

Jerusalem, Abraham Accords and Beyond

On Monday, March 13, 2023, via Zoom, the [Bergen County Section of the National Council of Jewish Women](#) in New Jersey, USA, was honored and delighted to welcome Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, who was the keynote speaker at a special Israel Affairs event. Ms. Hassan-Nahoum is a British born, Israeli politician and policy maker. In her role as Deputy Mayor, her portfolio includes foreign relations, international economic development, education and tourism. She is the co-founder of the UAE-Israel Business Council.

Ms. Hassan's presentation, which featured a lively Q and A, covered a vast range of topics ranging from Jerusalem's economic and social challenges, Israel's current political and security situation and the positive effect of the [Abraham Accords Declaration](#). She emphasized the urgent need to improve the education of two somewhat marginalized elements of the population of the city of Jerusalem – the Palestinians and the ultra-Orthodox Jews. Neither group is currently being educated to hold jobs in an advanced technological society so at the moment Jerusalem lags the rest of the country in employment of tech workers and participation in the “start-up” nation.

She spoke of the tragic fact that currently Palestinian children's schoolbooks teach hate and glorify martyrdom. Instead, these children should learn from the Israeli curriculum for Arabic speakers which, along with Arabic, includes Hebrew, English, math and science. Such a change could end radicalization and conflict and provide these children with a better future. In addition, Ms. Hassan discussed the need for more Israeli women at the seats of power.

Ms. Hassan posited that Israel's successes and advances in so many areas such as medicine and technology and much more, renders Israel's glass half full and not half empty.