Seek peace and pursue it

بحث شalom ברפיח

لِيُطلب السَّلام وَيَسْعِ
لِلْوُصُولِ إِلَيْهِ
The Abraham Fund Initiatives

Founded in 1989 and named for the common ancestor of Jews and Arabs, The Abraham Fund Initiatives is a non-profit and non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing coexistence, equality and cooperation among Israel’s Jewish and Arab citizens.

The Abraham Fund works exclusively in the field of Jewish-Arab relations inside Israel, enabling them to develop their expertise and focus their efforts toward a prosperous and equal society in Israel. The Abraham Fund’s strictly observed policy of full Jewish-Arab partnership and equality in decision-making practices has established The Abraham Fund as a dedicated advocate of the civic interests of Arab society in Israel, working in close partnership with Arab NGOs and social movements on various projects and initiatives.

The Abraham Fund is able to leverage its resources and impact by combining advocacy activities with actions on the ground, disseminating knowledge gathered through their projects to their partners in local and national government. Through this strategy, The Abraham Fund has successfully harnessed government resources to replicate successful programs and support policies that promote equality and coexistence between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.

From a distance it is easy to feel pessimistic about the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Israelis and Palestinians seem widely separated, with little opportunity to achieve security and a comprehensive peace.

And yet, on the ground, the picture is not so bleak. Israelis and Palestinians work together every day to break down barriers, enhance mutual trust, and foster a climate that is conducive to peace.

In this booklet, Seek Peace and Pursue It, we share information regarding organizations in Israel and in Canada that undertake good and important work to help build conditions for a better future for Israelis and Palestinians. We hope that you will find this booklet a useful resource to consider ways in which you can make a difference and support Israelis and Palestinians who believe that a secure and peaceful future is possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
abrahamfund.org
info@abrahamfund.org.il

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
The Citizens’ Accord Forum (CAF) works to build a shared and sustainable democracy in Israel where all social groups, regardless of their ethnic, religious and political affiliation, are full partners in shaping the future of Israeli society and receive equal opportunities to express their individual and collective identities. The mission of CAF is to improve relations between groups in conflict in Israeli society and build bridges between them with various methods including: community-building & leadership development projects, dialogue & engagement projects, and policy & advocacy programs. CAF’s primary focus is on building a just and equal relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel and ensuring full rights for all minorities.

The Arab-Jewish Community Center (AJCC) fosters intercultural and religious coexistence in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. The AJCC’s mission is twofold: firstly, the AJCC increases cooperation and positive relations between 3,000 Arabs and Jews through diverse tolerance programming. Secondly, the AJCC enriches the Tel Aviv-Jaffa community by organizing religious and cultural events, as well as serving the city’s underprivileged populations by providing extracurricular education and training including arts, sports, technology, professional training and language courses tailored to the needs of the community.

The overarching purpose of the AJCC is to create a cohesive, egalitarian and prosperous Tel Aviv-Jaffa that can serve as a model for the rest of Israel.

For more information:

- caf.org.il
- ajccjaffa.weebly.com

The Arab-Jewish Community Center (Jaffa)
Givat Haviva aims to build an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel by engaging divided communities in collective action toward the advancement of a sustainable, thriving Israeli democracy based on mutual responsibility, civic equality and a shared vision of the future. This is achieved through facilitating cross-community projects; leading training and capacity-building activities; convening seminars, workshops and conferences to cultivate concrete ideas that foster change; and translating these ideas into action.

A leader in its field, Givat Haviva was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 2001 for its longstanding work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation.

Heart to Heart

For the past three summers, Givat Haviva and Hashomer Hatzair have partnered to bring a group of Jewish and Palestinian Israeli youth from Israel to a three-week coexistence program hosted by Camp Shomria in Ontario. Participants spend two and a half weeks taking on the challenge of living together in this close camping environment. While at camp, they tackle issues of politics, culture and identity through dialogue, group-building activities and experiential learning. The program culminates with a public reception held in Toronto, where members of Torontos diverse Jewish and Arab communities come together to hear participants speak about their experiences.
Hand in Hand

Building shared society. One school, one community at a time.

Our mission at Hand in Hand is to create vibrant shared society in Israel through a growing network of Jewish-Arab integrated bilingual schools and organized shared communities.

Hand in Hand brings together thousands of Jews and Arabs in six schools and communities throughout Israel: in Jerusalem, the Galilee, Wadi Ara, Jaffa, Haifa, and Tira-Kfar Saba, our newest community. We translate the ideals of mutual recognition, inclusion and equality into practice every single day.

Over the next ten years, we aim to create a network of 10-15 schools, supported and enhanced by community activities, involving more than 20,000 Arab and Jewish Israeli citizens – learning together, living together. Hand in Hand’s growing network offers a clear alternative to the cycle of fear, hatred and violence and proves the viability of social inclusion and civic equality in Israel.

Mosaica

The Mosaica Center for Religious Conflict Transformation in the Middle East is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 by Rabbi Michael Melchior and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, two leading figures in the field of peace and reconciliation, joined by Jewish leaders in the areas of education, religion, culture and society, who are committed to reconciliation and inter-religious dialogue.

Mosaica’s vision is founded on the premise that effective dialogue between Jews and Muslims is only possible under conditions of mutual trust in the realm of religion. This derives from the understanding that today’s conflict in the Middle East is based not only upon territory but also upon culture, ethnicity and religion, which are at the root of the conflict and the key to its resolution.

