

Annual Review 2017 - 2018

Our Year
Leading
Defending
Enriching



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Josh Holt UJS President 2017-18

Looking back... and forward

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Looking back...



Josh Holt
UJS President 2017-18

Exciting. Emotional. Exhilarating. What an experience it has been to be UJS President this past year. I'm so proud to have had the opportunity to lead UJS during our 99th year – a year of celebration, of reflection, and of pride in the spectacular achievements of Jewish students on campus. From Brighton to Aberdeen, and Dublin to Kent, Jewish life on campus is thriving.

We've taken 315 Jewish students and students from a range of backgrounds to Israel, delivered 90 Interfaith and Holocaust education events reaching thousands of students across dozens of campuses, trained almost 800 Jewish student leaders and Labour club volunteers, and of course continued to provide thousands of Friday night meals and bagel fuelled student-led sessions.

J-Socs continue to deliver diverse student-led Jewish education such as the award-winning Tea and Torah project in Glasgow, inspiring Interfaith initiatives, social action projects and J-Soc charity balls. Whilst mostly Jewish students encounter curiosity and positivity on campus, I also want to recognise the courage and conviction of Jewish students who combat challenges that do arise, standing up against antisemitism, fighting BDS and promoting peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

When I stepped into post, my challenge and aim was to support and enable Jewish Students to stand loud and proud on campus.

There has been nothing more rewarding than seeing the impact of our support and love for Jewish students on campus. The peer led events, the drive to make J-Socs more inclusive places, the inter-communal connections. However, above everything, I have seen Jewish students be loud and proud of who they are and what they are passionate about.

At a time when there are divides within the Jewish community, Jewish students bringing people together is more important than ever. As a community, our diversity is our strength, and this should be celebrated.

UJS is the voice of Jewish students, and it has been an absolute pleasure to have been afforded the privilege of embodying that voice, even if it was just for a year. I cannot wait to see President Hannah Rose and the new team continue transforming Jewish campus and community life for the better.

...and forward



Hannah Rose
UJS President 2018-19

As we arrive at our 100th year, we are certainly standing on the shoulders of giants. We look back at our proud history of nurturing Jewish life on campus every day for a century and look forward to how we build an even stronger movement for the future.

With plans shaping up for the year ahead, I am particularly excited that we will be expanding our mental health campaigning to reach Jewish students when they need help most, diversifying our programming and structure to reach every student possible, and are taking over 150 diverse student leaders and University Vice-Chancellors on an educational trip to Auschwitz as part of a programme with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

As with any other year, we will face challenges, but with the lessons learnt from the past 100 years, I know that Jewish students will overcome adversity, make their voice heard, and move this our union forward into the future.

Our mission

We are the voice of over 8,500 Jewish students, spanning over 60 Jewish Societies (J-Socs) on campuses across the UK and Ireland. We are traditional, progressive, politically diverse, cultural and spiritual; we are unified, not uniform, and advocate the unity of our one Jewish people.

Guided by our core values, the priorities of our elected President and policy passed at UJS Conference, we create and deliver powerful campaigns: fighting prejudice that targets Jewish people and other minorities; advancing the inclusion of Jewish people within wider society and of marginalised groups within our Jewish community; and inspiring education and action on the issues that matter to us.

Locally, nationally and internationally, we run diverse and dynamic programmes; facilitate access to kosher food and accommodation; offer career networking opportunities, proudly and passionately engage with Israel; initiate inspiring interfaith projects; and spearhead and support social action (tikkun olam).

For 99 years, we've been leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life across the UK and Ireland, inspiring generations of future leaders of the Jewish community, and we're proud to be **the voice of Jewish students.**

Our core values

Cross-Communalism:

UJS and J-Soc activities are open to all Jewish students regardless of political or religious affiliation or denomination. We strive to continually improve how we celebrate the diversity of Jewish students.

Peer-leadership:

We are empowered and equipped to lead and direct our programming and campaigning with and for our peers.

Representation:

As the voice of Jewish students we ensure Jewish students voices and views are heard locally and nationally. J-Soc committees and the UJS President are elected roles which consider the views of their members and represent these and our democratically decided policy to the student movement, the wider Jewish community, politicians and policy makers.

Engagement with Israel:

We passionately and proudly connect our students with over 3000 years of Jewish and Hebrew culture, offering opportunities to strengthen, celebrate and explore a personal relationship with Israel as part of an evolving expression of Jewish identity.

