**Rachel Azaria**

**Rachel Azaria** was born in Jerusalem in 1977 to an American mother and Tunisian Father.

After serving in the [IDF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces), Azaria studied at the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem), where she earned a BA in Psychology and a master's degree in conflict resolution.

In 2008 Azaria was elected to the Jerusalem City Council in which she served until 2013. Prior to that, Rachel was engaged in social and environmental activism. Among other things, Azaria was Director of a nonprofit organization which assists Jewish women who have been denied a get, (an accepted divorce by Jewish law), by their husbands.

As a member of the city council, she focused on improving education and cost of living for young families.

In 2013, she was appointed deputy mayor of Jerusalem by the ‘Yerushalmim’ party she founded in 2008. During her tenure, she focused on education for preschool children and women’s rights.

Azaria was elected to the 20th Knesset, running with the ‘Kulanu’ party. As a Member of Knesset, she was active in the Finance, National Defense and Ethics and Reforms committees. Among others, Azaria passed the “Vacation Law”, raising the minimum vacation days from 10 to 12 days, and the ‘Extending the Parental Leave’ Law, raising parental leave it from 14 to 16 weeks.

In December 2015, the Knesset approved a preliminary reading of legislation Azaria sponsored to enable fathers to take more time off from work to care for their infants. The proposed changes to the Women's Labor Law and the National Insurance Law passed with a vote of 49 in favor and none against.

Throughout her term, she worked to prevent anti-democratic legislation. At the end of her term she retired from her party as well as the Knesset and is focused today on Democratic Renewal in Israel.

Rachel Azaria is a married mother of four, living in Jerusalem.