

British Shalom-Salaam Trust

Crossing Borders for Peace



Annual Report & Accounts

**Shalom
Salaam** 
THE BRITISH SHALOM-SALAAM TRUST
Charity No. 1103211

March 2020 –
February 2021

From Our Chair

March 2020 to the end of February 2021 was like no other year: it was ushered in with the arrival on our shores of Corona Virus, soon to be named Covid-19, which rapidly became a pandemic.



We already knew that our partners in Israel/Palestine were flexible and innovative, so we weren't surprised when many organisations with which we work stopped their normal activities to respond to the immediate Covid-related needs of the communities they serve. These included providing health advice; hygiene packs; food for families where breadwinners had lost their jobs; books; and educational help and toys for children trapped at home in cramped surroundings because their schools and nurseries had closed. In several instances, this annual report reflects the adjustments the groups we support have had to make. BSST also reacted by pausing our regular activities and application procedures and offering, as rapidly as we could, emergency funds to those groups and projects in most need.

BSST is now fully back to our usual work, though we still hold our trustee meetings and discussions with visitors from Israel/Palestine online rather than face to face. And, of course, requests for our help have continued to arrive, from both our regular grantees and also from new groups that have found us through our spreading network.

We have also had some Board changes. We were happy, in November, to welcome Clare Ungerson as a new trustee. However, only two months later, Anthony Bale stepped down from our Board, because of his increasing work commitments. We were very sad to see him leave and thank him for his contribution to BSST - including his annual 10km sponsored runs - and to the projects we work with.

As always, we must give an especially large thank-you to ALL our supporters, great and small, who enable us to do our core work of supporting groups who make life in the troubled region of Israel/Palestine a bit better and spread hope and optimism in their communities.

Enjoy this report and pass it on to family, friends and colleagues. We'd love to receive their donations too!

Gill Yudkin

Dr Gill Yudkin
Chair, BSST

August 2021



Images: Front cover: From +972 article How a Palestinian shoemaker started the West Bank's only mask factory overnight (+972/Amjad Zaghir). P2 & back cover: Installing LED panels (FADE). P3: Demolition of Khirbet Humsa community, (Activestills/Oren Ziv). P5: Soldier manhandles villager (HIRN). P6: Covid emergency rations (Kotof el-Khair). P22: Animation workshop (Bozour Theatre). P23: From video *Gaza Dances to 'Jeruselema'* (WeAreNotNumbers.org).



Who we are

The British Shalom-Salaam Trust is the only British Jewish grant-giving charity established specifically to work across Israel/Palestine, the area comprising Israel since 1948 and the land occupied by Israel since 1967 (the West Bank including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Golan).

At BSST our Jewish identity is central to our work. By our actions we hope to represent a positive and practical Jewish statement of opposition to the oppression of the Palestinian people, and support for a just and democratic peace in Israel/Palestine.

Our grants policy: challenging oppression – bringing justice and hope

We are committed to promoting political, social and economic justice, including a sustainable resolution of the conflict in Israel/Palestine based on democracy, equality, human rights and mutual respect between all communities. Beyond these basic principles, we are driven by the needs identified by the groups with which we work, not our own preconceptions, plans or programmes.



BSST favours small grassroots groups, but we do not seek out possible beneficiaries: they find us, mostly through word of mouth and personal contacts, occasionally by internet searches. This approach has produced our eclectic portfolio of supported projects – since we were founded in 2004 some 500 grants have gone to around 150 different organisations.

BSST assists regardless of ethnicity or religion. Most of our grants go to Palestinian, Jewish and joint groups, but we also donate to organisations aiding African asylum-seekers and migrant workers from around the world who now live in Israel. We are especially willing to help groups tackling difficult and contentious issues and those that may be overlooked by major funders.



How we work

Required under British charity law to deliver 'public benefit', we do so in three ways:

- by making our own grants to qualified applicant groups in Israel/Palestine;
- through our Post Box service, managing charitable donations secured in Britain by approved Israeli/Palestinian groups with no British charitable arm;
- by organising emergency appeals and providing funding in times of urgent need.

Many of our grant recipients employ paid staff and possess an Israeli or Palestinian legal status approximating to a British charity. However, we also support relatively informal groups, that have minimal infrastructure, are entirely volunteer-run and are the most likely to struggle for mainstream funding. We do need applicants to have email access, but given that tented communities in the Negev desert, without mains electricity or wi-fi, manage to contact us, we are confident our reliance on online working is no obstacle even to the most deprived groups.

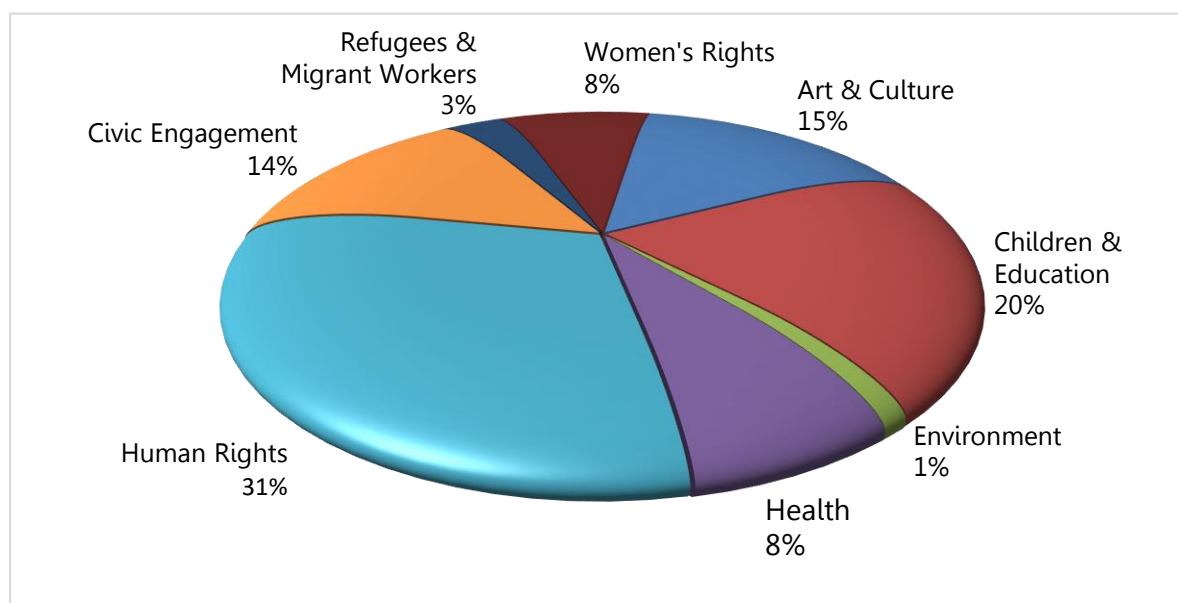
Our application process is very simple: we post our grant criteria on our website, provide an online, user-friendly application form, take requests year-round and make decisions in weeks.

