

British Shalom-Salaam Trust

Crossing Borders for Peace



Annual Report & Accounts

March 2022 –
February 2023

From Our Chair

This Annual Report is for the financial year March 2022 to February 2023. However, we completed its text only a week after Hamas' horrific incursions into southern Israel, and as Israel was ramping up its terrifying bombing and likely ground assault on Gaza.



This timing meant we could not behave as if an immense and tragic disaster was not already underway, and I could not wait until next year's Report to express BSST's dismay and grief at these events. We have so many friends in Israel connected to those people who have been killed or kidnapped by Hamas – many of whom have been fierce anti-occupation activists. BSST has also supported at least a dozen Gaza groups over the years – we do not know if any of them – users, staff or volunteers – will survive Israel's onslaught. Our shared fear for the future in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel increase our determination to continue our work. Please help us in this endeavour.

Returning to this year of record, we were pleased that *Min El Bahar*, an Israeli group who arrange magical summer outings to the sea for Palestinian children from the West Bank, were back in business. I mention BSST's longest standing grantee here because they don't feature in our report; they didn't seek a grant, as their previous one had been waiting to be used after COVID shut them down for two years.

Though many projects recorded great achievements, 2022-3 brought considerable sadness. Palestinian villager Harun Abu Aram, who was shot in the neck by an IDF soldier in 2020 and was paralysed from the neck down, was supported throughout by our friends and partners, *HIRN* and the *Villages Group*. BSST had helped in this with funding. Aged 26, Harun died in February 2023 – a terrible tragedy but also a merciful release.

Another tragic but unexpected death was that of trustee Professor Annabelle Sreberny, after a short illness. This followed soon after trustee Professor Clare Ungerson resigned because of other commitments. Annabelle and Clare are greatly missed on our Board. We have since been joined by Professor Gene Feder and Stephen Fox as new Board members.

An additional source of great concern was Benjamin Netanyahu's return as Prime Minister in December 2022, after yet another general election. This time his position depended on forming a coalition with violent, extremist politicians; if he wanted to retain power, he would be hostage to their terrifying ideologies. It rapidly became clear that those who are the most threatened by Netanyahu's rabid ministerial team include many whom we support across Israel-Palestine-Golan.

Nevertheless, we refuse to give up hope – and our report, with its wonderful cohort of communities and activists tells you why.

Dr Gill Yudkin
Chair, BSST
October 2023



Who we are

The British Shalom-Salaam Trust is the only British Jewish grant-giving charity working solely across 'Israel-Palestine-Golan'. This is the name BSST uses for the entire territory we cover: the state of Israel since 1948, and all the land - Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and Golan - occupied by Israel since 1967.

Our grants policy: challenging oppression – bringing justice and hope

BSST supports groups in Israel-Palestine-Golan that seek creative and practical solutions to the needs of their communities. We see ourselves as enablers not prescribers. We do not impose our own programmes: we respond to needs identified by the groups we work with.

BSST favours small grassroots projects and is very willing to help groups tackling contentious issues and those overlooked by major funders. However, we do not seek out beneficiaries: they find us, mostly by word of mouth, occasionally via internet searches. The result is BSST's eclectic portfolio: since we started out in 2004, some 600 grants have been given to around 200 organisations.



Farmers waiting in the rain at a gate into Qalqilya, a Palestinian town nearly entirely surrounded by Israel's 'separation wall'. The farmers cannot get to or from their fields until soldiers turn up to open the gate.

Most BSST grants go to Palestinian, Jewish and joint organisations, but we also support an East Jerusalem gypsy group, a Syrian organisation in Golan and projects working with African asylum seekers and migrant workers from around the world who now live in Israel.

Our Jewish identity defines our work and purpose. We seek:

- ✿ to make a positive and practical Jewish statement of opposition to the oppression of the Palestinian people across Israel-Palestine, and of the Syrian population of Golan.
- ✿ to oppose all discrimination against other minorities or sections of the communities within Israel-Palestine-Golan. These include women and LGBTQ+ people within the entire area; asylum seekers and migrant workers in Israel; gypsies in East Jerusalem; Ethiopian and Mizrahi Jews in Israel.
- ✿ to support the achievement of a just, democratic and sustainable peace based on equality, human rights and mutual respect between all communities within Israel-Palestine-Golan.