Our year in numbers

390

Jewish student activists took part in **leadership development opportunities** including UJS Summit, Campaigns Weekend and educational trips in the USA, Europe and Israel.

5,500

students and staff from a range of backgrounds, faiths and cultures were part of 40 J-Soc **Holocaust Memorial Day** commemorations, spanning 29 campuses.

5,250

Friday Night Dinners and Jewish festival meals served to students at over 160 events on more than 50 different campuses. With UJS funding and support J-Socs continue to create **a home away from home** and ways for Jewish students to create and connect with Jewish community life.

10,000

students were engaged through **interfaith** initiatives, including 50 interfaith week events, led or supported by Jewish students over the past 12 months.

510

students **engaged in UJS National Events** including UJS conference, liberation conference and Bridges Not Boycotts conference.

245

students celebrated Shabbat and Jewish festivals at events directly supported by UJS. Together with campus partners, our **J-Socs hosted thousands more community celebrations**, including Purim parties, Shavuot learning nights and Chanukah carnivals.

13,700

students from a variety of backgrounds engaged with UJS and student-led Israel related programmes on campus. These activities **nurture Jewish students' relationship with Israel and offer intelligent and informed education on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict** for diverse audiences. Highlights include commemorating the centenary of the Balfour declaration, Yom Ha'atzmaut and ELEVEN trips to Israel.

400

Student Labour club members were trained how to identify and **combat antisemitism**.

£50000+

was **raised through over 40 social action** initiatives and events which included charity balls, bone marrow drives, clothing drives, food collections and 22 mitzvah day activities.

315

students from diverse faiths and cultures went on a **UJS trip – or UJS supported trip – to Israel**.

5000

people engaged with the 'Our Living Memory' online campaign. Working with The Holocaust Educational Trust and NUS we are ensuring that **Holocaust commemoration and education is the responsibility of all student leaders**. Heartfelt stories, inspiring blogs and videos of support, including one from NUS President Shakira Martin, engaged thousands of diverse students.

2100

students **engaged in social action** initiatives by raising funds, dedicating hours and volunteering to support refugees, the homeless and blood donations.

Enriching Jewish Life on Campus

Sarah Levy – Glasgow J-Soc President

“Jewish student life in Glasgow is thriving, with a range of events occurring throughout the year. Regular Shabbat dinners on campus allow students to make new friends in a relaxed environment whilst connecting with their Judaism, and our weekly peer-led pluralist Torah study group attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds. This diversity of events, along with the continuing support from UJS and other organisations, has helped to shape a welcoming and growing Jewish student community in Glasgow.”



Aim: Build a home away from home for Jewish Students to explore, express and enjoy their Judaism

Action: Providing access to kosher accommodation, kosher food and spaces for Jewish activities. UJS also remain the largest and primary sponsor for Friday night dinners across the country. We support J-Socs in building a safe and open space where Jewish Life on campus can thrive and flourish.

Result: An impressive 5000+ bowls of chicken soup were served in the past 12 months creating a homely Shabbat atmosphere. We developed our partnership with Central Friday Night Dinners, providing a central space for London students to come together and eat, celebrate and socialise. We also supported J-Socs celebrating Jewish festivals and hosting social events on campus. Nosh and natter, Purim parties, J-Soc balls and a Matza Pizza party were just some of the **259 events on over 30 campuses UJS funded and assisted J-Socs to deliver this year.**

Strengthening our relationship with Israel

Zak Wagman - Warwick J-Soc

“My experience with UJS on a trip to Israel was one of the best I’ve had. A whirlwind, intense 10 days, highlights included taking in historical sites in Jerusalem, the start up vibes of Tel Aviv as well as meeting minority groups in the north, and wine tasting right up in the Galil. The trip was a great way to learn more about Israel and Judaism, and consider how it impacts my identity and my life as a proud Jewish student in the UK. Over the course of the trip I made lots of new friends from across the UK and from all backgrounds, and the trip offered something for everybody, regardless of their level of observance or knowledge of Judaism. It was a really incredible experience, and I’ve developed my knowledge and skills that’ll help me and my peers further celebrate Israel and Jewish life on campus.”



