



New Zealand Jewish Council

Rūnanga Hūrai o Aotearoa | המועצה היהודית בניו זילנד

The representative organisation of New Zealand Jewry



nzjc@newzealandjewishcouncil.nz

www.nzjc.org.nz

Monday 15th April 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am the President of the New Zealand Jewish Council, which is the representative body of New Zealand Jewry. I am delighted to write this reference for Dr Sheree Trotter.

I believe I have known Dr Trotter and her husband Perry for over 10 years. I first became aware of them in their role as founders and creators of Shadows of Shoah, as it was then known, a multimedia educational project and exhibition about the Holocaust, which collated testimony of survivors and presented them in a unique, artistic and very moving way, and featured prominently in annual UN Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations in New Zealand. Shadows of Shoah is now known as the Holocaust and Antisemitism Foundation.

Since then, Sheree and Perry have shown extraordinary knowledge, commitment and vision in supporting, advocating for, and educating about Jewish people and Israel. While not Jewish themselves, they are an integral and much loved and valued part of our community. They truly live and embody the ideals of allyship.

As a Māori (indigenous) woman, Sheree has a unique perspective on the connections and similarities between Māori and Jewish people and has worked tirelessly to build an alliance between Māori and Jewish people and to counter the narrative that Jews are white colonisers in Israel. As an example, after she attended her first bar mitzvah (my son's) she wrote a beautiful article for New Zealand's largest newspaper comparing the service to a hui (a meeting held in accordance with Māori protocol). As a part of this focus, she co-founded The Indigenous Coalition for Israel, which has culminated in the establishment of an embassy in Jerusalem, a magnificent achievement.

Sheree is also a trustee of and historian for Jewish Lives, an online museum that collects and tells the stories of the Jewish community in New Zealand (and also holds substantial physical archives and artefacts).

Somehow, while doing all this, Sheree completed her PhD in History at the University of Auckland (her thesis was on Zionism in New Zealand) and raised her family.

Sheree is a woman of intelligence, integrity, passion and dignity. She is that unusual combination of a person who sees the bigger picture and has great ideas, but is details-focused and methodical in their execution. She is always reliable, professional, sensitive and respectful.

I cannot recommend her highly enough for any endeavour for which she may be considered.

Yours faithfully,



Juliet Moses

President, New Zealand Jewish Council

IINZ ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF NEW ZEALAND

14 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

I write to offer my heartiest endorsement of Dr Sheree Trotter for all she has done for Israel and the Jewish people.

Dr Trotter has done so much over an extended period of time. All her public statements or articles, research efforts, community presentations, and private engagements have been produced or conducted with professionalism and probity.

She has been a driving force for the Israel Institute of New Zealand (IINZ), despite not being a director. Dr Trotter has been with IINZ since we established in 2017. During her tenure, she has demonstrated unwavering professionalism, integrity, and dedication.

She has authored at least 33 articles for us, delivered speeches and created digital content, showcasing her expertise and commitment to advancing the organization's mission. Her meticulous proofreading and editing have also ensured the accuracy and eloquence of numerous other articles, content, and reports we have produced.

I have had the privilege of witnessing Dr Trotter's exemplary advocacy work first-hand, and I can attest to her impeccable integrity and dedication to the cause. Her contributions have been invaluable to the success of IINZ, and I have no doubt that she would make a significant impact in any project or program she is involved with.

Beyond her practical skills, Dr Trotter has adeptly navigated interpersonal and ideological challenges, consistently finding constructive resolutions.

Dr Trotter's leadership has been instrumental in mobilizing volunteers and leading small teams to produce high-quality content for the organization. Her ability to organize and administer speaking engagements has further enhanced IINZ's outreach efforts.

I am confident that Dr Trotter will continue to excel in her endeavours, and I wholeheartedly recommend her to any organization or individual that is considering support for a passionate and capable advocate for Israel and the Jewish people.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any more information.

Sincerely,



Dr David Cumin
Co-Director
Israel Institute of New Zealand
david@israelinstitute.nz

21 April, 2024

To Whom it May Concern

Testimonial – Dr Sheree Trotter

It is my pleasure to testify to the character and capabilities of Dr Sheree Trotter.