We also recognise that the rights of Palestinian refugees must be a key part of any just peace settlement. Sadly, with our limited resources, BSST is unable to include those living outside Israel-Palestine-Golan within our grant-giving.



How we work

We deliver public benefit:

- ✿ mostly by providing grants to groups in Israel-Palestine-Golan that have applied to BSST for support and fall within BSST's guidelines.
- ✿ occasionally by making small grants in response to a general appeal.
- ✿ through our Post Box service, where BSST receives and manages charitable donations secured from friends and supporters in Britain by approved groups in Israel-Palestine-Golan.
- ✿ by organising our own emergency appeals in times of urgent need.

BSST itself has neither employees nor an office. Its volunteer trustees carry out all functions, working mostly online. This ensures that in a normal year, at least 98% of our expenditure goes on charitable grants. Unavoidable administrative overheads – bank charges, minimal postage and printing – usually make up just 1-2% of BSST's costs.

Many BSST grant recipients employ paid staff and possess Israeli or Palestinian legal status analogous to that of British charities. However, we also support informal, entirely volunteer-run groups with minimal infrastructure that are the most likely to struggle for mainstream funding. We need applicants to have email access, but as we have been contacted successfully by tented desert communities without mains electricity or wi-fi, we are confident our online reliance is not an obstacle, even to very deprived groups.

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



Graffiti on Israel's 'separation wall'

BSST necessarily operates at arm's length, so we have developed evaluation policies and guidelines 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-Golan. We have also designed report-back procedures for the end of each funding period, using a straightforward standard form adjusted individually for each project. And we consult our Advisory Group whose members have specialist knowledge and close ties with Israel-Palestine.

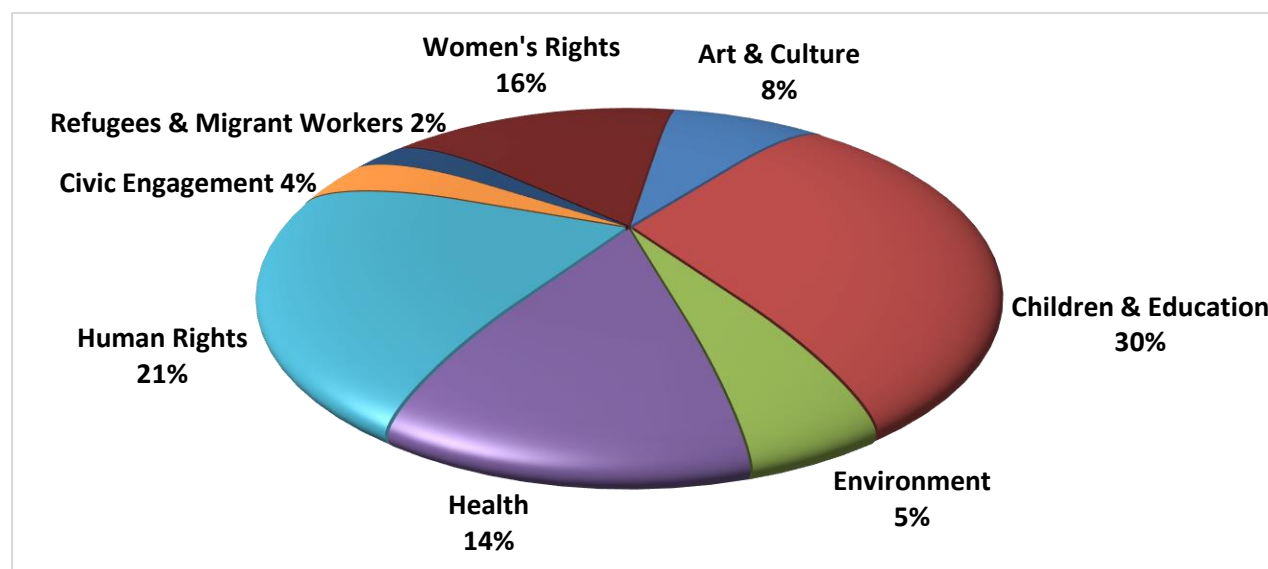
Finally, where possible, we meet grant and post box recipient groups. Trustees visiting Israel-Palestine-Golan include trips (at our own expense) to see projects that we support.



