvorah's Executive Board, Col. (Res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch.



A Message of Light and Hope

As we approach Hanukkah, the festival of light, we reflect on a year of unprecedented challenges. Let us draw strength and inspiration from the remarkable women honored at the Forum Dvora Awards and remain hopeful that light will triumph over darkness.

We wish you a peaceful and bright Hanukkah, and a prosperous New Year 2025 filled with resilience, progress, and unity.

Chag Chanukah Sameach

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