BSST necessarily operates at arm's length, so we have developed evaluation procedures to review our beneficiary groups. As well as measuring applications against our own criteria, we check other sources: internet presence, newspaper reports, briefings from other groups and individuals in Israel/Palestine. We have also designed report-back procedures for the end of each funding period, using a brief standard form adjusted for each project, and we consult our advisory group whose members have specialist knowledge, and some of whom live in Israel/Palestine.

Finally, when possible, we meet grant and Post Box recipients personally. When trustees visit Israel/Palestine, we include trips - at our own expense - to groups we are supporting.

What we give

Typically 98% of our expenditure goes on charitable grants. Grants are usually capped at £5,000 per year per organisation, except in an emergency or when we run a special appeal. However, we make many repeat awards year after year, as the groups we support often find it impossible to replace our funding.





How we raise funds

BSST has funders and beneficiaries of many backgrounds.

Since our formation, thousands of individuals have donated to us: Jews, Christians, Muslims, and those asserting no religious belief or identity. Faith organisations and peace groups also support us, and we raise significant sums from other charitable trusts.

“

I really like the way money to your trust is allocated, very hands on to smaller Palestinian enterprises. Good Shabbos, and have a pleasant weekend!

”

— Donor to our Liberation Seder
Covid emergency appeal

As we have no endowment, every penny we donate we first have to raise, so our life-blood is the donations you give to us. We are hugely grateful to all our supporters, large and small, individuals and grant-making organisations, whose generosity enables us to contribute to building a just peace in Israel/Palestine.

Major donations to general funds came from a legacy of Carole Underwood and the following organisations:

Balcombe Charitable Trust, Barham Charitable Trust, Bernard Gold Foundation, Blue Moon Trust, Calpe Trust, Community of the Presentation Trust, Funderbirds, IHL Trust, John and Susan Bowers Fund, Just Trust, MSN, Newcastle Reform Synagogue, Open Gate Trust, Stonehage Fleming Charitable Foundation, Thomas Sivewright Catto Charitable Settlement, WF Southall Trust and three trusts that prefer not to be identified.

Along with regular income, in 2020 BSST launched an emergency Covid appeal, which netted £17,000, including a generous matching-funds contribution from one supporter and a substantial donation from a charitable trust.

Why we matter

BSST trustees have built up much specialist knowledge and a large network of contacts, and we are skilled in making informed judgments about groups that others might find difficult to evaluate. We have also established strong relationships with many groups we fund, supporting them through the toughest of times. We know that, overwhelmingly, these groups deliver on the projects they have proposed.

We particularly value the gratitude expressed by the organisations that BSST assists - it goes beyond appreciation of the financial aid the BSST has made. The groups are committed to building democracy, justice and peace between Israel/Palestine's different communities, and are grateful to receive support from an international donor with a Jewish identity.





COVID and BSST

In this unprecedented year, BSST worked hard to help our beneficiaries through the Covid crisis. Happily, only a few of these groups had to suspend activity entirely, but most did have to rejig their work, and confront new demands.

Emergency Support

BSST responded to the necessity of socially distanced communal events by quickly organising an online 'Liberation Seder'. Jointly sponsored by Jewish Voice for Labour, Jews for Justice for Palestinians, and the Jewish Socialist Group, it attracted over 200 British and overseas participants.

BSST Patron, Rabbi Danny Rich, presided magnificently, while our much-appreciated readers included Nizar Ayoub from Al-Marsad, a BSST-supported Syrian project in the Occupied Golan, and Hisham Qawasmeh, teenage son of Hamed, the founder of longstanding BSST partner, the Hebron International Resource Network.

Magician Ian Saville hid - and later found - the Afikomen, while, as usual, Elijah didn't appear! Instead, another BSST Patron, comedian and author Alexei Sayle, made a wonderful Covid Seder Emergency Appeal.

BSST distributed seventeen emergency £1,000 grants. All recipients bar Bethlehem University were current or former recipients of BSST support, with two desperate groups in Gaza each getting two grants.



- **AFAQ JADEEDA** (Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Gaza): health bags containing hand sanitizer, soap, gloves, cleansing alcohol, etc.
- **ARTEAM GARDEN LIBRARY** (South Tel Aviv): food packages, books and toys for asylum-seeker/migrant worker families who lost their jobs through Covid.
- **BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY**: e-tablets to enable impoverished students to do online learning.
- **CITIZENS BUILD A COMMUNITY** (Lod): face masks, food, etc., for young people from very deprived families.
- **DOMARI SOCIETY OF GYPSIES** (East Jerusalem): food, books, toys, Ramadan gifts for children in this tiny community.
- **FUTURE ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (FADE)** (Nuseirat, Gaza): food and masks for children.
- **HOPE FLOWERS SCHOOL** (Bethlehem): hot meals and other essentials for primary-age pupils, many from refugee camps.
- **KOTOF EL-KHAIR** (Deir el-Balah, Gaza): food vouchers, e-tablets for children's education.
- **NEGEV COEXISTENCE FORUM**: better internet connectivity so unrecognised Bedouin villages could access health information
- **AL NOUR ASSOCIATION** (Deir el-Balah, Gaza): emotional support sessions and health packs for children.
- **PALESTINE TRAUMA CENTRE** (Gaza): psychological support sessions, food, Eid gifts for children.
- **PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS-ISRAEL** (Jaffa): help to maintain PHRI's Jaffa clinic for migrants and asylum-seekers.
- **RURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** (South Hebron Hills): health/cleansing materials, food, clothing, seeds for home gardens, all assisting very deprived families.
- **SANAD ASSOCIATION** (Jatt, Triangle Region): face masks, food, online educational support for children.
- **SCHOOLHOUSE** (Tel Aviv): help with continuing education services to asylum-seekers.