What we give

Successful applicant groups receive a maximum grant of 25,000 shekels per year (its sterling equivalent ranging from £6,000 down to £5,100, depending on Israel's very unstable exchange rate), while donations that we make to general appeals are limited to 5,000 shekels. BSST's own emergency appeals, do not apply a grant cap.

Many organisations are never able to replace our funding, so BSST provides repeat grants year after year. By contrast, for some groups BSST's early support delivers the crucial pump-priming that soon enables them to become independent of our assistance.



BSST Expenditure 2022-23

How we raise funds

BSST has funders and beneficiaries of many backgrounds. Thousands of people 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.

As we have no endowment, every penny we give away we must first raise: our lifeblood is donations. We are immensely grateful to all our supporters, whose generosity enables us to contribute to building a just peace in Israel-Palestine-Golan. This year, major donations to our general funds came from many individuals and the following organisations:

Barham Charitable Trust, Blue Moon Trust, Eleanor Rathbone Trust, Evan Cornish Foundation, IHL Trust, John & Susan Bowers Fund, Just Trust, Open Gate Trust, and two trusts that asked not to be publicly identified.

“being able to support in a small way the vital solidarity of BSST and its partners in Palestine helps lift our spirits a little in dark days.”

— *Message from longstanding BSST supporter and donor*



Why we matter



While we do not promote any specific 'solution' to current inequalities and injustices – that is for the parties involved to negotiate – BSST sees its role as helping people on the ground to create the building blocks for a more humane society and a fair and **lasting peace** between the communities of Israel-Palestine-Golan



BSST has much evidence that we make a **real difference** to the groups we support and to their communities – from project reports, discussions with groups we fund, films, photographs, personal accounts, news stories and visits that we make.



At a purely practical level, if donors wish to reach local campaigners and activists who are trying to strengthen their own communities, then giving to BSST is **simple and effective**. Our trustees have built up specialist knowledge and an extensive network of contacts and are skilled in making informed judgments about groups that other donors might find difficult to evaluate. We have strong relationships with many groups we fund, and we know that overwhelmingly they deliver on the work they have promised.



Our Jewish identity and commitment to a better future for all the people of Israel-Palestine-Golan is important to BSST, but not only to us. Often the groups we work with make it clear that, much as they value our grants, they equally **value who we are** and our aspirations for their lives in the years to come.



Combatants for Peace held a much-delayed olive trees planting in Al-Walajah village near Bethlehem, to honour Jeremy Hardy



Projects BSST supported in 2022-23

AFAQ JADEEDA ASSOCIATION (New Horizons) is a community group serving 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 activities including a kindergarten, library, computer lab, drama space, football team, and summer and winter camps for the most deprived children and their mothers.



The children enjoy a day trip

BSST funded AFAQ JADEEDA's summer programme for 150 four- to five-year-olds, providing fun activities plus free lunches to help with widespread malnutrition. Meanwhile, mothers learned parenting skills and how to support their children through the stress and anxiety caused by Israel's bombing raids.

—facebook.com/afaqjadeeda.association

AFRICAN REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE is an African/Israeli group running tailor-made access courses to degree and vocational training for adult asylum-seekers. In 2022, ARDC amalgamated with SCHOOLHOUSE, a long-time BSST grant recipient and the leading group working with those adult asylum-seekers needing basic education and language skills.

BSST funded what is now ARDC's Schoolhouse Programme, supporting students with limited primary or secondary education from Sudan, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Senegal. Fleeing traumatic violence in their home countries, then finding themselves the target of hostility in Israel, these communities struggle to tackle basic literacy as adults, especially through a second language and foreign culture.