Aim: Strengthen Jewish students’ relationships with Israel through culture, religion, and society; and showcasing the variety and vibrancy of Israel to diverse student audiences

Action: We supported over 230 Israel related events on 41 campuses across the UK. From screening Israeli movies to bringing Israeli speakers to campus and engaging in arts programmes including UJS Incubator, Jewish students are strengthening a personal relationship with Israel and students of all backgrounds are seeing the varied and vibrant sides to our national homeland. We celebrated key dates including Yom Hatzma’ut and the centenary of the Balfour declaration. Local events covered a wonderful array of topics, such as the connection between Jewish history and archaeological discoveries in Israel.

Result: In total, over 13,500 students from a variety of faiths, cultures and backgrounds engaged with Israel programmes. 2017-2018 saw a record number of attendees on UJS led and supported Israel trips: over 300 students took flight to Israel on Birthright, Real Deal, Bridges not Boycotts, Manhigut and campus specific delegations.

Fighting for hate free campuses

Sally Patterson – NUS Block of 15, Bristol J-Soc Campaigns

“UJS has allowed me to meet Jewish students from different denominations, backgrounds and identity groups, and I’m delighted that many have become my closest friends. All too often our community divides itself based on these categories; UJS has shown me that instead, we must come together. As I move into a senior leadership role in my students’ union, I feel confident that I can speak out about the variety of challenges that Jewish students face. By educating one another, as well as friends from other backgrounds and faith groups, we can continue to build a campus community that is supportive, diverse, and free of hatred.”



Aim: Empower and equip Jewish students of all affiliations to represent their peers and be campus and community leaders.

Action: We provided training, support and leadership through UJS Summit, Activist training weekend and regularly campus visits. Additional support was provided from the UJS team for Jewish students running in local and/or national elections. We supported students developing campaigns and helped build strong networks of activists.

Result: Over 120 J-Soc committee leaders received training at UJS summit, where we also launched a new track for second and third year leaders to continue leading beyond committee roles. Almost 100 Jewish students have run for local SU and NUS delegate and leadership positions in the last eighteen months. Sally Patterson (Bristol), Adam Goldstone (Birmingham) and Georgie Harris (Edinburgh) were recently elected as leaders at their respective students’ unions and Sally was also elected on to NUS NEC. These are just a few examples of the committed and courageous leadership our students demonstrate across the country.

Educating ourselves and others

Jodeci Joseph – Hertfordshire J-Soc President

“Working with UJS this year has been one huge learning curve for me as Hertfordshire’s J-Soc president. I discovered abilities I didn’t know I had through running a Holocaust memorial event that 200 people attended. Hertfordshire J-Soc is a very small J-Soc, however with the help of UJS a family environment was established on campus. Overall UJS empowered me to undertake a daunting task, I have come out the other end with more skills, greater confidence and a deep sense of pride and gratitude in the work that is done for Jewish students on campus.”



Aim: Provide a diverse range of educational opportunities, allowing students to critically explore and engage with Jewish history, culture, texts and society.

Action: We offered a variety of multi-day trips, day-long conferences and shorter campus-based sessions, aiming to cover as wide a range of topics as possible to ensure that there was something for everyone.

Result: We provided full or partial scholarships to Limmud and March of the Living for 33 students; facilitated dozens of Lunch and Learn sessions on campuses in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and hosted our second annual Liberation Conference, educating about the diversity of Jewish students’ identities. 12 students who attended Limmud on UJS scholarships were able to learn from their peers and run sessions for others. Over 160 educational events were supported on more than 50 campuses.

UJS supported J-Socs in hosting a record 38 Holocaust Memorial Day events that reached a total of 3,500 people, ensuring that Jewish students are not only engaging in educational opportunities themselves but are reaching out to educate others too. Finally, 17 Sabbatical Officers from Students’ Unions around the country visited Poland with UJS and the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Connecting through Interfaith

Daniel Rafaeli – Leeds J-Soc and UJS J-Soc Officer

“All around the country, students are eager to understand and connect with each other, and faith is one medium which allows for this. During March this year, I pioneered an Interfaith music and dance concert to bring more entertainment to the Interfaith world on campus, which brought the Gypsy Roma, Traveller, and Jewish community a lot closer together. I’m grateful to UJS, for having been given the opportunity to explore my own individuality but also connect and understand the world around us through faith.”



