

It would be wrong for Israelis to avoid the UK - opinion

Israeli students, even today, should not skip an opportunity to participate in exchange programs and enroll in British universities, which have influence on academia, business, and culture.

By Inbar Noy- Freifeld, Uri Kidron / July 3, 2024

Currently, few would bet against Britain turning to Labour on the Fourth of July. That would mean that after 27 years, the upcoming elections in the UK have the potential to reenact the Labour win over the Conservative party, leading to a new – yet maybe less exciting – era in the political landscape of the UK.

While perhaps overshadowed by the EU elections, the Emmanuel Macron gamble, and the approaching struggle over the White House in Washington, the elections in the United Kingdom are nonetheless dramatic and important, as they may impact not only Britain's political stance within Europe – possibly serving as a focal point opposing the political trends on the mainland of the continent – but also the UK's foreign policy toward Israel.

However, it seems that Israelis, both in and out of government, have convinced themselves that what happens in London and its surroundings is of no relevance to them. These sentiments can be evident not only in how little attention is given to the approaching change of government and prime minister in Downing Street but also in the surprisingly low name recognition that both Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour Party leader Keir Starmer enjoy in Israel. It's an estrangement that is in complete contrast to the deep involvement of the average Israeli in American politics.

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Inbar Noy-Freifeld is a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies and a Ph.D. candidate in international relations at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Uri Kidron is a Ph.D. candidate in international relations at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a strategic consultant.

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