

Summer Newsletter

Summer 2026





TIKVA SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A DEEPENING CRISIS IN UKRAINE AS ATTACKS INTENSIFY AND CIVILIAN HARDSHIP GROWS



Damaged Tikva offices, Odesa

More than four years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, approximately 20% of the country remains under Russian occupation. In recent months, the conflict has intensified through increasingly frequent drone and missile attacks, bringing the war closer to civilians far from the front lines.

Since May, Russia has launched some of its largest aerial assaults of the war, including as many as 479 drones in a single night. Cities across Ukraine, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odesa, have been hit, with homes, schools, critical infrastructure, and major cultural sites damaged. In the last four weeks alone, at least 154 civilians, including children, have been killed and more than 900 injured in drone, missile, and artillery attacks.

Across Ukraine, repeated strikes, rising costs, and economic pressure have deepened hardship, with food poverty and basic living costs becoming an increasing challenge. Essential services are frequently disrupted, including power and electricity cuts and education and work are interrupted leaving families in prolonged uncertainty. Within Tikva's community, these pressures are felt acutely, particularly among vulnerable families and elderly members who rely on external support for daily needs.

Over the past nine months, the war has come to our home in Odesa. Several attacks have damaged the historic Great Choral Synagogue, which Tikva owns, our Tikva offices, as well as destroying vital food





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supplies, and injuring a security guard. In May, our kindergarten was struck overnight and is now unusable. Thankfully, no children were present.

Despite this, Tikva remains committed to its mission of supporting vulnerable children, families, and elderly community members across Odesa, Bucharest, and through our alumni network in Jerusalem. In Odesa, war is taking its toll as children continue learning in bomb shelters, amid the noise of air raid sirens, blackouts, and drone attacks, which have now become the norm. Our Search and

Rescue teams continue their operations despite dangerous conditions and since the war began, 55 orphaned or 'at risk' children have been brought into our care. We also continue providing 4,600 monthly welfare packages to elderly and vulnerable community members who rely on us for basic necessities. In Bucharest, more than 1,000 refugees receive education, therapeutic care, and stability as they rebuild their lives 400 miles from home. In Israel, our Alumni Centre supports 1,023 young adults who have made Aliyah, with expanded mental health and community programmes during a period of heightened uncertainty.

Rising costs have forced us to pause our residential summer camp programme this year, but we remain committed to providing other activities and trips for the children in our care.

As the war persists, the needs of those we look after has become greater. Yet, thanks to your support, children remain safe, families are rebuilding, and vulnerable communities continue to receive care and stability.





STATS AT A GLANCE

216

Children continuing
their education in
our care

1,250+

Elderly community
members
supported

55

at risk and
vulnerable children
rescued since the
start of the war

OUR WORK IN ODESA



4,760+

People evacuated to
safety since the war
began

1,047

Tikva children,
alumni and elderly
now in our care

462

Children receiving
education and
psychological support

OUR WORK IN ROMANIA



1,023

Tikva graduates
have made Aliyah

110+

Alumni have arrived
in Israel since the
war began

20%

Expansion in
mental health
support

OUR WORK IN ISRAEL



A MESSAGE FROM

KAREN BODENSTEIN CEO, TIKVA UK

Summer should be a time of freedom. A time for children to laugh, explore, make friends, and create memories that last a lifetime.

For the children in Tikva's care, childhood has looked very different.

Another summer arrives with the war still continuing. In Odesa, air raid sirens, drone attacks, and uncertainty remain part of everyday life. In Bucharest, more than 1,000 refugees continue rebuilding their lives after fleeing the war. Across our entire community, rising costs and growing needs place increasing pressure on the work we do every day.

This has been one of the most challenging years in Tikva's history, as the war has continued, needs have grown, and rising costs have placed unprecedented pressure on our work. For the first time in many years, we have been unable to run our residential summer camp. It was a decision made with great sadness.

Our commitment to the children, however, has never changed.

Instead, we have created a summer programme of outings, camping trips, sports, excursions, and outdoor activities, ensuring every child has opportunities to laugh with friends, build confidence, and create the happy memories that every childhood deserves.

When I visited our community in Bucharest earlier this year, I was reminded that hope is often found in the smallest moments. Watching children playing together, celebrating Jewish life, and simply enjoying being children was a powerful reminder that, despite everything they have endured, the future remains full of possibility.

That is what Tikva has always stood for: ensuring that even in the darkest of times, children can still be children.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about the challenges our community continues to face, alongside the remarkable courage, resilience, and determination that define the people we support every day. Behind every story is a child, a family, or an elderly person whose life has been changed because someone chose to care.

Thank you for making that possible.

Your generosity protects vulnerable children, supports families, cares for elderly members of our community, and reminds thousands of people that they are not facing these challenges alone.