The Schoolhouse Programme is unique, creating educational tools, curriculum content and teacher training designed specifically for asylum-seekers' needs. Its courses include English, Hebrew literacy, computing, video and photo editing, and GED test preparation.



—ardc-israel.org



ARTEAM: THE GARDEN LIBRARY is a welcoming community centre based in south Tel Aviv, where the city's African asylum-seekers and migrant workers live. In an area scarred by decades of deprivation, ARTEAM's Garden Library is an oasis of hope. It provides evening classes and family support for asylum-seeker parents, while their children have a safe space to play and study - an open-air multilingual library and homework area plus many after-school and holiday activities.



"Eliminate educational segregation in Tel Aviv schools"

ARTEAM is at the heart of a massive asylum-seeker parents' campaign against blatant and illegal discrimination: over 90% of their children are hived off into hugely inferior segregated provision rather than being admitted to mainstream schooling. For a third year, BSST supported ARTEAM's Educational Rights Project - demonstrations, legal challenges, media coverage - against what is described as 'Separate but Equal' educational provision - a form of discrimination outlawed in America's south by the US Supreme Court 70 years ago.

—thegardenlibrary.com

AL BUSTAN COMMUNITY CENTRE serves the Jahalin Bedouin who resettled in Jordan near East Jerusalem after being forced from the Negev in the 1950s. In 1967 their new home was occupied by Israel, and, as nearby Israeli settlement Ma'ale Adumim expanded, the community faced repeated eviction. Now the Jahalin's circumstances are wretched, their herding lifestyle and social fabric destroyed.

This devastation has inspired a rare degree-educated Jahalin woman to set up this remarkable community centre. For children it provides a homework space, after-school classes and activities, a summer camp and psychological support, while its training in clothes manufacture means their mothers can achieve some financial independence.

AL BUSTAN is a true 'shoestring' project - running on goodwill, almost no money and a loyal cohort of Israeli and international student volunteers from anti-Occupation Israeli group, Achvat Amim. BSST previously helped fund a new building for the Centre; this time, we paid for English language classes for the children.

—facebook.com/bustankindergarten





DOMARI SOCIETY OF GYPSIES IN JERUSALEM serves one of Israel-Palestine's smallest communities. In 1967 45,000 Domari fled from what was Jordan, and now only about 2,000 remain in East Jerusalem, plus 20-30,000 elsewhere in the West Bank and in Gaza.

Though always 'outsiders', the Domari have lived in Jerusalem for eight centuries. Traditional, poor, nearly invisible, and with minimal education, their disadvantage is cemented by hostility from those around them. Domari men struggle to get work, and women are trapped by economic dependency and male violence. Meanwhile, bullied at school and often lacking parental support, children abandon education early.

The DOMARI SOCIETY's welcoming Centre provides homework space and after-school tutoring for children, plus literacy courses and vocational training – hairdressing, catering, sewing – for adult women. BSST helped fund tuition in core subjects – English, Arabic, Maths, and, for the first time, Hebrew – along with tram fares and a meal for each child. Take-up figures show that previous parental disinterest and hostility is shrinking.



—domarisociety.com

FREDDIE KRIVINE INITIATIVE (FKI) was created by Israeli Jewish tennis enthusiasts who use their sporting passion to challenge Israel's ethnically divided and discriminatory society. For over twenty years they have been bringing tennis to Palestinian schools across Israel – as healthy physical activity, a base for improving participants' job chances, and a means for starting to connect Jewish and Palestinian children across the vast educational, economic, social, ethnic and political gulf that separates them.



FKI's longest-running project is in the Palestinian coastal village of Jisr al Zarqa – a beautiful location, yet a place of extreme poverty; minimal work prospects; a mere 22% of young people graduating from high school; widespread alcohol and drug addiction, and terrifying gun crime – where few Jewish organisations venture. Yet FKI is always present, recruiting hundreds of Palestinian children into tennis programmes, and tackling their wider social and safety needs: organising homework clubs, language lessons, community events, Jewish and Palestinian children's meetings. BSST again helped fund FKI's after-school work.

