



## Shai Franklin

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*Veteran Jewish community executive in the United States and internationally, advocacy trainer, frequent lecturer and commentator on TV and radio, online, and in print.*

### BACKGROUND

Shai Franklin was instrumental in forging the 2004 mandate by 57 governments across Europe and North America to combat anti-Semitism, organizing the April 2002 National Israel Solidarity Rally, establishing systematic Jewish participation in the Organization of American States (OAS), securing tens of millions of dollars in new reimbursements for New York Jewish day schools, admitting Israel's Magen David Adom into the International Red Cross, coordinating the first distribution of U.S. Government food assistance in post-Soviet Russia, and upholding Interpol "Red Notices" against the Iranian perpetrators of the 1994 AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires. He served three years as Treasurer of CONGO, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations.

A onetime student activist, Shai is former Executive Director of the World Jewish Congress, as well as TEACH-NYS and Sephardic Community Federation. He has worked as a community professional with the American Council for World Jewry, Anti-Defamation League, and NCSEJ (formerly National Conference on Soviet Jewry). He has been a Fellow with The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, United Nations Watch, Institute for Religion and Public Policy and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and spent two years as a Wexner Graduate Fellow at UCLA. As a consultant, his clients have included American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Israel Policy Forum, Ruderman Family Foundation, Ukrainian Jewish Committee, and Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Kharkiv Regional State Administration.

Shai has testified in the U.S. Congress and addressed numerous international fora of the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (the "Helsinki Process"), and the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom, and was a plenary speaker at the International Economic Forum in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Under the auspices of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has conducted research in France on Islamic-Jewish relations.

Shai has appeared as an expert on TV networks as diverse as Al Jazeera, Shalom TV, and Argentina's C5N. He is a regular contributor to The Hill, The Huffington Post, Jerusalem Post and Times of Israel, among other outlets. As a student at Rhode Island School of Design, he was founding editor of Brown Middle East Journal, and the key organizer for AIPAC and Soviet Jewry advocacy on the RISD and Brown campuses. Later, he served as Managing Editor for Middle East Insight magazine in Washington, DC.

Shai earned a B.A. in political science (summa cum laude) from Temple University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He holds an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where was selected for the U.S. Government's elite Presidential Management Intern Program.

Now based in New York, Shai has traveled widely across Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia, and the former Soviet Union, managing projects and consulting with senior government officials and community leaders.

## SPEECH TOPICS

- Advocating for Jews and Israel in the **Trump-Netanyahu** era
- **Arab-Israeli** peace prospects
- **United Nations**: distinguishing friends from foes
- Combating **terrorism** at home and abroad
- **Israel**: politics and society
- The fight against **anti-Semitism**, what it means and why
- **Interfaith** dialogue and realities
- **Europe** today and tomorrow: EU, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and us
- The future for Jews in Europe and the **former Soviet Union**
- The Jewish **continuity** trap: quantity vs. quality
- The Jewish day school **tuition** crisis – what will it take?
- Integrating **social and digital media** into your communal agenda
- The origins and value of the “**organized Jewish community**”
- Balancing ‘propaganda response’ with intellectual inquiry on the **college campus**
- Recruiting and activating a **new generation** of Jewish leaders – and followers

## SELECTED VIDEO CLIPS

<a href="#">Kushner: Mideast peace may not be solvable</a>	i24 News, August 2017
<a href="#">Putin retaliates against U.S. sanctions</a>	i24 News, July 2017
<a href="#">Netanyahu, Obama, and Iran</a>	Shalom TV, October 2013
<a href="#">On bombing Syria and chemical weapons</a>	Shalom TV, September 2013
<a href="#">On U.S. moral imperative in Syria</a>	Shalom TV, September 2013
<a href="#">On Israeli elections</a>	Shalom TV, January 2013
Durban Review Conference: <a href="#">PART I</a> & <a href="#">PART II</a>	Al Jazeera, March 2009
Confronting Ahmadinejad, fighting racism: <a href="#">PART I</a> & <a href="#">PART II</a>	Al Jazeera, April 2009

## SELECTED OP-EDS

- [Clarifying an American Jewish Agenda](#) – Jerusalem Post, February 2017
- [Why I Attended the Jewish-Azerbaijan Event in Trump’s DC Hotel](#) – Times of Israel, December 2016
- [Let ADL Condemn Bannon, Let JFNA Feed the Hungry](#) – Jerusalem Post, November 2016
- [In Ukraine, U.S. Is Forfeiting New Cold War](#) – World Post, March 2015
- [Obama Should Send High-Level Rep to AIPAC Conference](#) – Ha’aretz, February 2015
- [Putting the ‘Arab’ Back into Mideast Peace](#) – World Post, July 2014
- [The Real Risk of ‘Another 20 Gazas’](#) – Huffington Post, September 2014
- [Israel’s Overplayed ‘Anti-Semitism’ Card](#) – Huffington Post, July 2014
- [Time for Candid, Meaningful Interfaith Talks](#) – Huffington Post, April 2014

[David Brooks Only Wrote About the Orthodox 1%](#) – Forward, March 2013

[Jews Lose By Ceding Israel to GOP](#) – Huffington Post, March 2013

[ADL must reassess opposition to gov't support for parochial schools](#) – JTA, August 2012

[Letter from Bahrain: A Jew at the Arab table](#) – JTA, December 2010

[Better late than never for U.S. on rights council](#) – JTA, May 2009