Projects BSST supported in 2020-21

In addition to the organisations BSST provided with emergency Covid support, we continued to assist via our regular grant programme and by Post Box transfers.

AFAQ JADEEDA ASSOCIATION (NEW HORIZONS) is a small community group in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, where over 80,000 people live in extreme poverty. AFAQ JADEEDA provides a mix of social welfare, education and leisure, including a kindergarten; library; computer lab; drama space; football team; and summer and winter camps for the most deprived children and their mothers.

BSST funded AFAQ JADEEDA's three-month winter camp. Beside fun activities, 200 mothers and their pre-school children learned how to stay safe from Covid and received health protection kit and a daily fruit and juice ration.

—facebook.com/afaq-jadeeda-association



Bread making at the Afaq Model Kindergarten

ARTEAM: THE GARDEN LIBRARY is a welcoming community centre in Levinski Park, south Tel Aviv. Some 80% of local residents are migrant workers and African asylum-seekers. In an



area scarred by deprivation, ARTEAM's Garden Library is an oasis of hope. For adults it provides evening classes and family support, while children use its open-air multilingual library and homework space and take part in after-school and holiday activities.

This year BSST helped fund ARTEAM's new project, *Promoting the Educational Rights of Children*. Though pupil

segregation is unlawful, mainstream schools routinely refuse to admit asylum-seeker children who end up in inferior institutions, which ignore their specific needs.

“ ... many asylum-seeker children reach high school with poor language skills – they can barely read and write. Verbal skills in Hebrew and mother-tongues are poor, and often their cognitive and emotional development is severely impeded. ”

ARTEAM's new project supports parents committees that are campaigning to integrate asylum-seeker children into Israeli mainstream schools.

—thegardenlibrary.org



AZ THEATRE / THEATRE FOR EVERYBODY (AT/TE) is a partnership between projects in Britain and Gaza, long supported by BSST. This year, we helped fund a new, first-time Arabic-language adaptation of *The Emigrants* by Polish emigre writer Stanislaw Mrozek.

“ We want to take part in society through art. Through plays, we can contribute to change attitudes, to shake preconceived ideas. We do not lecture, we just stimulate people, question them about themselves. Our theatre is committed to life in its fullness but is not directly political: we do not deliver messages. —Theatre for Everybody, Gaza ”



Rehearsal of The Emigrants

Described by AT/TE as portraying ‘the illusions and smashed dreams of two emigrants to the rich world ... absurdist and slapstick, tragic and comic by turn’, it is planned for *The Emigrants* to reach hundreds of Gaza 18-25 year olds who dream of emigration. Using performance along with post-show international Zoom discussion, AT/TE aims to help their audiences express their frustration, while also making international friends and contacts, and rethinking whether emigration is really a solution.

—aztheatre.org.uk

BOZOUR (SEEDS) THEATRE is new to BSST. The only women's theatre project in Gaza, its three members trained in Poland, Egypt and Jerusalem. They have worked with women and children in Gaza theatres for two decades. With no theatre of their own, this director, cartoons/animation specialist, and scriptwriter/production designer, raise one-off grants for each of their projects.

BSST funded *Our Children Love Life*, a mix of story-telling, drama and drawing, where over two hundred children aged 9 to 15 created stories about their lives, and learned how to turn their words and pictures into an animated film.



An animation workshop

“ We need to enhance the role of women, children and youth through theatre, conveying their societal issues. We must establish a drama school to raise generations capable of creating artistic works so theatre in Gaza will become significant. —Wissam Dirawi, Director ”

—facebook.com/bozourtheater



FRAGMENTS THEATRE is an ambitious community arts project that introduces children and young people in Jenin City to theatre, film and circus. Though run on a shoestring, it delivers a huge range of activities: plays and workshops, drama therapy, film festivals, stand-up comedy training, and Palestine's first comedy club.

“ Fragments strives to provide a safe space for children, women and youth ... to develop the chance of building a career in the arts, support marginalized artists in Jenin, and promote the arts as a vehicle for community change. ”

FRAGMENTS' safe space brings respite from the high levels of family stress and domestic violence in Jenin, which Covid restrictions badly exacerbated. BSST part-funded an Egyptian and a Welsh professional storyteller to 'zoom in' to Jenin, to teach children puppet-making and puppetry skills and the art and techniques of storytelling.



Fragment's Contemporary Art Exhibition

—fragmentstheatre.com

FREDDIE KRIVINE INITIATIVE (FKI) expressly acknowledges Israel's ethnically-divided, hugely unequal and discriminatory society and sees tennis as a vehicle for some positive change. Its biggest project is in Jisr al-Zarqa, Israel's poorest Palestinian town, where other Jewish organisations rarely venture. Yet every year, along with Jisr's local council, FKI recruits hundreds of young Palestinians to play tennis in school and in schemes hosted by a Jewish farm cooperative. FKI also supports an afterschool homework club and English tutoring.



BSST helped fund a *Jisr Tournament Team* for the most promising children. During Covid lockdown, FKI moved online, setting up WhatsApp groups for children and coaches to message each other and for parents to post photos and videos of their children practising. FKI also kept close tabs on the impact of Covid on Jisr's children.

“ ... continuing lockdowns for families living in cramped conditions in a small Arab village is stressful, both mentally and physically. Many parents have menial jobs, and cannot work from home, leaving children alone for many hours ... we have been cooperating with the Jisr municipality to roll out an additional program for the most at-risk kids, aged 12-14, led by our club coach. ”

—fkf-tennis.org



FUTURE ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (FADE), a community group in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, runs an annual summer camp that BSST has funded for several years. This year FADE wanted something very different – fire prevention.

“Yusef, Muhammad and Mahmoud Al-Hazin (4, 5, 6 years old) died in their bedroom because of a candle, a light which turned into fire ... this hungry fire is telling us: 'I warn you not to continue the silence about deep problems in Gaza, preventing the entry of gas and diesel to run the electricity stations'.”
—Director of FADE



Installing an LED panel

Gaza's electrical supply is notorious for being unreliable and, mostly, unavailable. This results in frequent fires: from system overload when power comes on, or from use of candles or kerosene during the 18-22 hours daily when it doesn't. Lack of power also harms children's ability to study.