—fkf-tennis.org



GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTIVE (GSC) is a group based in the South Hebron Hills, opposing home demolition, supporting villages under attack, planting olive trees, running a guesthouse, beekeeping, and holding workshops on Bedouin history and culture. BSST provided GSC with its Post Box service.

—goodshepherdcollective.org

HAIFA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES (HACD) is a Gaza-based project, supporting children with Type 1 (insulin dependent) diabetes who live outside the refugee camps, for whom the Palestinian Ministry of Health, not UNWRA, is responsible.

As the Ministry's support is nowhere near sufficient, volunteer-run HACD helps fill the gap in supplies of insulin injection pens, testing strips and glucometers. It also teaches families how to manage insulin-dependent diabetes and provides psychological support. BSST paid for clinical supplies.

—facebook.com/hacdhaifa



HEBRON INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES NETWORK (HIRN) is an audacious Palestinian group that BSST has supported for many years. HIRN develops local projects in the West Bank areas of harshest Israeli Occupation: Hebron City and surrounding villages, and the settlement-dominated Gush Etzion area.

A typical HIRN project was that supporting Ras al-Tin, an entire Bedouin community forced out of the South Hebron Hills by settler and IDF terror. Using two grants - from BSST and the Irish Teachers Union – HIRN was able to make the access road for Ras al-Tin's new location usable, so its children could reach their school.

HIRN also used funds BSST had collected in memory of Jeremy Hardy to plant grape vines with Tent of Nations.

—friendsofhirn.wordpress.com

Starting work on the road to Ras al-Tin



HUMANS WITHOUT BORDERS (HWB) is an Israeli Jewish volunteer group supporting West Bank and Gazan Palestinian families whose children need advanced medical treatment in hospitals in Israel or in occupied East Jerusalem. HWB volunteers drive these sick children to and from checkpoints and treatment centres, help with language and cultural difficulties by liaising between hospital staff and Palestinian family members, visit when the children become in-patients, and help cover accompanying relatives' expenses - food, lodgings, etc.



“ I counted the minutes until I could start giving rides and help ease the ongoing suffering and trauma of my Palestinian brothers and sisters. ”

— Alexandra Klein-Franke,
HWB Volunteer

Every year, HWB's volunteers make around 6,000 road trips, supporting over 100 families. At the same time, the organisation has expanded its fundraising to pay for essential medical costs – medical equipment, medicines, routine hospital charges – which the Palestinian Authority increasingly refuses to cover.

—humans-without-borders.org



Marathon Race: fundraiser for Women Without Status project

ISHA L'ISHA – HAIFA FEMINIST CENTRE is the oldest grassroots feminist organisation in Israel. For a third year, BSST provided core funding for its *Women without Status* project – helping victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, undocumented workers, and women whose legal or financial status is dependent on their relationship with an Israeli man.

Mostly the project supports Eastern European, Palestinian, African and Asian women: they don't qualify for state health or welfare services, lack employment and other civil rights, and are at high risk of sexual and domestic violence. Fearing deportation or separation from their children, their dealings with police and immigration are often traumatising. The project runs a 24-hour helpline, teaches women their rights, provides emergency finance for food, rent, even abortions, and helps them develop skills, especially Hebrew language competence, to improve their employability.

—facebook.com/IshaLishaHaifaFeministCenter



ISRAEL SOCIAL TV (ISTV) is a web-based group, using the short-film format to cover stories rarely reported by Israel's press and television, such as the Occupation, asylum seekers, the environment, the Nakba, LGBTQ+ rights and racism. ISTV is the only independent alternative visual-media organisation in Israel-Palestine. It has a 5000+ film archive, and reaches some 100,000 viewers monthly in Israel-Palestine-Golan and abroad.



Still from Justice Against Saeed, an ISTV report describing what happened in court to a Palestinian permanently disabled after a beating by young Jewish thugs

ISTV has frequently been fiercely attacked by the Israeli state. Most recently the government precipitated a financial crisis for the group by barring payment due from a publicly funded community tv channel, while also discouraging Israeli donors by withdrawing tax benefits. Alongside Covid's impact, these hostile actions have forced ISTV into a major strategic rethink. BSST concluded that the group was responding constructively to its difficulties, and needed our support as never before, so again made a core funding grant.