The Center is committed to providing an innovative approach to conflict transformation and resolution, based on universal and traditional Jewish values of mutual respect, reconciliation and justice.
Peres Center for Peace

Founded in 1996 by President of Israel and Nobel Laureate Shimon Peres, the Peres Center for Peace develops and implements a wide range of projects designed to promote lasting peace and advancement in the Middle East, by fostering tolerance, economic and technological development, cooperation and wellbeing all in the spirit of President Peres’ vision.

The Peres Center’s innovative programs comprise a diverse and multi-faceted spectrum of participants – Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians; old and young; women, men, children and youth; professionals and agents of change.

By focusing on common interests, the Peres Center continues to successfully forge lasting partnerships based on mutual respect and understanding. Programs in fields such as medicine, sports, agriculture, business, education, technology and the arts are designed to empower the populations of this region to be actively engaged in peace-building in order to advance the creation of a real, effective and durable peace. Barriers are broken down, fears are overcome, dialogues are conducted and friendships are formed, paving the way to a real and lasting peace between peoples.

FOR MORE INFORMATION peres-center.org

Road to Recovery

Road to Recovery is a grassroots organization composed of 500 Israeli volunteers throughout the country. Road to Recovery breaks down barriers on a personal level by providing free, round-trip transportation for Palestinian patients from the West Bank and Gaza to hospitals throughout Israel for treatment, hospitalization, and check-ups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION roadtorecovery.org.il
Save a Child’s Heart

Save a Child’s Heart (SACH) is an Israel-based international humanitarian project, whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries and to create centers of competence in treating pediatric heart disease in these countries. SACH is totally dedicated to the idea that every child deserves the best medical treatment available, regardless of the child’s nationality, religion, colour, gender or financial situation. SACH is motivated by the age-old Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam – repairing the world. By mending the hearts of children, regardless of their origin, SACH is contributing to a better and more peaceful future for all our children. The SACH mission is achieved through: providing cardiac surgery and other life-saving procedures for children from developing countries at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel; providing a full outreach training program in Israel for medical personnel from these countries; leading surgical and teaching missions to partner countries in the developing world; holding pre-operative and follow-up cardiology clinics in Israel and abroad.

Project Rozana

Project Rozana is a Jewish-Christian interfaith partnership that originated in Australia – involving Anglican Overseas Aid and Hadassah Australia – and has since been imported to Canada. Rozana raises funds for treatment at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem for Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza, with a particular focus on pediatric intensive care for patients with special acute medical needs. Through Rozana, Hadassah also provides training programs for Palestinian doctors, nurses, and therapists, enabling Palestinian medical professionals to strengthen their skills and develop relationships with their Israeli counterparts – ultimately serving to bolster the capacity of the Palestinian health care system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
projectrozana.org
TEC Center

The Center of Technology, Education and Cultural Diversity (TEC) was founded in January 2005 by the heads of the IT departments and principals of three teacher education colleges: Kibbutzim College, Talpiot College and Al-Qasami College. TEC develops inter-college and online activities between Jewish and Arab Israelis – both academic staff and students – in the different colleges. These activities include conferences, academic courses and inter-school projects. The Center is partially funded by the Israeli Ministry of Education and philanthropic organizations.

As a result of TEC’s efforts, since 2007, fifth and sixth graders from nine schools throughout Israel have been studying online and learning about technology with children from three sectors in Israel; secular Jewish, religious Jewish and Arab.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
mofet.macam.ac.il/tec

Tsofen

Founded in 2008, Tsofen ("Cipher") High Technology works to promote the integration of Israel's Arab citizens into the hi-tech industry as a means of promoting economic development, reducing poverty, high-value job creation in Arab urban centers and integration of Arab citizens into Israel's civil society. Tsofen's goals are to work with the Arab community and stakeholders from the local, governmental and private sectors to (1) add thousands of Arabs into Israel's high-tech sector and (2) assist in the creation of high-tech centers as anchors in Arab towns.

In its first five years, Tsofen tripled the number of Israel's Arab citizens employed in hi-tech (from 400 to 1,200) and caused a ten-fold jump in the number of engineering jobs in Nazareth (from 30 to 350). Its goal for the coming five years is to create and advocate the structure required to scale this integration, touching tens of thousands of people and all of Israel's regions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
tsoten.org/en
Over the last 50 years, the Jerusalem Foundation, in cooperation with friends around the world, has founded more than 4,000 initiatives, both capital projects and long-running programs, forming the community and cultural infrastructure of Jerusalem. It is the mission of the Jerusalem Foundation to shape a modern, unified and vibrant city by creating opportunities for economic growth, education, vulnerable populations, dialogue and shared living, arts and culture and heritage preservation for all of Jerusalem’s population groups.

The Jerusalem Intercultural Centre (JICC) works to promote and advance city-wide cultural competence, making Jerusalem a city that provides all of its residents with access to relevant services and public spheres and empowers its most vulnerable populations to become stakeholders in impacting the city and its communities.

The Bloomfield Science Museum brings together young people of all backgrounds to interact and learn important coexistence values through the universal language of science. The Jewish-Arab Science Club is one of the many educational initiatives available at the museum that emphasize interaction between people of diverse backgrounds.

The Foundation is committed to creating a flourishing city as a source of inspiration for its people and the world, preserving its past and laying the groundwork for a dynamic future.