

# NEWSBYTES

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

*As humanitarian as this sounds, it's not going to be limited to helping overcome disabilities. In addition, he's talking telepathic communication, capitalism (the buying and selling part) -- and who knows what hacking into our neurons will do to a person. Thanks but no thanks. -- MD*

## Elon Musk's brain chip firm Neuralink lines up clinical trials in humans

**Implants that Musk says could allow paralysed people to walk already tested on a macaque and a pig**



Elon Musk: 'I think we have a chance with Neuralink to restore full-body functionality to someone who has a spinal cord injury.' Photograph: Hannibal Hanschke/AP

### Rupert Neate

The billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's brain chip startup is preparing to launch clinical trials in humans.

Musk, who co-founded Neuralink in 2016, has promised that the technology "will enable someone with paralysis to use a smartphone with their mind faster than someone using thumbs".

The Silicon Valley company, which has already successfully implanted artificial intelligence microchips in the brains of a macaque monkey named Pager and a pig named Gertrude, is now recruiting for a "clinical trial director" to run tests of the technology in humans.

"As the clinical trial director, you'll work closely with some of the most innovative doctors and top engineers, as well as working with Neuralink's first clinical trial participants," the advert for the role in

Fremont, California, says. “You will lead and help build the team responsible for enabling Neuralink’s clinical research activities and developing the regulatory interactions that come with a fast-paced and ever-evolving environment.”

Musk, the world’s richest person with an estimated \$256bn fortune, said last month he was cautiously optimistic that the implants could allow tetraplegic people to walk.

“We hope to have this in our first humans, which will be people that have severe spinal cord injuries like tetraplegics, quadriplegics, next year, pending FDA [Food and Drug Administration] approval,” he told the Wall Street Journal’s CEO Council summit.

“I think we have a chance with Neuralink to restore full-body functionality to someone who has a spinal cord injury. Neuralink’s working well in monkeys, and we’re actually doing just a lot of testing and just confirming that it’s very safe and reliable and the Neuralink device can be removed safely.”

However, Musk has a history of overpromising about the speed of the company’s development. In 2019 he predicted that the device would be implanted into a human skull by 2020.

Musk said the device would be “implanted flush with skull & charges wirelessly, so you look and feel totally normal”.

He said people should think of the technology as similar to “replacing faulty/missing neurons with circuits”. “Progress will accelerate when we have devices in humans (hard to have nuanced conversations with monkeys) next year,” he said.

Neuralink has previously released a video of a monkey that had been implanted with the chip playing the video game Pong using only its mind.

The company, which counts Google’s parent company Alphabet among a series of well-known Silicon Valley backers, is also recruiting for a “clinical trial coordinator” to help build a team of people to run the trial and liaise with regulators. Applicants are told they have the “opportunity to change the world and work with some of the smartest and the most talented experts from different fields”.

## **Secretive Soros-funded group works behind the scenes with Biden admin on policy, documents show**

*Governing for Impact’s internal memo says they have implemented more than 20 of their federal agenda items*

A secretive group backed by millions of dollars from liberal billionaire George Soros is working behind the scenes with President Biden’s administration to shape policy, documents reviewed by Fox News show.

Governing for Impact (GFI), the veiled group, boasts in internal memos of implementing more than 20 of its regulatory agenda items as it works to reverse Trump-era deregulations by zeroing in on education, environmental, health care, housing and labor issues.

"Open Society is proud to support Governing for Impact's efforts to protect American workers, consumers, patients, students and the environment through policy reform," Tom Perriello, executive director of Soros' Open Society Foundations, told Fox News Digital.



**Hungarian-born U.S. investor and philanthropist George Soros has been bankrolling liberal causes across the globe for years. (Fabrice Coffrini/AFP)**

"Their work gives voice to people often overlooked in a regulatory environment too often dominated by corporate interests," he continued. "Our support for Governing for Impact's work is publicly available on our website and we are transparent about our enthusiasm for their victories for

American workers and families."

GFI, however, works to remain secretive. It is invisible to internet search engines like Google (an unrelated "Govern for Impact" is the only group that appears in a search). No news reports or press releases appear on its existence outside of a mention of its related action fund in a previous Fox News article on the \$1.6 billion Arabella Advisors-managed dark money network, to which it is attached.

But as the group attempted to conceal its operations, it sought talent on Harvard Law School's website, which was discoverable. The posting, which no longer appears on the site, was for legal policy internships.

**The Harvard advert said the group was established to prepare the Biden administration for a "transformative governance" and that it had produced "more than 60 in-depth, shovel-ready regulatory recommendations" for dozens of federal agencies.**

The listing also contained an email address ending in "@governingforimpact.org," which is the group's website that can only be accessed by those who know the URL.

According to its website, Rachael Klarman, a Harvard Law School grad, steers the group. Her father, Michael Klarman, is a professor at Harvard Law and also has ties to progressive advocacy groups. He is an advisory board member of the left-wing dark money judicial group Take Back the Court. Last year, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI, invited him to testify before Congress on dark money's "assault" on the judiciary system.