—tv.social.org.il

JAHALIN SOLIDARITY (JS) is a Palestinian project challenging Israel's settler-expansionist policy for East Jerusalem and the surrounding area. This policy includes targeting Palestinian residents for forcible displacement, thus enabling new housing for Israeli Jewish citizens to be built. JS focuses especially on the Jahalin Bedouin, supporting their struggle against forced transfer from the homes they have lived in for the last sixty years. BSST provided its Post Box service.



—jahalin.org *Bedouin children going to a school threatened with demolition*

KOTOF ELKHAIR ASSOCIATION is a community group in the central Gaza city of Deir el-Balah. Its impressive range of services and activities include cultural events, a safe space for children to play and learn, women's rights workshops, disability training for families in supporting their relatives, medical days when local people can access free healthcare, children's summer camps and humanitarian aid.



BSST has previously assisted KOTOF in a variety of projects. With untreated health issues in Gaza being a major concern, this time BSST funded sight tests for five hundred six- to nine-year-olds, 120 of whom then received prescription glasses.

—facebook.com/kotofAssociation



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



However, without culturally sensitive Arabic language provision, for many years LADA'AT was pretty much inaccessible to Palestinian women. This situation transformed after a 2018 visit by BSST trustees to discuss the issue. LADA'AT devised a BSST-funded project, including translating its website, and providing face-to-face and phone counselling in Arabic.

The immediate positive response by Palestinian women quickly led to the creation of an 'Arabic Department'. This provides a full portfolio of services, including Palestinian-run sex education within some East Jerusalem schools. LADA'AT and its users are delighted with the success and achievements of its Arab language services.

“ We found a void of accessible information in Arabic, presenting an incredible opportunity to make a real difference. It is truly a privilege that Arabic-speaking women in East Jerusalem have chosen to trust in us. ”

—ladaat.org.il/en

AL MARSAD – ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, established twenty years ago, is the only Syrian human rights group in occupied Golan.

When Israel captured Golan from Syria in 1967, 90% of residents fled and their villages were obliterated. In 1981 Israel formally annexed Golan, treating it since as part of the Israeli state, with its remaining Syrian population an oppressed second class: forced into cramped multi-story blocks, while Israeli settlers have spacious homes; receiving education which ignores Syrian history and culture; denied equal access to land and water; seeing an invasion of unwanted oil exploration. Now some 28,000 Syrians live on 5% of Golan's territory, with 25,000 Israeli settlers living in the other 95%.

Israel's annexation forced AL MARSAD to register as an Israeli NGO, meaning it could never access the EU financial support available to occupied Palestinian organisations. Yet, through great commitment and professionalism, the group succeeds in delivering valuable services to its Syrian population. These include advocacy, legal support, local and international lobbying and campaigning, cultural enrichment, and educational activities to contest Israel's discriminatory policies, preserve Syrian-Arab identity in the Golan and remind the world of Israel's forgotten occupation. As before, BSST provided a core grant and its Post Box service.



The Israeli army patrols the fence separating the Occupied Syrian Golan from the rest of Syria

—golan-marsad.org



NA'AM – ARAB WOMEN IN THE CENTRE tackles some of the biggest problems for Palestinian society in Israel: ballooning levels of violent crime, especially internal Palestinian-community gender-based violence against women, and the failure of the Israeli state to deal with it.

NA'AM mostly serves poorer Arabic-speaking women in central Israel's mixed Arab-Jewish cities. It runs a walk-in centre where casework includes helping threatened and abused women file complaints, relocate from dangerous homes, and eventually become financially independent. It also supports surviving family members when a woman is murdered.