BSST paid for a hundred battery-powered and rechargeable LED panels – each giving at least eight hours continuous lighting per full charge - to go to the poorest families. This benefitted at least 500 children.

—facebook.com/the.futuer.gaza

GRASSROOTS ACCOMPANIMENT & LANGUAGE EXCHANGE / THIS IS NOT AN ULPAN (GALE/TINAU) is a new human rights and language programme in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, where villages are at constant risk from settler and IDF violence.

GALE was initiated by Palestinian non-violent resisters *Youth of Sumud*; the Israeli Jewish villager-support group *Ta'ayush*; the international *Centre for Jewish Non-Violence*; and villagers from A-Twaneh, Susya and Umm al-Kheir. GALE's partner, TINAU, is Israel's only language school run by Jews, Palestinians, locals and newcomers teaching both Hebrew and Arabic.

In a pilot, TINAU trained local teachers to teach Arabic as a second language, while GALE recruited Israeli 'human rights defenders' (HRDs) to live and work in the South Hebron Hills villages for three-month periods. Using TINAU's specially designed programmes, the Israeli HRDs learned Arabic from the local teachers, and villagers learned Hebrew from a GALE member.

BSST covered 60% of the expenses in the pilot project.



A Palestinian child from Susya teaches a project participant Arabic

—thisisnotanulpan.com



GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTIVE (GSC) is based in the South Hebron Hills. In non-Covid times GSC supports olive tree planting; opposition to home demolition; a guesthouse; beekeeping; and a greenhouse. They also facilitate workshops on subjects as disparate as Bedouin bread-making and textile production; the history of shepherding in Israel/Palestine; and indigenous Bedouin conflict resolution. We provide GSC with the BSST Post Box service.

“

Our workday in the South Hebron Hills is not only a small step into building a livelihood for Palestinians in this area ... working for the very basic needs of those who are denied, it is a small but practical step towards justice.

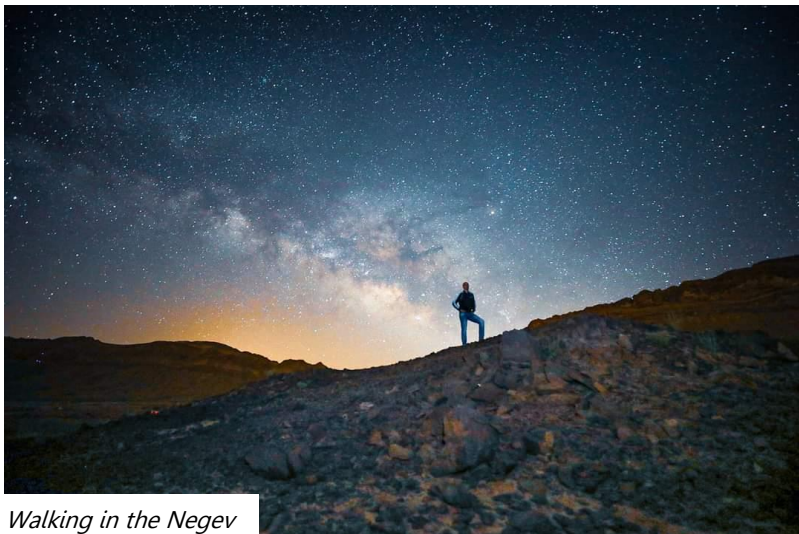
”



Examining an aerial photograph of Umm al-Khair produced by Bimkom, an Israeli planning and zoning rights group

—goodshepherdcollective.org

HARABA ASSOCIATION FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT is a new,



Walking in the Negev

Negev-based Bedouin group. It aims to create a sustainable 'Desert Tourism' celebrating Bedouin culture, in contrast to the Negev's burgeoning mass tourism industry run by Israeli Jewish companies, which either ignores or romanticises the traditional Bedouin way of life. This mass tourism neither threatens state policies of Bedouin eviction and forced urbanisation, nor contributes to Bedouin economic development.

HARABA is targeting 'solidarity visitors' who wish to learn about and support the local people. Its programme centres around the Negev's 'unrecognised' villages, home to some 70,000 Bedouin. HARABA intends several unrecognised villages to become 'alternative' tourist locations, with tours led by young Bedouin men and women, trained in Bedouin history, identity and heritage, desert sustainability, and in the English language.

“

We oppose the overexploitation of local resources, but we consider desert tourism a natural source of livelihood ... enabled and organized for the benefit of the most dispossessed Bedouin communities ... We see unrecognized villages as ideal for tourist hubs – oases in the middle of the Naqab Desert. We also believe Arab youth are the most capable of designing a nomadic tourist experience and present Bedouin culture to visitors.

”

—haraba.org



HEBRON INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES NETWORK (HIRN) is an audacious Palestinian community group with a long and close relationship with BSST. It develops projects, especially promoting girls' education, in those parts of the West Bank where the Occupation is most harsh: Hebron City and its surrounding villages, and in the Gush Etzion area now dominated by Jewish settlements.

We have provided HIRN with the BSST Post Box service for many years; although we no longer collect the bulk of HIRN's UK donations, we continue to pass on occasional contributions. In addition, BSST has given many project grants; in 2020 we assisted a joint HIRN/Rural Women's Association scheme to provide catch-up classes for children whose schooling was severely damaged because of Covid restrictions.

—facebook.com/HIRN-388180624554795

Lessons during Covid

ISRAEL SOCIAL TV (ISTV) is a web-based media group that covers stories rarely reported by Israel's press and television: the Occupation, asylum-seekers, the environment, the Nakba, LGBTQ+ rights, racism and general socio-economic issues. It has made over 5,000 films in Hebrew, with most also translated into English and/or Arabic. It reaches some 100,000 viewers monthly in Israel/ Palestine and further afield.

In the last few years, ISTV's finances and activities have been fiercely attacked by the Israeli government. BSST has long supported ISTV and again provided core funding.



Still from ISTV's article 'Remote Learning – A fantasy'

“ We want to promote a society where the media is democracy's watchdog – that motivates citizens to be involved and become activists. We see ourselves as part of the human rights and social change community in Israel. ”

—tv.social.org.il/en



'JEREMY HARDY'S OLIVE GROVES' is BSST's tribute to the British comedian and passionate supporter of Palestinian rights – and of BSST – who died in February 2019.

