



Council for British Research in the Levant

November 2022

**Notice of Annual General Meeting – December 2022**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Council for British Research in the Levant will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 3.00 pm UK time for the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. To receive the annual report of the Chairman and financial statement, the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and the reports of the Board of Directors and auditors thereon.
2. To reappoint WMT LLP as auditors of the Council for British Research in the Levant, and to authorise the Board of Directors to set their remuneration.
3. To elect the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Research Chair and Honorary Publications Chair for a period of one year from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
4. To elect four members of the Committee of Management to serve for four years from the end of this Annual General Meeting.
5. For any other purpose of which due notice shall be given by 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Dated: 15 November 2022

**By order of the Board of Directors/Committee of Management**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elia Weizman', written in a cursive style.

Dr Elia Weizman, Honorary Secretary

*Registered Office: The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH*



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### Nomination for President

The President is an honorary role and the incumbent is not a Trustee or Director but is welcome to attend Committee of Management meetings in an ex-officio capacity. The role of President has been since Professor Clive Holes stepped down in December 2021. Professor Dawn Chatty has been nominated to serve as President and has expressed her willingness to serve in that role.

#### **Professor Dawn Chatty**

Dawn Chatty is Emeritus Professor in Anthropology and Forced Migration and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. She is also Fellow of the British Academy. Her research interests include coping strategies and resilience of refugee youth; tribes and tribalism; nomadic pastoralism and conservation; gender and development; health, illness, and culture. She has worked with nomadic pastoral groups in Lebanon and Syria since the mid-1970s and extended her research to Oman in 1979. She has continued to work with these communities and has engaged in advocacy for the rights of these people to remain mobile and to resist forced settlement. In 1995, when she joined the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, she began an additional line of scholarly inquiry, the coping strategies and agency of refugee youth in prolonged conflict. She has worked with Palestinian youth in the five UNRWA field sites: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza. She has also worked with Sahrawi refugee youth in Algeria and Spain and Afghan refugee youth in Tehran and Mashad, Iran. She is currently working with displaced Syrians in the neighbouring countries of Syria, Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon.

She has edited numerous books including: *Deterritorialized Youth: Sahrawi and Afghan Refugees at the Margins of the Middle East*, Berghahn Books, 2010; *Nomadic Societies in the Middle East and North Africa: Facing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Leiden, Brill, 2006; *Children of Palestine: Experiencing Forced Migration in the Middle East*, Berghahn Books, 2005; and *Conservation and Mobile Peoples: Displacement, Forced Settlement and Sustainable Development* Berghahn Press, 2002. She is the author of *Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East* Cambridge University Press, 2010, *From Camel to Truck*, White Horse Press, 2013, and *Syria: The Making and Unmaking of a Refugee State*, Hurst Publishers, 2018.

### Nominations for Honorary Officers

Honorary Officers are members of the Committee of Management and therefore serve as charity Trustees and Directors under Company Law. Under the provisions of Article 17 of our Articles of Association, the Honorary Offices are normally held for four consecutive one-year terms, but this may be extended for a further period under Article 18.

The Committee of Management has nominated the following for election to the Honorary Offices:

**Honorary Chair**

**Honorary Treasurer**

**Honorary Research Chair and**

**Honorary Publications Chair**

**Dr Robert Bewley**, standing for re-election

**John Shakeshaft**, standing for re-election

**Professor Graeme Barker**, standing for re-election



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The Committee of Management proposes the following is elected:

**Honorary Secretary, Tom Thomson**, standing for election.

Tom Thomson had a long career as a foreign correspondent and senior executive with Reuters, the global media company. He was based in the Middle East, US, Asia and Africa and was latterly global managing editor of the 2,500-strong news division. Media roles since leaving Reuters include managing editor of Scotland's main newspaper group.

Thomson served on the board of the British Council, the UK's £1.2 billion international cultural relations organisation, chaired the risk committee and was on the audit and finance committee. He had a particular focus on the Middle East and is a global fellow of SOAS University of London.

He chairs a company making innovative construction and defence solutions and was founding chair of a biotech firm. He has been involved in various charities and is trustee of a pension fund.

He chaired the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scotland's main professional orchestra, and was appointed OBE for services to classical music.

He was elected as a CBRL ordinary trustee in December 2019 and is currently the trustee with responsibility for risk governance. He is a member of the finance and governance and human resources sub-committees.

### **Committee of Management**

Members of the Committee of Management serve as charity Trustees and Directors under Company Law. Under the provisions of Articles, 40 and 42 of the CBRL's Articles of Association, elected members of the Committee must retire after serving for four consecutive years and are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed. Two trustees will retire at this Annual General Meeting.

The Committee of Management is recommending the appointment of four new trustees in order to broaden trustee representation. The nominations bring several specific skills and knowledge of the Levant to the Committee of Management.

If CBRL Members wish to propose alternative candidates for the committee or Honorary Officers, then they are invited to do so on the [nomination form](#) by the date indicated.