"Governing for Impact is the perfect example of the Left's fake outrage over 'dark money' in politics," said the Capital Research Center's Parker Thayer, who discovered the group and alerted Fox News.

"As a 'fiscally sponsored' dark money project that writes and pushes regulations from the shadows, hidden from the public and funded by one billionaire foundation, GFI embodies everything the Left pretends to abhor."

"Governing for Impact conducts and shares research designed to help ensure that the federal government works more effectively for everyday working Americans, not just for members of industry groups that have long devoted vast resources to pursuing their own policy agendas," Rachael Klarman told Fox News.

"We were founded in 2019 and have developed detailed regulatory recommendations for multiple federal agencies, which are published on our website," she said.

GFI's site contains dozens of legal strategy memos for shaping executive orders and regulations in the educational, environmental, health care, housing and labor realms.

The memos generally do not identify their authors. Some show partnerships with outside groups such as The National Student League Defense Network, the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at Berkeley Law School and the Economic Policy Institute.

"Many of the proposals on this site focus on how the new administration could unwind the previous administration's harmful regulatory legacy, but GFI continues to take on new policy projects at all levels of government," the site states.

The Education Department is set to announce a new regulation that will change Title IX rules on anti-transgender bias in schools, reversing Trump-era guidance. GFI appears to have worked on the issue, as its site contains a November 2020 legal memo on the matter.

GFI also created an internal slide deck and uploaded it to Prezi's presentation site. The slide, which is now inaccessible, says GFI has implemented more than 20 of its federal proposals as of 2021.

Multiple federal officials appear in the internal slide as a part of its "listening tour," including Sharon Block, Biden's former top regulation review chief. Block served as administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), from the start of Biden's presidency until February of this year.

"Under Sharon's leadership, OIRA has played a crucial role in advancing the president's agenda — from powering our historic economic recovery and combating the pandemic, to tackling the climate crisis and advancing equity," Shalanda Young, director of the OMB, said before her departure. GFI showcases Block's exhilaration over a GFI proposal in the slide. "I'm jumping out of my seat with excitement about this idea," Block says in its "feedback" section.

Block, now a professor of practice at Harvard Law School, did not respond to a Fox News Digital inquiry into what proposals she had worked on with the group while acting as the top regulator in the Biden administration.

In addition to Block, GFI highlights other top federal officials as part of its "listening tour." Senior DOJ official Joel McElvain, who in 2018 left his post in protest of the Trump administration's stance on the Affordable Care Act, but returned in 2021, appears in the slide.

It also shows Raj Nayak, assistant secretary at the Labor Department, Sabeel Rahman, senior counselor of OIRA, Narayan Subramanian, an Energy Department legal advisor, and Maggie Thomas, who Biden picked as chief of staff in the Office of Domestic Climate Policy.

GFI has prepared legal policy memos for at least ten federal departments and agencies, the slide shows. They also produced ten administrative law primers as of 2021.

GFI, meanwhile, is not a stand-alone nonprofit. Instead, the New Venture Fund, a nonprofit incubator managed by the D.C.-based consulting firm Arabella Advisors, fiscally sponsors it. This setup allows GFI to avoid filing tax forms with the IRS.

The group's attachment to the Arabella-Advisors dark money network, which raised \$1.6 billion in anonymous donations in 2020, is not discoverable from public records. The New Venture Fund does not report GFI as a trade name in its D.C. business filings.

However, GFI's links to the New Venture Fund are discoverable in George Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF) grant database. A search of the database shows that Soros nonprofits sent \$12.98 million to GFI and its related action fund in 2019 and 2020.

The Foundation to Promote Open Society awarded \$5.53 million to GFI. Meanwhile, the Open Society Policy Center sent \$7.45 million to GFI's action fund. The Sixteen Thirty Fund, also managed by Arabella Advisors, fiscally sponsors the action fund.

## **SOROS BANKROLLS DARK MONEY HUB FOR ACTIVISTS PUSHING TO DISMANTLE POLICE, GRANTS SHOW**

"As a fiscal sponsor, New Venture Fund provides operational and administrative support to help advocates and philanthropists quickly and efficiently launch new solutions to today's toughest challenges," the group told Fox News. "New Venture Fund explicitly does not engage in partisan activities or support any electoral campaigns, and we comply with all relevant disclosure laws and requirements."

Like the New Venture Fund, the Sixteen Thirty Fund has not reported it as a trade name in D.C. business records. "Sixteen Thirty Fund supports progressive causes and campaigns fighting for economic equity, affordable health care, climate solutions, racial justice, voter access, and other essential social-change goals," the group told Fox News. "We follow all local, state, and federal law with respect to the disclosure of individual donors and grantees."