Aim: Create cohesive campus communities where Jewish students – and all students – can fully and freely express their religious, cultural and national identities

Action: Providing the framework and connections with local and national interfaith societies and faith groups. Through this, each J-Soc could build and engage with Interfaith week in the best way they felt appropriate, while we built a partnership with Jewish, Roma and Gypsy music groups which led to a unique event attracting over 130 people.

Result: A record breaking 10,000 students were engaged through interfaith initiatives over the past 12 months. 50 interfaith events which were led or supported by J-Socs and Jewish students. Seeing students around the country opening up about their faith through dialogue and discussion has provided a platform for what we hope will be a more nuanced and understanding society.

Cross communal and inclusive

Hannah Kaufman – LSE J-Soc President

Throughout my time at university, UJS has constantly created an inclusive and welcoming environment to all students at its events, as well as helping to ensure cross communalism is represented in all J-Socs. As events officer then president of LSE J-Soc, I greatly benefited from the UJS Summit and training programmes on how to maximise our J-Soc work on inclusivity, particularly in providing resources and contacts for brilliant speakers of all denominations.



Aim: Nurture and empower Jewish students of all affiliations to be the leaders of the next generation.

Action: We provided leadership training for 257 students at events throughout the year including our UJS Summit Shabbaton, Time to Lead one-day conference, Activist Training Weekend and Manhigut, our flagship leadership trip to Israel. A further 33 students received UJS' support to attend leadership development opportunities around the world, including the New York University and World Union of Jewish Students Global Leadership programme; the World Jewish Congress in New York; the American Jewish Committee Global Forum in Washington DC; and the European Union of Jewish Students' delegation to the European Parliament in Brussels.

Result: The students who have benefited from these opportunities are taking leadership roles in a huge range of areas. They are co-ordinating local and national campaigns against BDS, creating inclusive communities, celebrating Jewish festivals in far-flung cities, building relationships with other faith societies on campuses, challenging antisemitism, pioneering social action initiatives and shaping the world around them.

Championing diverse Jewish identities

Emma Jacobs – Leeds J-Soc Campaigns Officer

“The resources and push from UJS for J-Socs to host ‘Friday night dinners’ ensured LGBT+ students had a chance to share their narrative. KeshetUK’s presence at Summit ensured committee members were educated about LGBT+ issues. Discussing the importance of a nuanced approach to sexuality and gender ensures Jewish societies are aspiring to be inclusive spaces.”



Aim: Celebrate our diverse Jewish student community and combat discrimination and disadvantage.

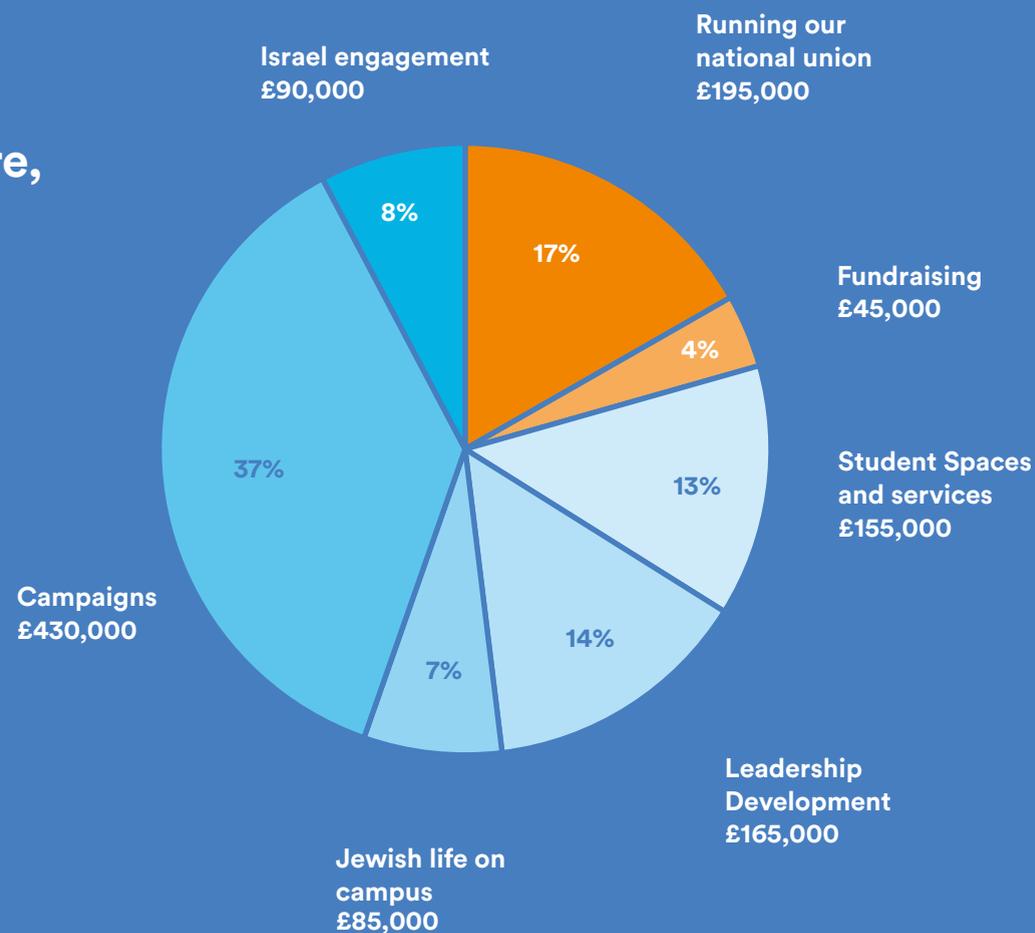
Action: We ran UJS Liberation Conference, re-launched the UJS Women’s network, and held a consultation with Sephardi and Mizrahi students to broaden the engagement of students on campus. We supported J-Soc’s in building inclusive societies aiming for all Jewish students to feel comfortable being part of the J-Soc. York and Edinburgh’s regular cross communal programmes made sure all students were catered to. For Shavuot we developed a cross-communal resource featuring educators from various denominations and backgrounds.