Images from Na'am's workshops on self-defence for girls. The workshops were run in conjunction with the Department of Social Services

However, NA'AM's clients rarely get legal redress. Complaints from Palestinian women citizens of Israel are mostly ignored or closed after minimal investigation, in stark contrast to those of Jewish victims. So NA'AM also operates strategically: working with police and judges to change attitudes and practice; advising local councils; lobbying the Knesset to improve victims' protection; training social workers; organising protests; and producing Arabic-language materials on tackling gender-based violence. BSST gave its first grant – for core funding.

—awc-naam.com

NEGEV COEXISTENCE FORUM (NCF) is the only grassroots Jewish/Palestinian organisation campaigning for Bedouin communities' human and civil rights in the Negev/Naqab.

250,000 Bedouin live in the huge desert area, with over half having already been forced into government-built towns, so freeing their land for Jewish farming and residency. Yet many still resist compulsory urbanisation. Despite being denied basic infrastructure – water, electricity, roads, schools, healthcare – tens of thousands of Bedouin still inhabit traditional herding communities in thirty-five 'unrecognised' and eleven newly recognised villages.

Central to NCF's work is opposing the Israeli state's constant destruction of the unrecognised villages, helping some residents rebuild dozens of times. Each demolition means total exposure of old and young, sick and frail, to freezing cold or extreme heat. Demolitions even took place during COVID lockdown, when Bedouin, like all Israeli citizens, were supposed to be staying indoors. BSST provided NCF with core funding.



In 2022 there were 2,745 home demolitions in the Negev/Naqab

—dukium.org



NEW PROFILE is a feminist group opposed to the state's glorification of military service that stretches from kindergarten throughout Israeli children's lives.

Not entering the army can blight education and job prospects. Even so, about half of 18-year-olds 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 NEW PROFILE says widespread sexual harassment reinforces gender inequality, while soldiers from poor families often get the worst postings, ensuring continuing disadvantage when their service ends. The group gives free counselling to some 1000 teenagers facing the draft each year, legal help, and specialist anti-militarism training for those working with young people. It also cooperates with 'refusenik' and other anti-military groups. BSST provided its Post Box service.



—newprofile.org

AL NOUR ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT provides health, social and humanitarian support to the population of Deir al-Balah, a sizeable town in central Gaza. Every year it runs a summer camp with art, theatre, sport and general play activities, this time for a hundred children aged 4 to 6 years. AL NOUR is distinctive for its commitment to 'positive social integration of children with disabilities into the mainstream, and to relieving emotional and behavioural disturbances'.



Mothers also take part in the camp activities, as well as special parent sessions where they learn to understand and cope with their children's problems, whether caused by disabilities or by the trauma of repeated military assaults on Gaza. AL NOUR reports that the camp is hugely popular, with families always wanting it to be extended. BSST provided core funding.

PALESTINE ETHAR ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ETHAR) is a newly established community group in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza. Working with kindergartens, schools and other grassroots community projects, it provides psychosocial services and food support for families struggling with poverty and the traumatic impact of IDF attacks. BSST funded a mix of fun activities and psychological support for 160 traumatised children, along with group sessions teaching 240 mothers how to help their children deal with crises.

—etharps.net





PALESTINE AL GHAD SCHOOL is a crucial innovator in a society that has rarely recognised the need for tailor-made educational provision for children with disabilities. Located in Nuseirat Refugee Camp in mid Gaza, it is the first school licensed by the Palestinian authorities to provide special needs education along with the Palestinian core curriculum.

AL GHAD serves over 150 children with learning difficulties, preparing them to live as full members of the wider community, including holding down jobs. Along with educational and psychological support for the children, the group provides specialist advice and training to their teachers, and awareness sessions for families and for the local community.



As Gaza is plagued by a very limited and irregular mains electricity supply, AL GHAD sought BSST's help to provide an alternative – solar powered - energy unit, so it could deliver continuous education, even during periods of electricity failure.

—facebook.com/alghadschool2006

RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (RHR) opposes the Israeli occupation, and works to protect and renew Palestinian olive trees. RHR was delighted to receive funds for olive tree planting – the final tranche of the money we collected in memory of comedian Jeremy Hardy.