GFI sports additional links to Soros' network. Perriello, OSF's executive director, sits on GFI's four-person board. MB Maxwell, a special advisor at OSF, appeared in GFI's slide deck as part of its "listening tour."

## **Buoyed by aliya, Israeli population up to 9.5 million ahead of 74th Independence Day**



Country sees biggest immigration wave in 20 years, with 38,000 arrivals; latest stats find 73.9% of Israelis are Jews, 21.1% are Arabs and 5% members of other religious groups

Just ahead of the celebration of Israel's 74th anniversary, the population of the Jewish state stands at 9,506,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Sunday.

That includes nearly 7.02 million Jews, accounting for 73.9 percent of the population; 2 million Arabs, just over one-fifth of the population; and 478,000 members of other groups, amounting to 5% of the population.

About 79% of Israel's Jews are native-born.

Since last year's Independence Day, 191,000 babies were born, 55,000 people died, and 38,000 people immigrated to the country, according to CBS. A considerable percentage of the immigrants who have arrived in the past year are from Ukraine, Russia and surrounding areas.

This was the largest number of new immigrants to reach Israel's shores in 20 years, according to the Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental organization tasked with encouraging and facilitating immigration to Israel.

Roughly half of the 38,000 immigrants came from Ukraine and Russia, overwhelmingly in the last two months since Moscow launched its invasion. The remaining 19,000 or so immigrants came from the United States, France, Belarus, Argentina, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Ethiopia and Canada, among other countries, the Jewish Agency said.

"Every Jew and Jewess who immigrates to Israel contributes to the resilience of the state and to the strength of Israeli society," the acting chairman of the Jewish Agency said in a statement.

Overall, the Israeli population increased by some 176,000 people, amounting to a 1.9% rise.

During the same period a year earlier, the population increased by some 137,000 people, including 16,300 new immigrants — about half the figure seen in the last year.

Jewish immigrants fleeing from war zones in the Ukraine arrive at the immigration and absorption office, at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, on March 15, 2022. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)

In 1948, when the Jewish state was established, the population of Israel numbered 806,000 people.

Since then, 3.3 million people have immigrated to Israel, about 44.7% of them arriving since 1990. The population is expected to reach 11.1 million by 2030, and 13.2 million by 2040, CBS predicted.

Israel's population is also young, the CBS said — 28% of the population is aged 0-14, and only 12% is aged 65 and over.

On the eve of 2022, Israel's population stood at 9.449 million people. – *Times of Israel*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ISRAEL!!**

# Bennett: There won't be any foreign interference in decisions regarding Temple Mount

PM's comments come after Ra'am chief Abbas says his party's possible return to coalition will be determined by talks on Jerusalem holy site held by Israeli-Jordanian committee

By **TOI STAFF** and **AARON BOXERMAN** 8 May 2022



Israeli police accompany a group of Jews touring the Temple Mount on May 5, 2022, as the Jerusalem holy site was reopened to non-Muslim visitors. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday that Israel will make its own decisions concerning Jerusalem and the Temple Mount without any foreign interference, in an apparent reference to statements by Ra'am party leader Mansour Abbas.

"All decisions regarding the Temple Mount and Jerusalem will be made by the Israeli government, which holds sovereignty over the city, without any foreign considerations," Bennett said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting.

"We certainly reject any foreign interference in the decisions of the Israeli government," Bennett said.

"Of course, the State of Israel will continue to maintain a respectful attitude toward members of all religions in Jerusalem," Bennett said. "A united Jerusalem is the capital of only one state – the State of Israel."

Abbas, whose party has frozen its participation in the coalition for the past three weeks amid tensions at the holy site, wrote in a Facebook post Saturday that his party's future role in the government will be determined by talks held by [a joint committee](#) of Israeli and Jordanian officials.

"Ra'am's position in the coalition, as regards the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, will be based on the results of the joint Israeli-Jordanian-international meetings," Abbas wrote.

"The coalition's leadership — Prime Minister [Bennett] and Alternate Prime Minister [Yair Lapid] — have been informed of this clear and definitive position," Abbas added.

An Islamic Movement official told The Times of Israel that Ra'am had pushed for the new joint Israel-Jordanian committee to resolve burning issues on the Temple Mount, such as reducing the Israeli police presence and expanding the Waqf's authority.

According to the official, the committee was devised by Ra'am in consultation with the Jordanian monarch during Abbas's visits to Amman in recent weeks.

Bennett's comments Sunday on the Temple Mount were slammed by senior Palestinian Authority official Hussein al-Sheikh as "a violation of international law."

"This does not recognize the historical status quo, and violates the Jordanian Hashemite custodianship of the holy sites in East Jerusalem," said al-Sheikh, one of PA President Mahmoud Abbas's closest advisers.

The Old City compound is the holiest site for Jews, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which sits atop the Temple Mount, is the third-holiest shrine for Muslims.

Jordan oversees the flashpoint site via its control of the Waqf Islamic endowment that administers the compound.