



new london  
synagogue



## **A Statement of Values**

This continues to be the most challenging of times for the people of Israel. My thoughts are with Noam and all those missing loved ones, now held hostage, those mourning, injured and serving. My thoughts are also with the innocent people of Gaza who face challenges that should disturb each of us, no matter how pained and angry we are at the attacks perpetrated across the border from their home.

I've been honoured to have played a small role in the drafting of a statement of 'Our Jewish Values' with a number of Jewish leaders from across the denominational spectrum. It's a statement that attempts to hold the range of complex emotions that so many of us feel. The statement is at <https://www.ourjewishvalues.org.uk/>

Aside from giving me, and my co-signatories, now in their several hundreds, the opportunity to express our relationship with these awful times in the language of our faith, a statement like this is also intended for our non-Jewish friends and fellow citizens here. I know it's been appreciated by the MPs and other civic leaders who have shared their reflections. I'm grateful to Rabbis Charley Baginsky and Josh Levy for their leadership in bringing this work forward.

In other news, I was so moved to be able to share teaching, back in the Synagogue, on Wednesday night. We looked at the relationship of the Jews to the land of Israel. This Wednesday, at 7:30pm, again only in person, I'll be looking at our tradition's approach to Military Ethics, from the classic Halachic categories, to the pioneering work of Rav Shlomo Goren, first head of the Military Rabbinate of the Israel Defense Forces and pioneer and the IDF's own code of military ethics. Do please join me. I'll be sharing some insights into these approaches also on Shabbat.

Finally, I wanted to pass on my deep appreciation to the members of New London Synagogue who have contributed over £10,000 to Kibbutz Nir Oz, the home of Ada Sagi, mother of our member Noam. I am particularly moved that Sam, who was so magnificent at their B'Mitzvah last week encouraged their friends and family to support the Kibbutz as a Tzedakah project. Thank you all. Any last donations, before the monies are transferred in the coming days, can be made via our secure website. Click '[donations](#)' and select 'Kibbutz Nir Oz' in the box marked 'cause.'

Shabbat Shalom

**Rabbi Jeremy**