

Robert Kraft to Establish a Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism, BDS, Delegitimization of Israel

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, December 18, 2019 / EINPresswire.com/ -- June 20, 2019, Jerusalem. Tonight, the Laureate of the 2019 Genesis Prize Robert Kraft was honored at a gala ceremony in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Genesis Prize Foundation Chairman Stan Polovets bestowed the award on Kraft in front of an audience of 600 Israeli and international dignitaries.

The \$1 million Genesis Prize, dubbed "the Jewish Nobel" by Time Magazine, honors extraordinary individuals for outstanding professional achievement, contribution to humanity, and commitment to Jewish values. Previous honorees include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; philanthropist and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; actor, producer and peace activist Michael Douglas; and "Fiddler to the world" maestro Itzhak Perlman.



Robert Kraft

Prime Minister Netanyahu said: "I am delighted to welcome Robert Kraft to the august family of Genesis Prize Laureates. This prestigious award honors Robert's generous life-long philanthropy, his commitment to the Jewish people, and his love for Israel. It also recognizes his principled stand against anti-Semitism and efforts by our enemies to undermine the State of Israel through BDS and other similar campaigns. Israel does not have a more loyal friend than Robert Kraft."

Kraft previously announced he would forgo the \$1 million monetary award so that the funds could be granted to initiatives combating anti-Semitism, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS), and other efforts to delegitimize Israel. This is in line with the tradition established by previous Genesis Prize Laureates, who have "re-gifted" their awards to philanthropic causes they support.

"Having someone with the prestige and wealth of Robert Kraft use his financial means to combat a serious issue is great to see", states acclaimed author, [Marty Brounstein](#). The BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanction) movement that plagues some college campuses in the U.S. is quite disturbing. BDS is for the destruction of Israel and has a strong anti-Semitic tone to its publications and actions and has had an intimidating effect on some Jewish students, especially those that support the Jewish state of Israel."

Kraft used his acceptance speech to announce the establishment of a foundation dedicated to combating anti-Semitism. Kraft has already raised over \$30 million at its launch by seeding the foundation with a \$20 million personal donation and two \$5 million gifts, including one by

Chelsea Football Club owner Roman Abramovich. Kraft invited other philanthropists to join him in making contributions to fund this foundation to fight anti-Semitism.

"The new foundation I am announcing tonight is a platform to galvanize the global fight against anti-Semitism, uniting all people of good conscience around this goal," said Robert Kraft. "My vision is to work to end the violence against Jewish communities. To counter the normalization of anti-Semitic narratives that question Israel's right to exist, disguised as part of legitimate debate on campuses and in the media. To educate, to inform, and to heal inter-communal relations. In combating the scourge of anti-Semitism, my solemn ambition is to counter all forms of intolerance in the spirit of the ancient Jewish value of tikkun olam – to heal and repair the world."

Marty Brounstein is in full support of Kraft and believes that, "Kraft's pledge on a grander scale is aimed at combating the rising tide of anti-Semitism, which ties into the rising tide of acts of hate and intolerance in the U.S. about which people express concerns. I hear it from my audiences quite often." Brounstein continues, "In my presentations on my inspirational story of courage, compassion, and rescue related to my book *Two Among the Righteous Few*, audience members thank me strongly for this true story from the Holocaust that demonstrates the positive values we need today — neat to see people grasp the relevance of this story. They express concern how these values have eroded with due to words and acts of anti-immigration, racism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism that look to be on the rise today. The cultural divisiveness and polarization that comes from political leaders in Washington is part of these concerns expressed by audience members. Time to strengthen the behaviors and values that reinforce respect and unity. Fortunately, my special story has helped do that with people."

"From Pittsburgh to Paris, from San Diego to Berlin, Jewish communities have been under attack," said Stan Polovets. "We can no longer be complacent or pretend these are isolated incidents. Make no mistake; the wave of anti-Semitism is rising once again. Tonight, we stand together with Robert Kraft in our determination to turn back this tide of darkness and to channel significant human and financial resources toward this goal."

Marty Brounstein

With the high amount of political discord and the growing acts of hate and violence in our country today, messages that reinforce such positive values as care, respect, and unity resonate strongly with people. These are messages that provide hope rather than despair, so relevant for today. They are what storyteller Marty Brounstein has been delivering with his book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, and his speaking tour with it now into its 9th year with over 720 events so far.

Marty is the humble messenger for a Righteous Christian couple from the Netherlands named Frans and Mien Wijnakker, whose heroic rescue efforts saved the lives of over two dozen Jews. Their courage and compassion provide a positive and moving story amidst the horrific tragedy known as the Holocaust, with lessons for our lives today. Marty also has a meaningful personal connection to this story, which he reveals in his engaging storytelling presentation.

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