The nominee must be a member of CBRL, resident in the UK, and be available for the meetings of the Board, which are normally four times a year (usually Wednesdays in the middle of March, June, September and December). The nominee would be expected to participate fully in the various activities and initiatives of the CBRL. Please note that the nominee's Proposer and Secunder must also be members of the CBRL but are not usually serving on the Board of Trustees. The Nominee is expected to be present at the AGM, but attendance by Proposers and Seconders, while preferable, is not a requirement. Please contact [info@cbri.ac.uk](mailto:info@cbri.ac.uk) for a nomination form.



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*The four candidates nominated by the Committee of Management are as follows:*

### **Sarah Ewans**

Sarah Ewans is nominated to be trustee with responsibility for safeguarding (CBRL safeguarding lead). She had a 25-year career in international cultural relations with the British Council. Starting out as a manager of UK technical assistance scholarships and projects in Bangladesh and Jordan, she subsequently led British Council country programs in education, society and the arts in Nepal and the Palestinian Territories, and its regional programme across the Near East and North Africa.

She also held global roles as secretary to the board of trustees and as head of strategy. On leaving the British Council, Sarah moved to Christian Aid where she co-ordinated strategy implementation and performance.

Deciding to remain in UK, in 2013 Sarah joined an award-winning arts charity for learning disabled and autistic people, Heart n Soul, as their general manager and lead on safeguarding. Since 2017 she has been their strategic associate, advising on and facilitating strategy development.

More recently, this has led to co-directing and leading on safeguarding for Heart n Soul's 3-year residency at Wellcome Collection, developing new ways to do inclusive research, and now advising on a project funded by the Health Foundation, developing a radical new approach to designing health and social care services for learning disabled and autistic people.

### **Dr Sean Hird**

Dr Sean Hird is nominated for the legal expertise he would bring to CBRL. Sean is a qualified solicitor with an international career that spans both the not-for-profit, government and private sectors. Currently he works in the London office of a major US law firm, focussing primarily on compliance matters.

Following a PhD in molecular biology, Sean went on to qualify as a solicitor specialising in intellectual property law. He then left private practice and moved in-house to set-up the commercial legal function of a major cancer charity, working with academic institutions to commercialise charity funded research. Sean subsequently held executive leadership roles in life science companies in the UK and Australia gaining considerable experience in start-up origination and fundraising including as the founding CEO of an agricultural biotechnology company. For 3 years, Sean was a Director of the United Arab Emirate's international Courts in Dubai and led initiatives to set-up and manage new digital services. He returned to the UK in 2020.

Currently Sean is a trustee of The Brain Tumour Charity where he sits on their Governance and Ethics Committee and also a Scientific Fellow of The London Zoological Society (which operates London and Whipsnade Zoos).



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### **Reverend Canon David Longe**

The Reverend David Longe is nominated for his knowledge of East Jerusalem and recent working experience there. David was a lawyer specialising in representing asylum applicants, before being ordained as an Anglican deacon in 2009, and priest in 2010. He served for 6 years in an inner-city parish, before spending 3 years in Jerusalem as Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop. He is currently the parish priest of the Matlaske Benefice, serving seven rural parishes in North Norfolk.

Since 2015, David has developed a deep passion for the people and the land in the Middle East and endeavoured, wherever possible, to provide a clearer understanding of the complexities over land and between cultures in this region. He is familiar (not expert) with the legal nuances of the two jurisdictions in Israel and Palestine, including their historic context (Ottoman and post 1947). Since being called to the bar in 2002, he has continually applied his legal training to his work and on at least three times found himself assisting lawyers in preparing for trial. His current legal engagement revolves around restructuring the governance in the seven parishes he serves and advising two charities on compliance required following the UK's proscription of Hamas (not leading). He continues to liaise with former colleagues and until 2009 his area of expertise was Asylum and Human Rights Law.

### **Professor Andrew MacLeod, BA/LLB, LLM, AKC, GAICD**

Professor Andrew MacLeod is nominated to advise on CBRL strategy and development. He has a deep understanding of today's changing geopolitical landscape. His diverse portfolio career covers for profit, not for profit, military, and academia. He currently is CEO and Chair of Griffin Law (UK), is a Non-Executive Director on multiple companies in the UK, Middle East and Australia, is a visiting Professor at Kings College London, a Council Member at Keele University and a Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Fellow at Deakin University and is co-founder of anti-child-abuse charity Hear Their Cries.

His background includes critical roles in start-up to growth in sustainable investing fintech, award-winning professional services practices and critical environment advice. He has built long lasting private sector/not for profit partnerships, built massive humanitarian response operations (United Nations and Red Cross) and is a global leader in innovative safeguarding (Kings College and Hear their Cries).

A leading communicator, MacLeod is effective on major TV networks globally, including BBC World and CNN. He is a master public speaker and Executive Coach.

His previous humanitarian work included deployments to Rwanda and former Yugoslavia for the International Committee of the Red Cross, and multiple deployments for the UN including Chief of Operations of the UN's Emergency Coordination Centre in Pakistan. MacLeod has received the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal twice, amongst others.

With his varied experience, Andrew is an asset who brings the ability to identify, strategize and implement sustainable solutions to many of the global political, economic environment and social issues today.