The obsessive destruction of ancient olive trees by Israeli settlers and the IDF is one of the most visible ways the Occupation attacks Palestinian lives and livelihoods: an assault on both a Palestinian national symbol and on an essential food source and income generator for rural Palestinians. After Jeremy's death, we appealed through the Guardian newspaper for donations to help Palestinians replace wrecked olive groves. In our second year, we were delighted that IDF hostility could not stop RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS from planting 100 new trees.



IDF obstructs planting olive trees

“ The planting took place in the West Bank village of Burin. We would like to report it was uneventful, but that is a blessing we have yet to encounter ... on this day too our volunteers encountered violence on the part of the security forces. In spite of unprovoked confrontation, RHR brought 150 volunteers to plant over 100 trees and to stand up for peace and human rights! —Rabbis for Human Rights

—Rabbis for Human Rights: rhr.org.il/eng ”

JERUSALEM AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTRE (JACC) is the only charity solely focused on the city's 3000+ asylum-seekers. It provides support and education, including kindergarten music classes, and adults' Hebrew, English and computer lessons. It also runs a Rights Advocacy Centre (RAC) safeguarding users' employment, healthcare and residency rights. The RAC is professionally managed, but staffed by dozens of trained volunteers. Our grant helped pay for the manager's salary.



Loading food supplies

“ Coronavirus has exacerbated existing problems and created new ones. 90% of asylum-seekers are out of work ... many still missing wages from before lockdown. The Deposit Law required employers to put 20% of each asylum-seeker's salary in a fund, accessible only on leaving the country. Now that law is overturned, people need our assistance to claim ... we suspect the money was often pocketed by the employer. —jacc.org.il/home-eng ”



KAFA ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE NEGEV

supports the people of Rahat, Israel's largest Bedouin city, home to over 70,000 Bedouin, divided among many clans. Previously, self-contained desert communities, these clans are now forced together into a crowded alien urban environment. The Israeli government aims to transfer to Rahat the remaining thousands of Bedouin still living their traditional way of life in the Negev's 'unrecognised' towns and villages.



In spite of extreme poverty, huge unemployment, fierce communal tensions, high crime and little hope, KAFA has forged a visionary community organisation, confronting clan divisions and running an ambitious city-wide social activism programme creating 'a cohesive, politically confident Bedouin community, able to negotiate with the Israeli state'

Every year KAFA trains two dozen 16 and 17 year olds, two thirds girls, in community development, where each participant must develop and implement a social initiative. As well as acquiring vital personal skills (e.g. public speaking, creative problem solving) the project helps build a professional political culture.

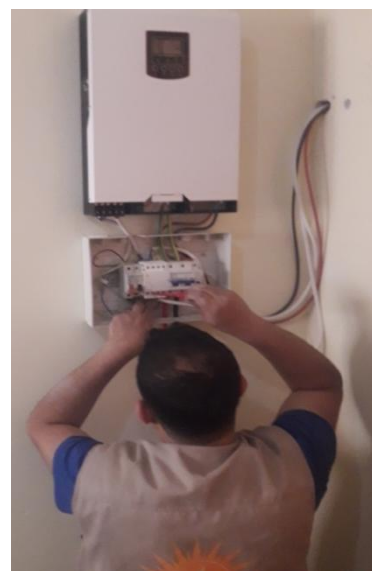
KOTOF EL-KHAIR ASSOCIATION is a community group in the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah. With a tiny budget, it provides an impressive range of activities: cultural events; a safe space for children to play and learn; women's rights workshops; capacity-building classes for women and young graduates; training for families with disabled members in how better to support their relatives; medical days when local people can access free and specialist healthcare; children's summer camps; and humanitarian aid.

BSST funded the purchase and installation of a solar energy unit for KOTOF's building.

“ The prolonged power outages in the Gaza Strip continue, and the difficult economic situation affects the services we can provide to vulnerable groups. A solar energy unit for Kotof's premises would enable us to continue providing services to nearly 10,000 vulnerable people. ”



Kotof's Mind and Body Centre treats psychological stress



Installing the solar energy unit

—facebook.com/kotofAssociation



LADA'AT – CHOOSE WELL is an Israeli women's project offering information, counselling and support on contraception and unplanned pregnancy. It runs healthy-sexuality workshops for teenagers, trains medical and psychosocial professionals, and lobbies policy makers. Based in Jerusalem, it serves thousands of clients annually - religious and secular Jews, Palestinians, African asylum-seekers, foreign workers, and tourists.

BSST renewed our funding for workshops for African asylum-seeking women, plus face-to-face and phone counselling for African and Palestinian women, the latter in Arabic. African women users have great difficulty accessing family planning and abortion services, while Palestinian women's overriding concern is secrecy.



Lada'at's flier announcing that it now offers services in Arabic

“ Since Covid began many girls say their homes are not safe. Covid ‘sheltering’ has created dilemmas: a teenager wants an abortion without her parents knowing but she is in quarantine with her family. How can we counsel when teens can't find a secluded space at home to talk? ”

We recruited an Arabic-speaking volunteer counsellor ... We have greatly expanded our social media activity and are improving our website's Arabic content.

—ladaat.org.il

AL MARSAD – ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS is a Syrian campaigning and service organisation, working in an area that was occupied in 1967, then annexed in 1981, and since treated as part of Israel. 130,000 former residents fled, and the IDF destroyed nearly all their villages and farms. The remaining 26,000 Syrians live in the far north on 5% of the Golan, with the other 95% home to 23,000 Israeli settlers.

To operate at all, AL MARSAD had to register as an Israeli NGO, so cannot access the extensive European support available to groups elsewhere in the Occupied Territories. Yet its determined fundraising - including our repeated grants for core costs - delivers an impressive range of services for the Golan's remaining Syrian population:



Golan families peer through binoculars and talk on the phone to relatives across the fortified ceasefire line

- Campaigning against human rights violations in the Golan
- Free legal information, advice and mediation
- Test cases in the Israeli courts
- Education on employment, housing, women's rights, residency, family separation, natural resources, landmines, Syrian Golan history, identity, culture and civil society activism
- Skills training for other Syrian groups
- Alternative Tourism

—golan-marsad.org



MIN EL BAHAR is a joint Tel Aviv/West Bank project which every year brings some 1,500 especially disadvantaged Palestinian children and their mothers from their West Bank towns and villages for day trips to Jaffa beach.

