

Rabbi Michael Boyden - CV

Rabbi Michael (Micky) Boyden was the founder of *Rabbis For Israel* and jointly involved in the establishment of the advocacy group *We Are For Israel*, which is endorsed by many hundreds of Rabbis and Jewish leaders worldwide.

He was born in London, England and is an honors graduate in Hebrew Literature from London University. He was ordained by the Leo Baeck College in the UK and served as Rabbi of Cheshire Reform Congregation near Manchester. At the time of his making *aliyah* to Israel with his family, he was President-elect of the Assembly of Rabbis of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain.

He is a past President of the Israel Council of Progressive Rabbis and has served as Director of its national Rabbinic Court for Conversion. In these capacities, he represented the Reform Movement on the Ne'eman Commission established by the Israeli government to resolve the conversion crisis and subsequently on the Executive set up by the Jewish Agency to establish a Joint Institute to prepare candidates for conversion in co-operation with the Orthodox and Conservative streams.

Rabbi Boyden has pioneered the establishment of two Reform congregations in Israel - in Ra'anana and in Hod Hasharon – and is the spiritual leader of "Kehilat Yonatan", which is currently involved in a capital campaign to establish a further Center for Reform Judaism in Israel.

Rabbi Boyden is a frequent speaker in Europe and in North America and was recently Guest of Honor of the Reform, Liberal and Conservative Movements in the UK for their Israel Independence Day celebrations. He writes regularly for the *Ha'aretz* and *The Times of Israel* newspapers.