

Lior Herman

Letter of Intent

Dear Friends and 16th Plenary Assembly Members,

I am writing to you to seek your support for my reelection as to the WJC Executive as an *ad personam* member—and to enable me to continue to work to advance the causes that are so important to all of us and for the WJC to go from strength to strength. I deeply believe that fostering greater Jewish unity among communities and various streams of Judaism must be one of our top priorities. During my years as an Executive member, I have been actively involved in advocacy for the Jewish people and Israel, Holocaust remembrance and education, the struggle against antisemitism, diplomatic outreach to counter Iran's nuclear ambitions, and the campaign to safeguard Jewish religious rights including *shechita* and *brit mila*. I have also been an active member of the WJC Resolution Committee and the Budget and Finance Commission.

Today, we face many challenges, but also many opportunities, some truly unparalleled. If elected, I will continue to champion the engagement of young adults. As a former president and chairman of the Jewish Diplomatic Corps, I worked assiduously to reintegrate that important program into the WJC fold after it had seceded. Since then, the JD Corps has grown into a force multiplier and is one of the jewels in the WJC crown. I am also active in Israel Council on Foreign Relations that operates under WJC auspices.

As an Israeli who spent many years in the UK, I have had an opportunity to experience the richness and diversity of Jewish communal life first hand. If re-elected, I will strive to represent Jewish interests in a non-partisan way, addressing the concerns of Jewish communities large and small, and building consensus.

I come to this position with extensive diplomatic experience. While a senior government official in Israel, I negotiated Jerusalem's economic chapter of the European Neighbourhood Policy with the EU; initiated and led Israel's accession to the OECD and was involved in numerous negotiations and diplomatic demarches to countries in many parts of the world, including Arab ones. In my capacity as a WJC representative I have been deeply engaged at the UN, the UN Human Rights Council, and in outreach to individual states. I also had the honour of leading the WJC's delegation at the Durban II Conference in 2009. My academic career as a professor of international relations and international political economy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem complements my experience in the field as do my scholarly publications on issues ranging from European Union politics, EU-Israel relations, the Israeli-Arab conflict, international negotiations, international organizations, trade, and energy.

Even as we confront the serious challenges of antisemitism, BDS, and other threats, I see a bright future for the Jewish people and the Jewish world: One in which Jews celebrate their identity and continue to be a light unto nations. Let us work together to promote the cause of Jewish unity, universal human rights and also environmental protection Cooperation and dialogue with other faiths and nations should also be a paramount objective. I care passionately for the Jewish people, and I hope that you will have confidence in my ability to work on their behalf.

Thank you in advance for considering my candidacy and for your support.


Lior