As for many years past, we approved a BSST grant but in spite of the organisers' efforts, Covid rendered these cherished annual outings impossible. We expect them to resume next year.

—en.minelbahar.com

West Bank women enjoying a rare experience at the sea



NEW PROFILE (NP) is a feminist group opposed to Israel's promotion of military service from kindergarten onward.

“ Israel's social system is structured on militarized hierarchical status, which directly affects women, Palestinian citizens of Israel, and other minority sectors. These patriarchal values are everywhere: home, workplace, politics... They promote values that continue to sanction combat, violence, and gender-based hierarchies. ”

—Ruth, an NP founder, whose four sons refused to be conscripted

Not entering the army can blight education and job prospects. Even so, about half of 18-year-olds now avoid conscription, while serving soldiers (especially from poor homes) often cut service short and many reservists refuse recall. Though non-serving school-leavers are still mostly ultra-Orthodox, mental health exemptions and conscientious objections are increasing.

It is claimed that the IDF is Israel's great leveller. Yet NP says that widespread sexual harassment reinforces gender inequality, while soldiers from poor families often get the worst postings, ensuring

continuing disadvantage when their service ends. NP provides free counselling to around a thousand teenagers facing the draft each year as well as legal help and specialist anti-militarism training for those working with young people. It also works with 'refusenik' and other anti-military groups. BSST repeated our core funding grant.



Israeli children are introduced to guns at an early age.

Photo: Activestills.org

—newprofile.org/English



PALESTINE TRAUMA CENTRE (PTC) is a therapeutic group, going out from its Gaza City base to work locally with those traumatized by ongoing conflict and Occupation. PTC usually delivers family therapy, rapid intervention trauma relief, and professional training. Its popular *Friday of Joy* initiative brings drama, games, painting and music into schools, playgrounds and streets throughout Gaza.



Distributing Corona virus information to Gazan families

Covid forced a major reorganisation, with the focus shifting to health information, disease prevention and tackling poverty. Its anti-Covid campaign included training volunteers in hygiene and social distancing messaging; organising specialist online training for professional staff; making health information radio broadcasts; providing phone counselling; an emergency hotline; children's exercise videos; and delivering food, hygiene packs and children's clothing to those most in need.

—ptcuk.org

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – ISRAEL (PHRI) is a campaigning and service-providing medical human rights organisation. Its aim is that everyone that the State is responsible for – Israeli citizens from all ethnicities and communities, non-citizen residents, migrant workers, asylum-seekers, and those in the Occupied Palestinian Territories – has equal access to healthcare.

PHRI holds a south Tel Aviv clinic for asylum-seekers and foreign workers excluded from mainstream Israeli services, and provides free weekly clinics in West Bank villages where access to medical services is most limited. It has close links to



Palestinian health providers, bringing medical supplies into the Occupied Territories during crises, and negotiating permits for Palestinians to cross into Israel for specialist treatment.

BSST provided our Post Box service in addition to an emergency Covid grant.

“ Last week we released a report that has kept us up at night. *A Life Exposed - Military Invasions of Palestinian homes in the West Bank* was produced by Yesh Din, PHRI and Breaking the Silence ... with no advance warning, warrant or legal basis, Israeli soldiers raid the homes of Palestinian families ... more than 200 invasions every month ... They take a heavy toll on mental health: many parents spoke about (their children's) behavioural changes, irritability, anger outbursts, breaking their toys, sleep disruptions, separation anxiety ... and one suicide attempt. ”

—phr.org.il/en



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (RWA) is based in the South Hebron Hills villages, in 'Area C' of the West Bank, and so entirely subject to Israel's control. For the last thirty years, Israel has used repeated home demolitions to try to force the residents out. So far, this strategy has failed in the face of fierce women-led resistance that has resulted in extensive international support for the villagers.



RWA runs many projects: handicrafts; poultry and beekeeping; nursery provision; a transport service so the older children reach school safe from attack by settlers; and annual camps bringing some fun in the long summer break. This year, along with HIRN, RWA delivered catch-up classes to reduce the impact of Covid restrictions on primary children's schooling.

—theruralwomenassociation.wordpress.com

SADAKA REUT – ARAB JEWISH PARTNERSHIP (SR) brings Palestinian and Jewish young people together to create social and political change. It emphasises marginalized groups – Bedouin Palestinians, and Ethiopian, Russian and Mizrahi Jews – and works in universities where there is normally little Jewish/Palestinian student interaction.



A Sadaka Reut tour in Lod

For thirty years, SR has developed new generations of young campaigning activists and leaders promoting '*a shared society based on equality, solidarity, and justice*'. Unlike many Palestinian/Jewish projects, which prioritise learning about the other's culture, SR confronts the tougher issues of conflict and unequal power relations. BSST supports SR with our Post Box service.

—reutsadaka.org



SCHOOLHOUSE provides tailor-made education every year for six hundred asylum-seekers aged 18 to 50. Mostly from Sudan and Eritrea, its students include university graduates and those with no schooling at all. Many are traumatised by experiences in their home countries, exacerbated by hostility since reaching Israel. Most find it tough tackling basic literacy, especially through a second language and a foreign culture.



SCHOOLHOUSE teaches study techniques and provides practical information about living in Israel. It also teaches computer skills, Hebrew and English. For the fourth year, BSST contributed towards teacher training and curriculum development.

“ Covid meant many students were forced to look for new jobs ... yet continued to prioritize education in this crazy year. We were proud to see them move to on-line learning, especially as most aren't tech-literate, lack computers or stable internet, must rely on cell-phones and have no quiet place to attend class. We offered to suspend studies instead of moving to Zoom - most insisted on continuing and stuck with it ”

—schoolhouse.org.il

SOLIDARITY ARTS, ACTIVISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION unites art with



Still from Ido Chen's film 'Fluently Stumbling' shown in the festival

commitment to social justice. Each December Tel Aviv Cinematheque hosts the *Solidarity Festival* with films tackling globalisation, the Occupation, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and climate change. The festival also holds a competition and debates with film-makers, including online participation from Gazan film activists who are prevented from attending in person. Its parallel programme, *Solidarity in the Periphery*, provides free screenings and workshops in remote and disadvantaged areas.