Result: Close to 200 students joined UJS or J-Soc events specifically addressing minority or marginalised groups within our union. UJS Liberation Conference offered the opportunity to delve deeper and educate each other on different perspectives. The thought-provoking conversations also offered activists the chance to find support amongst other Jewish students. We increased the reach and engagement of students from all denominations and from a variety of cultural, ethnic and geographical backgrounds. At UJS Conference 2017 a motion was passed mandating UJS to achieve greater gender equality by reserving fifty percent of elected positions for women and non-binary candidates.

Financial review

UJS spends over £1,000,000 each year leading, defending and enriching Jewish life.

This pie chart reflects the breakdown of our expenditure, with 79% on student programmes and services:



Leading Jewish life on campus

UJS is an engine of talented and hard working leadership on campus, throughout our community, and across our country. **Leadership Development** includes our work training, nurturing and empowering current cohort of courageous campus leaders. Highlights include UJS Summit, UJS Conference, the work of our sabbatical team and the annual campaign to elect the UJS President. Please see pages 10, 11, 12 and 17 for more.

Defending Jewish life of campus

Our campaigns work protecting and promoting the welfare of Jewish students is indicated in the sections for **Campaigns**. Some of our work combating antisemitic anti-Zionism is covered by our Israel Engagement activities. Our students’ activism includes work building alliances with students from many backgrounds during interfaith week and education on and commemorating the Holocaust through Holocaust Memorial Day. UJS projects supporting our courageous campaigners include our many trips to Israel and Europe, our Bridges not Boycotts project, and training events throughout the year. Please see pages 8, 9, 10 and 11 for more.

Enriching Jewish life on campus

Our work offering diverse and dynamic programmes and providing access to kosher food, accommodation and spaces for J-Soc activity is reflected in the sections for **student spaces and services, Jewish life on campus and Israel Engagement**. Highlights include Friday night and festival meals and activities, student-led education sessions such as Tea and Torah in Glasgow, and our incubator programme providing small grants and educational sessions for student to create artwork expressing their relationship with Judaism and Israel. Please see pages 6, 7, 12 and 13 for more.

Financial review

Over the last five years, UJS has made a difficult but important transition toward a balanced budget. It was no longer able to rely on historic reserves for much of its funding and is profoundly grateful that the huge generosity of members of our community saw a fifth consecutive year of growing income to enable the important and impressive work of our students. Thanks to some substantial funds for creating and expanding some specific innovative projects, our overall programmes budget increased from £634,000 last year to £770,000 this year.