I have known her for more than a decade, having first become aware of her through her work, together with her husband, Perry Trotter, in creating *Shadows of Shoah*, a haunting, affecting, respectful compendium of video and text testimonies of elderly Holocaust survivors.

Subsequently I have been grateful for the clarity of focus which underlies Sheree Trotter's co-creation of the Holocaust and Antisemitism Foundation.

I became aware of her power as a public speaker at a rally some years ago at the time of the outburst of one of the earlier Israel/Hamas conflicts, perhaps 2014. Her speech was outstanding, as was her courage. She has continued to speak out, always movingly, effectively and bravely, at public occasions and on-line. As to the last, her mastery of contemporary modes of communication is impressive.

Her PhD thesis on Zionism in New Zealand, from earliest days until the re-birth of Israel has contributed massively to understanding of the political, historical and human considerations that determined attitudes of both politicians and citizens of New Zealand.

For the last three years I have worked closely with Sheree Trotter on the project *Jewish Lives*, which concerns 'the unfolding Jewish story, past, present and future', of Jewish life in New Zealand. Sheree was invited to become a trustee of the trust that operates *Jewish Lives*. My fellow trustees, David Shieff and David Robinson (a retired judge), and I hold Sheree in the highest regard. This is because of her research and writing skills, her high level of productivity, her excellent judgment, her interpersonal skills and her absolute integrity.

She is a rare person also in her ability to transcend differences of ethnicity and religion, to work respectfully and productively cross-culturally. This has been demonstrated to great effect in her work in connection with the Indigenous Coalition for Israel and the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem.

Any organisation that has Dr Sheree Trotter in a leading role is indeed fortunate.

I am available for discussion of the above, if required.

Yours faithfully,

Dame Lesley Max, DNZM, MBE, MA (Hons) Auckland

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07 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

DR SHEREE TROTTER

I have known Dr Sheree Trotter for about a decade. I have worked with her in my capacity as a board member of Holocaust and Antisemitism Foundation, Aotearoa New Zealand, which Sheree co-founded, and has played a central role in since.

She has long been active as an advocate for Israel, and is a skilled writer, researcher, and speaker.

Sheree has had numerous articles published in the media demonstrating her deep understanding of Zionism, Israel, and Jewish-related topics. Her work on indigeneity is particularly important as we see the libel of Jews as “white European colonisers and occupiers” increasingly become a central tenet in antisemitic discourse.

Sheree has always demonstrated an ability to work well with others and has earned enormous respect within the Jewish community for her Holocaust work, her activism against antisemitism, and in her advocacy for Israel.

I fully support Sheree’s plans for further involvement with the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem, and would be happy to provide any more details if required.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Paul Moon

ONZM, DLitt, PhD, MPhil (Dstnct), MA (Hons), FLS, FRAI, FRGS, FRHistS
Professor of History

13 April 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am proud to confirm that I have known **Sheree Trotter** since 2017 and am delighted to have been asked to write a character reference on her behalf.

I first met Sheree due to our shared interest in supporting Israel – a work in which she was already heavily involved, and since that time I have come to know and respect her as a person of impeccable character, a tireless and collaborative work ethic and razor-sharp intellect. Indeed, in respect of the last of these qualities, Sheree has researched and written a number of articles and papers which set the standard by which to measure understanding of the unique challenges facing the Jewish people in the 21st century.

Sheree's work as a co-founder of the Holocaust and Antisemitism Foundation of Aotearoa, Founder of the Indigenous Coalition for Israel, and as a Trustee of the Jewish Museum NZ Charitable Trust (Jewish Lives NZ) marks her out as one of New Zealand's preeminent advocates for Israel – a distinction which is all the more impressive given that she is not Jewish.

Sheree will particularly shine in any project which requires leadership, vision, cross cultural connectivity, and the ability to communicate in a way that will engage the majority.

I thoroughly, and unequivocally, commend her to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Church'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ashley Church