SOLIDARITY is the only entirely trilingual Israeli film festival. BSST helped fund the Arabic/Hebrew/English branding, marketing, publicity and subtitling.

“ (Covid meant) we moved our Israeli Periphery events online, with very well attended digital screenings plus Zoom discussions with filmmakers and human rights experts ... We assume we can hold the Solidarity Festival itself as normal, but are planning to be online if need be. We will put special emphasis on pandemic-related human rights issues and the impact on Arab-Jewish relations in Israel. ”

—solidaritytlv.org



ST JOHN EYE HOSPITAL is the only charitable provider of specialist eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, treating patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay. It benefits from the BSST Post Box service.

—stjohnseyehospital.org



TISHREEN is a Palestinian community group, committed to social transformation. Based in Taybeh, an economic and cultural hub city in the mostly Palestinian Triangle region of Israel, the group focuses especially on women, young people and children and those engaged in the arts. It promotes Triangle artists' creative work so as to enhance the community's sense of self-worth and Palestinian cultural identity.



Tishreen's Cultural Café uses arts as an agent of social and political change

Its Cultural Café - an art gallery, coffee shop and work spaces - is central to its ambitious plan to become the go-to Triangle meeting space and resource for artists to produce and exhibit; it is also a space where the community can meet, eat, and enjoy cultural and political discussion, book events, lectures, exhibitions, music performance, theatre, and cinema. TISHREEN wants the Cultural Café to encourage Palestinian artists to remain in the Triangle rather than flocking to the big cities in Israel and abroad. BSST provided core funding.

“ ... arts and culture can promote enlightened, progressive and democratic values and be a major driver of social change ... The arts are not independent of the social, political and economic spheres where they are created ... we aim to support local artists so they produce works critically reflecting life in the Triangle. ”

—tishreen.net



Video production at the Triangle Cinema Forum



TOHU MAGAZINE is a young arts organisation with an international editorial board of Jews and Palestinians. It organises events, screenings, workshops, and talks, but its core project is a free online magazine in Hebrew, Arabic and English. This highlights work from Israel/Palestine while situating itself within the wider Middle East. TOHU encourages young writers in Hebrew and Arabic, and showcases visual content created by Israeli, Palestinian and international artists.

This year TOHU began collaborating with writers from Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt. It also launched podcasts of discussions with artists and recordings of published texts. BSST provided core funding which will enable further development of the Arabic section of the magazine.



Part of Iris Hassid's monograph: A Place of Our Own, by Schlit Publishing. See Tohu article by Reem Ghanayem: Neither Here nor There: The Voice of Young Arab Women on the Border Line Between Perilous Identities

“ We represent a non-violent resistance and support for Palestinian culture and the Arabic language. The magazine does not follow the normal Israeli discourse: while openly against the Occupation, we are not a ‘coexistence’ project. ”

—tohumagazine.com

TAG MEIR (BRIGHT TAG) unites over 50 groups across Israeli Jewish life, from Orthodox to secular. It describes itself as the only organisation fighting racism in Jewish society specifically with a Jewish voice.



TAG MEIR's activities normally include visits to Palestinian victims of racist attacks; seeking compensation for these victims; providing racism awareness education to religious Jewish and Palestinian teachers; election campaigning against racism; and legal action against religious leaders who incite hatred.

When Israel entered Covid lockdown, TAG MEIR told BSST it could work effectively entirely online. For example, video conferences and letters from the public replaced its visits to victims of hate crimes.

Once again, BSST provided core funding.

—tag-meir.org.il/en

After days of riots and violence, Jewish and Arab residents of Akko come together to clean their streets



+972 MAGAZINE is a free online publication run by Israeli and Palestinian journalists committed to ending the Occupation, advancing human rights, challenging the mainstream discourse about Israel/Palestine, and reporting those voices overlooked by mainstream media. +972 has an annual readership of around one million. Its impact is international; the New York Times, CNN, the Guardian, BBC, and Le Monde Diplomatique pick up its stories and regularly interview its writers, while embassies frequently request briefings.

+972's work can be dangerous. Israeli police and soldiers and the Palestinian police often threaten violence and destroy journalists' equipment; reporters have been wounded and killed. +972 has upgraded staff protection, raised insurance cover, offered extra cyber-security training, and built reserves against possible SLAPP lawsuits ('strategic lawsuits against public participation' – intended, as the acronym indicates, to intimidate and silence critics). BSST gave core funding to help pay legal, insurance and security costs. BSST also provided our Post Box service.



From +972 editors picks: Palestinian activists destroy part of the separation wall in Bir Nabala. Photo: Activestills

—972mag.com





Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 13th September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Gill Yudkin, Chair

Colin Wainwright, Treasurer

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the British Shalom-Salaam Trust**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the British Shalom-Salaam Trust for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ruth Naftalin FCA
14 Park Crescent
London N3 2NJ

13th September 2021

Accounts for the Year Ending 28 February 2021**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	2020-21			2019-20		
Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income						
Donations received	127,368	57,229	184,597	105,344	57,932	163,276
Gift Aid on donations	673	495	1,168	3,376	546	3,922
Bank interest	11	-	11	41	-	41
Total income	128,052	57,724	185,776	108,761	58,478	167,239

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)**

		2020-21			2019-20		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Expenditure							
Charitable Activities	2	103,585	65,660	169,245	126,087	57,483	183,570
Publicity/Fundraising	3	550	-	550	2,657	-	2,657
Administration	4	82	-	82	72	-	72
Total Expenditure		<u>104,217</u>	<u>65,660</u>	<u>169,877</u>	<u>128,816</u>	<u>57,483</u>	<u>186,299</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>23,835</u>	<u>(7,936)</u>	<u>15,899</u>	<u>(20,055)</u>	<u>995</u>	<u>(19,060)</u>
Reconciliation of funds							
Funds brought forward		35,078	19,674	54,752	55,133	18,679	73,812
Funds carried forward		<u>58,913</u>	<u>11,738</u>	<u>70,651</u>	<u>35,078</u>	<u>19,674</u>	<u>54,752</u>

BALANCE SHEET

		As at 28 February 2021	
		28/2/2021 £	28/2/2020 £
Assets			
Cash at bank		62,812	48,082
Debtors (HMRC Gift Aid)		7,839	6,670
Total Assets		<u>70,651</u>	<u>54,752</u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Unrestricted funds		58,913	35,078
Restricted funds		11,738	19,674
Total Charity Funds		<u>70,651</u>	<u>54,752</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2015 and applicable accounting standards.

