FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nefesh B’Nefesh Brings Home 60 New Olim, 25 of Them Lone Bnot Sherut

Special group flight from North America lands May 20, and the Minister of Aliyah and Integration will greet the olim on arrival

JERUSALEM, May 6, 2025 – Sixty new olim from across the USA and Canada will land in Israel on Tuesday, May 20, on a special group flight, one of 14 that Nefesh B’Nefesh is coordinating over the summer on regular El Al commercial flights.

Among the new arrivals are 25 young women who plan to begin a year of national service in Israel as lone Bnot Sherut (national service volunteers), most of them recent high school graduates. They will serve in positions across the country, including hospitals, organizations and government offices. They are making Aliyah through Nefesh B’Nefesh’s “Ori” program, which provides a community and support system for young women committing to a year of national service.

Leah Goldberg, 19, of Toronto, one of the new Bnot Sherut, said: “Since October 7th, I have felt a deep calling to be in Israel and give whatever I can. In a few weeks I’ll start my service in a hospital, and I can’t wait. Knowing I’ll have a community around me through Ori makes it much easier to leave my family behind.”

Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B’Nefesh, will accompany the olim on their flight from New York to Ben Gurion Airport.

“These 25 young women are leaving their families straight out of high school to give a year to Israel, at a time when the country needs them most,” said Rabbi Fass. “Through Ori, none of them will face that year alone. They arrive to a community and a support system built for them, and we are honored to bring them home.”

Minister of Aliyah and Integration Ofir Sofer will greet the flight upon its arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.

After landing, Nefesh B’Nefesh’s Post-Aliyah team will keep supporting the olim as they settle into life in Israel.

Looking ahead, up to 13 additional group flights will continue through the summer to bring home as many new olim as possible.

For the media: Journalists, photographers and film crews are invited to cover the olim’s arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Terminal 3, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at about 7:30 a.m. Please RSVP to the media contact by Thursday, May 15 to receive access details. Interviews with the olim and with Rabbi Fass are available, as are photos and video on request.

Media Contact: Yaaqov Lamb | yaaqovlamb@gmail.com | 054-627-1209

About Nefesh B’Nefesh

Founded in 2002, Nefesh B’Nefesh works to meet the evolving national needs of the State of Israel through four areas of focus: Aliyah, National Service, National Development and Zionist Education. It has helped more than 75,000 olim settle in Israel, with a retention rate of about 90%, in partnership with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA. Learn more at www.nbn.org.il.

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Written as an exercise for Nefesh B’Nefesh by Yaaqov Lamb. Not an official release; quotes are illustrative.