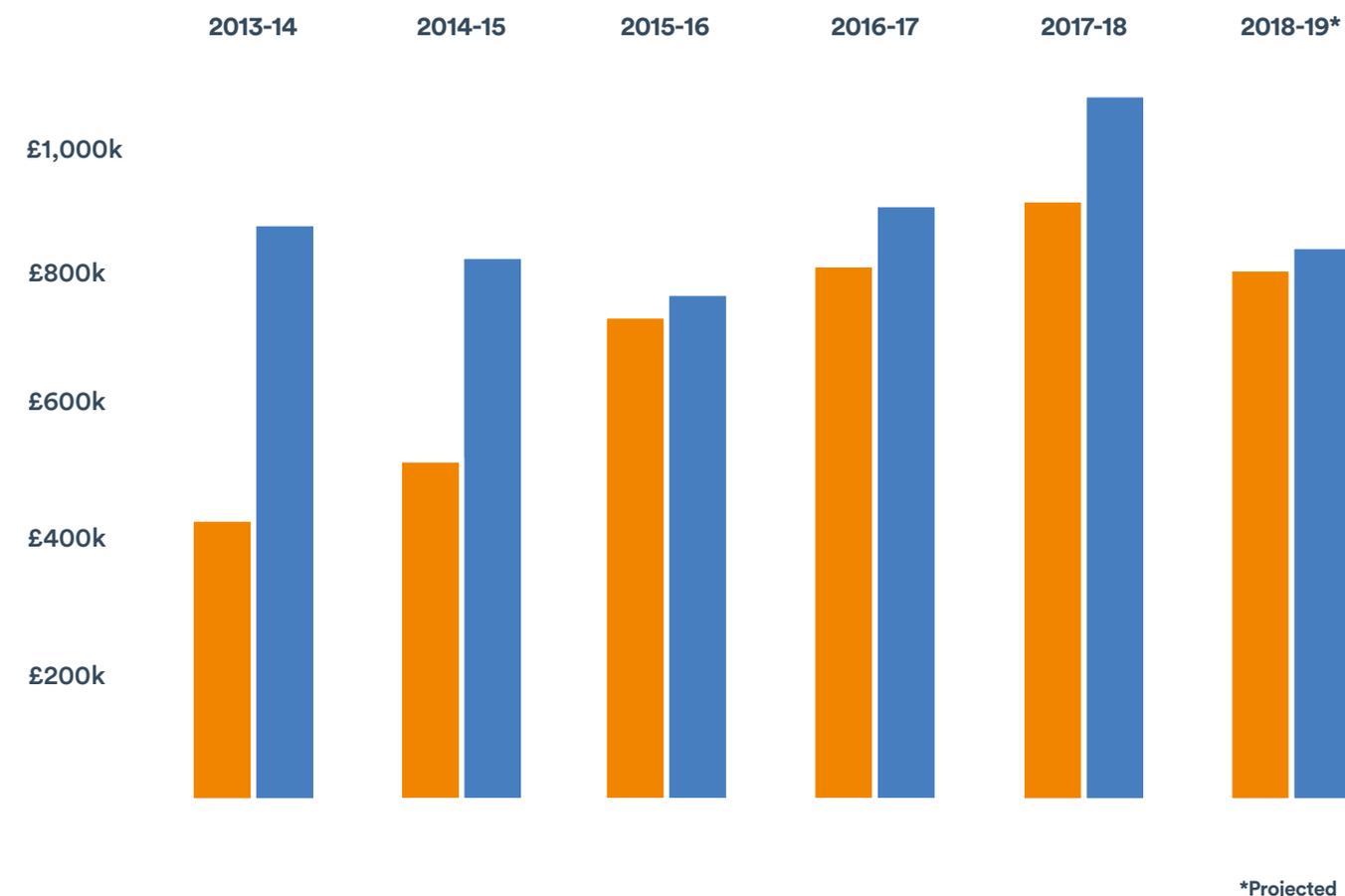
Having two campaigns officers and three J-Soc officers enabled greater support for the expanding programmes including our Bridges not Boycotts project and taking hundreds of students to Israel and the Palestinian territories. We have also facilitated closer interaction between our work supporting J-Socs and UJS work alongside other students' unions and societies. This enhanced our interfaith, social action and Holocaust education work. Key successes included the Our Living Memory campaign with NUS and close to 40 interfaith week events led or supported by Jewish students.

This year we recruited a new trustee to further assist our fundraising efforts; received a second year of support from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government; and initiated a new relationship with a major foundation. Alongside continuing to engage new Friends and Patrons, these developments secured a 13% increase in income from c.£875,000. to almost £1,000,000.