		2020-21			2019-20		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2 Charitable activities							
Grants made		102,697	65,660	168,357	124,971	57,483	182,454
Direct bank charges		888	-	888	1,116	-	1,116
		<u>103,585</u>	<u>65,660</u>	<u>169,245</u>	<u>126,087</u>	<u>57,483</u>	<u>183,570</u>



Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	2020-21			2019-20		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
3 Publicity / Fundraising						
Printing postage stationery	358	-	358	555	-	555
Website and leaflet	192	-	192	2,102	-	2,102
	550	-	550	2,657	-	2,657
4 Administration						
Bank charges	72	-	72	72	-	72
Sundry expenses	10	-	10	-	-	-
	82	-	82	72	-	72

5 Trustee expenses

There were no expenses paid to trustees in either 2020/21 or 2019/20.

6 Restricted Funds (including Post Boxes)

	1/3/20	Income	Expenditure	28/2/21
Children's Fund	3,270	20,225	(23,400)	95
Christian Peacemaker Teams	725	-	-	725
Gaza Fund	3,000	0	(3,000)	-
Good Shepherd Collective	1,351	2,670	(2,420)	1,601
Green Olive Collective	95	-	(95)	-
Hebron International Resource Network – HIRN	-	1,050	(1,025)	25
Al Marsad	-	12,540	(12,540)	-
New Profile	-	9,500	(9,500)	-
Olive Grove Fund	6,194	95	(3,000)	3,289
Physicians for Human Rights Israel	625	1,500	(1,000)	1,125
Sadaka Reut	-	7,000	(7,000)	-
St. John's Eye Hospital	750	375	(1,125)	-
Tent Of Nations	1,473	679	-	2,152
Tent Of Nations UK Friends - FOTON	1,000	-	-	1,000
Villages Group	563	775	-	1,338
+972 Magazine	629	1,410	(1,650)	389

7 Grants and Post Box Transfers Made

Organisation	£000s	Organisation	£000s
Az Theatre / Theatre for Everybody	4.0	Lada'at	5.0
Afaq Jadeeda	7.0	Al-Marsad	17.5
Arteam Garden Library	6.0	Min el Bahar	5.0
Bazour Theater	5.0	Negev Coexistence Forum (NCF)	1.0
Citizens Build a Community	1.0	New Profile	14.5
Domari Society of Gypsies in Jerusalem	1.0	Al-Nour Association for Community Development	1.0
Fragments Theatre	3.0	Palestine Trauma Centre	6.0
Freddie Krivine Initiative	4.5	Physicians for Human Rights – Israel	2.0
Friends of Bethlehem University	1.0	Rabbis for Human Rights (Jeremy Hardy Olive Groves)	3.0
Future Association for Development and Environment	7.0	Rural Women's Association	4.4
Grassroots Language Programme / This is not an Ulpan	5.0	Sadaka Reut Youth Partnership	7.0
Good Shepherd Collective	2.4	Sanad Association	1.0
Haraba Association for Economic, Social and Educational	5.0	Schoolhouse	5.0
Hebron International Resources Network	1.0	Solidarity Human Rights Film Festival	4.0
Hope Flowers School	1.0	St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital	1.1
Israel Social TV	5.0	Tishreen	5.0
Jerusalem African Community Center	5.0	Tohu Magazine	3.0
Kafa Association for Social Change in the Negev	4.0	Yod Bet B Heshvan - Tag Meir	5.0
Kotof el-Khair Association	4.2	+972 Magazine	6.7

BSST Governance

Staff

BSST has no paid staff, premises or equipment. The trustees, each with extensive voluntary sector experience and in-depth expertise on Israel/Palestine, carry out all functions including appointing and training new Board members. New trustees are recruited by personal contact and by advertisement.

Trustee meetings are held every four to six weeks, where general policy, income generation and grant decisions are made.

Administrative Details

Registered Charity Name	The British Shalom-Salaam Trust
Charity Registration Number	1103211
Registered Address	PO Box 39378, London SE13 5WH
Bankers	HSBC, 85 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 6BE
Independent Examiner	Ruth Naftalin FCA, 14 Park Crescent, London N3 2NJ
E-mail	bsst@bsst.org.uk
Website	bsst.org.uk

BSST Trustees

- **Professor Anthony Bale**, Professor of Medieval Studies (resigned January 2021)
- **Dr David Sperlinger**, retired clinical psychologist (Trustee for Income Generation)
- **Colin Wainwright**, IT specialist (Treasurer)
- **Clare Ungerson**, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy (appointed November 2020)
- **Naomi Wayne**, retired charity chief executive (Secretary)
- **Dr Gillian Yudkin**, retired GP (Chair)

BSST Patrons

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ➤ Sir Geoffrey Bindman | ➤ Claudia Roden |
| ➤ Sir Nicholas Hytner | ➤ Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah |
| ➤ Professor Francesca Klug OBE | ➤ Alexei Sayle |
| ➤ Miriam Margolyes OBE | ➤ Sir Antony Sher |
| ➤ Rabbi Jeffrey Newman | ➤ Professor Avi Shlaim FBA |
| ➤ Professor Susie Orbach | ➤ Dame Janet Suzman |
| ➤ Rabbi Danny Rich | ➤ Zoë Wanamaker CBE |

BSST Advisory Group

- **Michael Ellman**, solicitor, has carried out missions of enquiry, judicial and electoral observation and training to over 25 countries including Israel and Palestine.
- **Richard Kuper**, long-standing campaigner for Palestinian human rights, retired university lecturer and founder of Pluto Press.
- **Tony Lerman**, Senior Fellow, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Vienna, and former Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research.
- **Miri Weingarten**, solicitor, formerly of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and EU Advocacy Coordinator for a coalition of Israeli human rights groups.
- **Hadas Ziv**, Director of Public Outreach in Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, previously Executive Director and winner of the 2009 Oak Fellowship for Human Rights.

