



## 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.*

Shai Franklin is Partner and Director of National Government Relations at Gotham Government Relations, a versatile firm with strong ties to business and government leaders in New York, Washington, and globally. He serves as Adjunct Professor in Long Island University's Hutton House Lectures and as Bonhoeffer Fellow at Boston-based Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning.

Previously, Shai was instrumental in forging the 2004 Berlin Declaration by 57 governments across Europe and North America to combat anti-Semitism, organizing the April 2002 National Israel Solidarity Rally, systematizing 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.

Shai is former Executive Director of the World Jewish Congress, where he also served as Treasurer of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN. He has worked 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, UN Watch and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and a Wexner Graduate Fellow at UCLA. His clients have included American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Institute for Gulf Affairs, Israel Policy Forum, Libya's Government of National Accord and Libyan Investment Authority, Republika Srpska, Ruderman Family Foundation, Ukrainian Jewish Committee, Ukraine's Ministry of Education, and Kharkiv's Regional State Administration. He was founding Executive Chairman of the Kosovo-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Shai has testified in the U.S. Congress and addressed numerous international fora of the UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe 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. In response to Shai's advocacy for Ukraine, in 2022 the Russian Foreign Ministry officially banned him from entering Russia.

Shai has appeared as an expert on TV networks as diverse as Al Jazeera, Shalom TV, i24, Turkey's TRT World, and Argentina's C5N. He frequently publishes analysis nationally and internationally.

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 he was selected for the U.S. Government's elite Presidential Management Intern Program. As a student activist, Shai was founding editor of Brown Middle East Journal, and the key organizer for AIPAC and Soviet Jewry advocacy on the campuses of Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Temple.

Now based in New York, Shai has traveled widely across Eastern and Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia.

## TOPICS

- The fight against **anti-Semitism**, what it means and why
- **Arab-Israeli** peace prospects
- **United Nations**: Distinguishing friends from foes
- Combating **terrorism** at home and abroad
- **Israel**: Politics and society
- **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: Available on [YouTube Channel](#)

### SELECTED OP-EDS

[If you aren't confused, you're doing it wrong](#) – Times of Israel, October 2023

[Are you racist, or just anti-anti-racist?](#) – Times of Israel, October 2021

[Are we willing for the lessons of the Holocaust to be universal?](#) – Times of Israel, March 2021

[Under Biden, the real fight against antisemitism can resume](#) – Jerusalem Post, December 2020

[A better way for Gulf States to engage Americans and American Jews](#) – TRT World, October 2018

[Surviving the ‘Holocaust Law’ controversy](#) – Jerusalem Post, August 2018

[Need a scapegoat? Just blame ‘the UN’](#) – Jerusalem Post, June 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

[The Real Risk of ‘Another 20 Gazas’](#) – Huffington Post, September 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