Overall expenditure also rose to c.£1,165,000 with an expected operating deficit of c.£170,000. This reflects the enduring challenge of securing substantial yet designated grants and continuing to provide all our core programmes and support for Jewish students. We also incurred expenditure on some larger year specific projects, including the 10th annual UJS Student Awards. The expected deficit will be far below the deficit recorded in 2014 of £490,000 and the organisation has a clear plan for reducing costs whilst maintaining income so that by 2020 we will no longer be operating with a deficit (please see chart on opposite page). Our spending is increasingly focused directly on our students, with 79% going on student programmes and services.

As the Voice of Jewish Students for 99 years, UJS remains the student-led cross-communal organisation covering the most campuses in the UK and Ireland. We continue to engage thousands of students in our diverse and dynamic programmes and campaigns. We are excited that next year marks 100 years since the formation of what is now UJS. We anticipate that the opportunity to reconnect with hundreds of UJS alumni in celebrating our centenary will secure significant new support to sustain UJS as we continue to lead, defend and enrich Jewish life on campus.

The charts below show our **income** and **expenditure** from 2013-14 to 2018-19



Thank you to everybody who made this year possible and such a success.

We would be unable to achieve what we have without such strong support from the community.

Guardians and Patrons

Keith Black, Sir Victor and Lady Blank, Leon and Cara Blitz, Richard Bolchover and Jo Rosenfelder, Paul and Peggy Brett, David and Nili Chinn, Sir Trevor and Lady Chinn, Simon Corney, Sir Mick Davis, Graham Edwards, The Exilarchs Foundation, Robert Gibber, David Goldberg QC, Jonny Goldstein, Marc Gordon and Caroline Marcus, Maurice and Danielle Helfgott, Alan and Louise Jacobs, Nick Leslau, The Catherine Lewis Foundation, Lord Jon and Nicola Mendelsohn, Richard Mintz, The Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust, Rachel Charitable Trust, Roy and Nina Sandler, Sir Harry and Lady Solomon, and Marc and Hilda Worth

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Communal supporters and partners



Jewish Leadership Council
Shoresh Charitable Trust
Pears Foundation
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UJS Team 2017-18

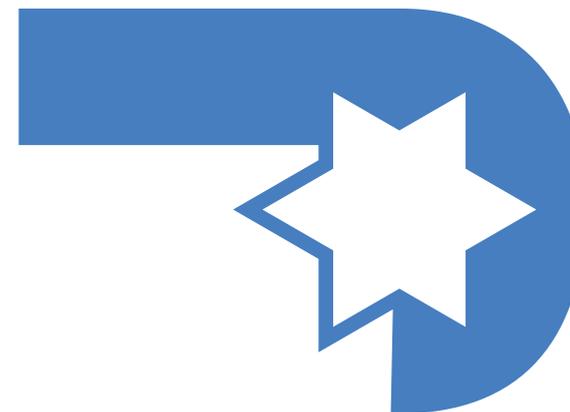
Emanuele Boccia, Louise Cohen, David Davidi-Brown, Lindsay Davidson, Grace Diamond, Rebecca Filer, Sam Gold, Josh Holt, Noah Levy, Dan Rafaeli, Kathryn Rose, Hannah Sharron, Zak Shutkever, Nick Sunshine, Liron Velleman and Natacha Woodcock

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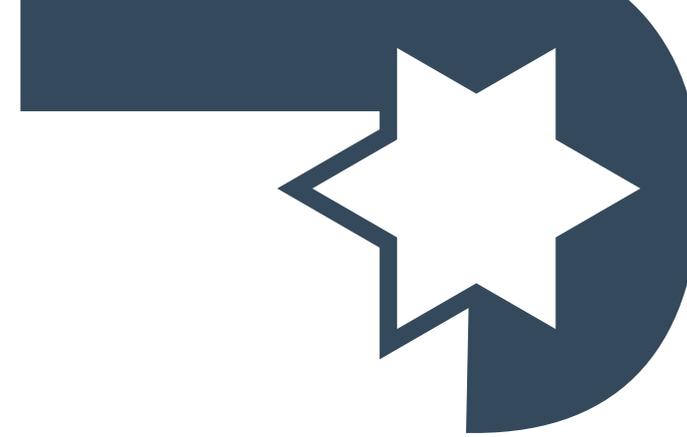
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