



On June 2024

**Reichman University resolved to honor**

# **SIR DAVID GARRARD**

Sir David Garrard, a prominent figure in the business and philanthropic world, has consistently demonstrated his unwavering commitment to fostering strong ties between the United Kingdom and the State of Israel. For decades, he has played a vital role in promoting close bilateral relations between the two nations, assisting in establishing close parliamentary and institutional connections. His efforts have paved the way for strengthening the bond between the UK and Israel across various spheres, laying the foundation for fruitful cooperation and mutual understanding. In addition to his diplomatic endeavors, Sir David has made significant contributions to the realms of education and philanthropy. During the “Swords of Iron” military operation in Gaza, he has played a pivotal role in generously assisting Reichman University, ensuring that the institution could continue its operations and support its students during these challenging times.

A self-made businessman in the real estate industry, Sir David has exemplified generosity by supporting charitable causes within the UK, demonstrating his dedication to making a positive impact on society. His philanthropic efforts have touched many lives and have been instrumental in driving positive change.

Born in 1939, Sir David was one of the “evacuee children” sent to live in the countryside during the Second World War. At 21 years of age, he started a property consultancy practice which, over the ensuing 25 years, grew to become one of the largest individually owned real estate consultancies of its kind in the UK, advising international and national banks, governments and real estate development groups. In 1986, he personally acquired ownership of Land Investors plc (LI), becoming the first private individual to take a major London Stock Exchange quoted real estate group private.

After undertaking a program of property improvements and extensive developments, he sold his interest in LI in 1988 and established Minerva plc. Serving as executive chairman, Minerva plc became one of the UK’s most valuable privately held real estate companies. By 1996, it floated on the London Stock Exchange and in due course, became a FTSE250 company. Minerva plc developed several of the iconic office buildings in central London, including the Walbrook, St Botolph, and Aurora House - High Holborn.

Sir David was the developer, sponsor, and chair of governors (in a direct partnership with the UK government), of the first-ever all-through “Academy” in the UK. This innovative concept, accommodating approximately 1600 pupils, merged primary and secondary schooling under one state-funded institution. Sir David’s proposal required specific legislation, ultimately reshaping the landscape of education in the UK.

Since learning that he was a Jew at the age of 11, Sir David sought to learn about Judaism and the history of the Jewish people. He developed a passion for the State of Israel, which he visited for the first time at 17 and of which he is now a citizen. He served as the executive director of the Development Corporation of Israel (DCI) for five years. Additionally, he undertook an independent examination (and the subsequent formation) of the “Israeli Housing Commission” concerning both the funding for and provision of housing to accommodate the influx of Russian refugees to Israel.

Knighted for his outstanding services to philanthropy, Sir David has held numerous esteemed roles over the years. Inter alia, he has served (and remains) a trustee of the British Police Foundation, joint executive chairman of the International Centre for Child Studies, honorary Commandant of the City of London Police, Special Reserve, patron of Beit Halochem in the UK, Camp Simcha, and Volunteering Matters — the largest volunteering charity organization in the UK — and of Lifeline4Kids, and executive director of Labour Friends of Israel.

**In appreciation of his exceptional philanthropic endeavours, unwavering commitment to education, and remarkable contribution to the strong ties between the United Kingdom and the State of Israel; in recognition of his dedication to the Jewish people and the Jewish state; and with heartfelt gratitude for his friendship and support for Reichman University,**

**Sir David Garrard is hereby conferred the degree of**

# **DOCTOR PHILOSOPHIAE HONORIS CAUSA**

**of Reichman University**

**Mr. Oudi Recanati**  
Chancellor

**Prof. Varda Liberman**  
Provost

**Prof. Boaz Ganor**  
President

**Prof. Uriel Reichman**  
Founding President and  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors