

פורום דבורה

Forum Dvorah

נשים במדיניות חוץ ובטחון לאומי

WOMEN IN FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY



"The only thing that surprises me - is that people are still surprised"

Watch Ophir Dayan's powerful remarks at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Foreign Ministers' Conference, held at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 25



When asked in the wake of October 7 whether the surge of antisemitism at Columbia University had shocked her, **Ophir Dayan — Forum Dvorah Board Member**, researcher at INSS, and Columbia alumna — didn't hesitate. Her reply cut through the noise:

"No. The only thing that surprises me is that people are still surprised by these incidents — this has been going on for years. Universities in the U.S. have consciously chosen to turn a blind eye."

In a pointed statement, Dayan added:

"It is your duty, as leaders, to punish anyone who engages in antisemitic actions within the institutions you are entrusted with — and, of course, to educate the ignorant. Often, these people don't have bad intentions — they are simply swept up in anti-Zionist propaganda."

She ended with a sharp warning:

"Make no mistake — you must act now. If you don't, you're next."



To mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, a special delegation visited Germany at the initiative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), aimed at strengthening strategic ties and promoting women's representation in national security and foreign policy

Ilona Drozdov, head of Forum Dvorah's International Team, played a key role in high-level discussions with senior officials in government, parliament, and leading companies. She also highlighted the importance of maritime security during the KAS–ELNET conference.

We thank the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for this meaningful partnership and remain committed to advancing professional and in-depth dialogue between the sides in the fields of national security and foreign policy.

what will future wars look like, and how will the battlefield of tomorrow be defined?

Adi Bershadsky, Forum Dvorah Board Member, the first woman in the Israeli Air Force to hold the rank of Colonel and the first Israeli woman to serve as a military attaché abroad,

shares an insightful article on Future Warfare in **Horizons** — a prestigious independent journal on international relations and sustainable development.

The article explores the evolving nature of warfare in a rapidly changing world. It examines how traditional battlefields are giving way to complex, multidimensional arenas shaped by advanced technologies, cyber warfare, and emerging strategic threats - alongside conventional military forces.



To read the full article

A Unique New Leadership Program by Forum Dvorah

Launched on April 27, this structured new program is tailored for mid-career professionals (Dvorah 2.0), focusing on career acceleration, leadership development, peer learning, and strengthening professional

networks. The program equips participants with the skills and confidence needed to lead.

This initiative is part of Forum Dvorah's broader mission to advance women into key leadership and decision-making roles—particularly in national security, foreign policy, and the public sphere. By fostering personal leadership capacity, the program aims to strengthen women's ability to navigate complex challenges, influence professional ecosystems, and drive meaningful change.

Forum Dvorah's new leadership program includes six in-person sessions. The program is developed and led by **Keti Chacham**, Forum Dvorah's Leadership Coordinator—an organizational consultant and certified business coach.

Ofra Ash, Executive Director of Forum Dvorah, at Mechinat Aderet



Ofra Ash, Executive Director of Forum Dvorah, spoke at *Mechinat Aderet* about the integration of women in the Israel Defense Forces, marking 30 years since the landmark Alice Miller ruling, which determined that there is no justification for excluding women from applying to the IAF pilots' course. Her talk addressed the progress made since that decision - and the challenges still faced, particularly in light of the October 7 war.

Mechinat Aderet, a pre-military academy, is an Israeli Beit Midrash that prepares young adults to take responsibility for the State of Israel and the Jewish people. It promotes action-oriented learning and a commitment to shared destiny, with the goal of building an exemplary society.

Engaging with young people from pre-military academies is a vital part of Forum Dvorah's mission. These encounters aim to instill in them - on the cusp of their military service - not only the importance of women's roles in the IDF at large and in combat roles in particular, but also the core values of equality, shared responsibility, and moral strength that are essential to a just and inclusive society.

Career Roundtable with Michal Sharf at a Security Organization

A career roundtable was held in May, with **Michal Sharf**, an expert in leading organizational and strategic change, hosted at one of Israel's security organizations especially for members of Forum Dvorah.

In an open and inspiring session, Michal shared insights from her personal journey, presented potential advancement paths, and responded candidly to participants' questions with the goal of encouraging the integration, advancement, and influence of women in key security arenas.

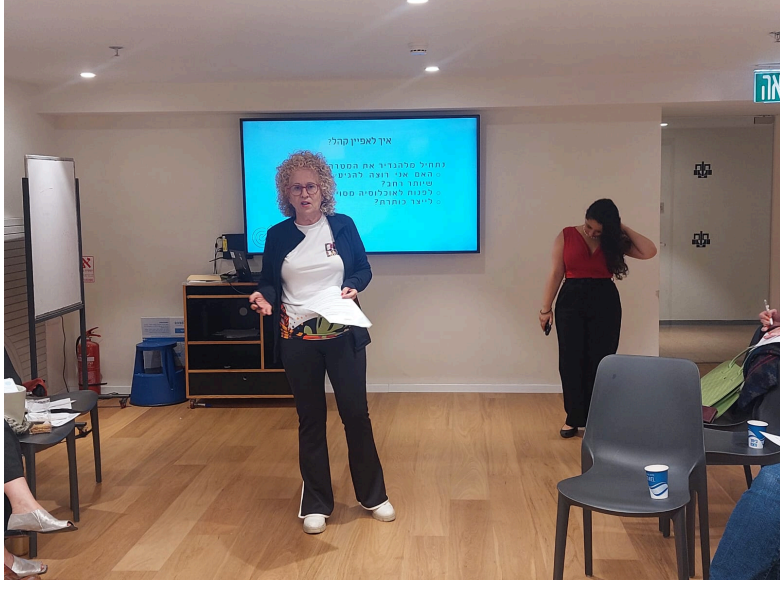


New Series: Mastering Communication Through Debate Thinking

A new workshop series was launched last month, led by **Jessica Gourvitch** - the 2025 World Debate Championship runner-up. The series is designed to provide practical tools for applying debate-style thinking to communication and everyday life.

The first workshop, titled "Fifteen Years of Experience in Five Lines," focused on the concise delivery of complex ideas, audience profiling, and crafting sharp, brief, and persuasive arguments. It offered Forum Dvorah members a rich and insightful introduction to the field.

Additional workshops in the series will follow.



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