On behalf of everyone at Tikva, thank you for standing with us.

KAREN BODENSTEIN
CEO, TIKVA UK





TIKVA UK

WE'RE MOVING OFFICE!

After 14 wonderful years based within the Moshal Family Office in London, Tikva UK will soon be moving to new premises, marking an important new chapter for our organisation.

With the closure of the Moshal Family's Hampstead Garden Suburb office, Tikva UK will also be relocating, providing an opportunity to establish a new base for our team and our continued growth.

While this marks the end of a very special chapter, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.



Over the years, our office has been a place of collaboration, growth, friendship, and countless achievements. We are incredibly grateful for all it has given us and for the many memories made here.

As our work continues to evolve, we look forward to a new space that will support our team and the next phase of Tikva UK's development. While we are excited about what lies ahead, we will also miss the colleagues and familiar faces we have had the privilege of working alongside over the years who will not be making the move with us. We are deeply grateful for the relationships we have built, the support we have shared, and the many moments that have shaped our time together.

We look forward to sharing more updates as we prepare for the move, settle into our new home, and begin this exciting new chapter.



FOUR RUNNERS, ONE GOAL:

SUPPORTING TIKVA AT THE LONDON HALF MARATHON



We're delighted to share that four incredible supporters will be taking on the London Half Marathon on 6 September to raise funds for Tikva.

Every mile they run will help provide safety, education, care and hope to vulnerable children, families and elderly community members across Ukraine, Romania and Israel. Running 13.1 miles is a significant challenge, and we are incredibly grateful for the commitment of each of our runners. Their efforts will help ensure that Tikva can continue supporting those who need it most.

This year's runners include Tsippy Moller, Sam Luntz, Nathaniel Schimmel and Alexa Sandler. Sam, who hasn't run a marathon before said:

"I am running The Big Half on behalf of Tikva UK because their work makes a real difference to vulnerable Jewish children and families from Ukraine. Tikva provides safety, care, education and hope to children who have faced incredibly difficult circumstances, and I am proud to support a charity that gives them the chance to build a better future."

Please join us in supporting Sam and our other runners as they prepare for race day. If you would like to contribute to their fundraising efforts, you can donate via our fundraising page here:



Sam Luntz

[TIKVA.ORG.UK/CURRENT-FUNDRAISERS](https://tikva.org.uk/current-fundraisers)



IMMANUEL COLLEGE

STUDENTS VISIT TIKVA IN BUCHAREST



In May, a group of students from Immanuel College spent a week at Tikva's site in Bucharest, where we support more than 1,000 children, alumni and elderly community members displaced by the war in Ukraine.

During their visit, the students learned about Tikva's work and witnessed first-hand the impact of the care and support we provide to children, families and elderly refugees rebuilding their lives.

Adam Levene, a teacher at Immanuel College, said:

"This trip was unlike any other school visit. It gave our students a chance to step into the lives of Tikva's children, to see the challenges they face every day, and to understand the courage and resilience that allows this community to keep thriving."

Throughout the week, the students gained a deeper understanding of Tikva's mission by spending time with those who benefit directly from our programmes. They toured the orphanage, joined arts and crafts activities, enjoyed a bowling trip with the children, and shared meaningful moments together. These experiences offered valuable insight into the importance of providing safety, education and stability during times of crisis.

Josh B, a Year 9 student, reflected on the experience:

"I really loved Tikva. It was an amazing life experience. I loved meeting the kids, spending time with them and handing out sweets. It was life-changing and I would love to come back."





IMMANUEL COLLEGE

STUDENTS VISIT TIKVA IN BUCHAREST

Annabel F, a Year 10 student, said:

"It was such an amazing experience to have at such a young age and it opens your eyes up to the wider world."

Bailee L, also in Year 10, added:

"It was inspiring to see how the kids live and how much they are learning every day in school. It was really fun to get to know the children at Tikva."

We are incredibly grateful to Immanuel College and every student who took part for their enthusiasm, compassion and commitment throughout the visit.

The group also raised a significant amount of funding to support Tikva's work, helping us continue to provide vital care, education and opportunities for the children, families and elderly people we support. We are deeply thankful for their generosity and for helping us make a lasting difference.



Annabel, a student from Immanuel College sitting with a child from Tikva





PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR



How You Can Get Involved

Each year, there are different ways that you can get involved to support us!

There are countless individuals and groups that have committed themselves to raise money for our work and the Tikva team are there to support you along the way.

We have a host of challenges, events and projects that you can take on as an individual or as a group, together with your friends, your office, school, youth movement or synagogue.

Without your support, we wouldn't be able to continue the work that we do.

For more information about how to get involved, please contact the office on **0208 209 9100** or email **info@tikva.org.uk**





TIKVAUK
A HOME FOR HOPE

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