—rhr.org.il



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (RWA) works in the villages of the South Hebron Hills, within 'Area C' of the West Bank which is entirely subject to Israel's control. For the last thirty years, Israel has used repeated home demolitions to try to force residents out. So far, these tactics have largely failed in the face of fierce women-led resistance from local groups like the RWA plus international pressure.

Along with fighting to stay put, the RWA runs projects aimed at providing job opportunities for the village women, as well as education and leisure activities for the children. These include handicrafts, poultry and beekeeping; children's summer camps; a transport service so older children reach school safe from settler attack, and nursery provision for the youngest ones.

This year BSST paid for summer camps providing fun activities and healthy lunches for over a hundred children spread across three Bedouin villages.



—theruralwomenassociation.wordpress.com

SADAKA REUT – ARAB JEWISH PARTNERSHIP brings Palestinian and Jewish young people together to create social and political change. Focusing on marginalized groups – Bedouin Palestinians, Ethiopian, Russian and Mizrahi Jews – it is active in universities where Jewish/Palestinian student interaction is rare.

Promoting 'a shared society based on equality, solidarity, and justice', SADAKA REUT confronts issues of conflict and unequal power.

Previously, BSST provided several years pump priming finance. Now we continue to provide our Post Box service.

“ One cannot ask for freedom and equality for a specific group alone. We either fight for all or we are hypocrites. ”

We must recognize and address the wrongdoings of the past and work to mend them if we want to be able to move forward.

—facebook.com/sadakareut

SOLIDARITY ARTS, ACTIVISM & HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION unites art with commitment to social justice via its annual *Solidarity Festival* held in Tel Aviv's Cinematheque. Here, Israel's only totally trilingual festival – in Arabic, Hebrew and English – shows films tackling globalisation, climate change and many human rights issues. The festival includes debates with film-makers and a competition.



'A Safe Place' is a drama created by the children of refugees and migrant workers. The film was chosen to represent Israel at the Children's Film Festival in Venice. The students could not attend as they do not have passports; they were able to see it at Solidarity's screening.

Its parallel programme, *Solidarity in the Periphery*, provides free screenings, workshops and discussions in disadvantaged and remote areas, like the Negev's unrecognised Bedouin villages and Arab/Jewish towns such as Acre, Lod, Maarlot -Tarshiha and Ramle. In these places, it especially looks to ensure women and children are in its audiences. BSST provided core funding.

—solidaritytlv.org



SUNBULA FAIR TRADE ORGANISATION supports especially deprived and marginalised communities in the West Bank/East Jerusalem and within Israel's Palestinian population. Members of SUNBULA's 25 supported producer groups benefit from its training in craft skills, product development and marketing. Meanwhile, SUNBULA sells the groups' very high-quality artisan produce in its fair-trade shops and on-line. By incorporating disappearing techniques in craft production today, SUNBULA also revitalises Palestinian cultural heritage.

SUNBULA managed a BSST grant for two groups. It paid the rent on a sewing workshop used by 36 Hebron women – mostly family breadwinners – so they could rebuild their fine embroidery business after Covid. It also covered transport costs for the Oasis Centre, a project in Beit Sahour teaching adults with special needs skills such as hand-silk-screening textiles, recycling paper-crafts, and candle-making.

—sunbula.org



AL TAFAWK CENTRE is a supplementary school and community centre serving the most deprived children in Jenin Refugee Camp. Most pupils come from extreme poverty. With homes unable to provide even basic shelter, and bread the only food, its pupils mostly live on the streets. Girls especially have little to look forward to, being pressured to marry young and become housewives and mothers.

Though the children attend UN schools, the education provided is poor. The Centre redresses its deficiencies, supporting children up to 16 in English, maths, Arabic, science, art, music and sport, while 3 to 6-year-olds enjoy the Camp's only kindergarten. The Centre also offers safety and ensures each child receives a daily hot meal and is properly clothed.

—instagram.com/altafawkcenter

TENT OF NATIONS (ToN) is a Palestinian Christian project uniting volunteers from many countries, cultures and religions in peace-building and non-violent resistance. At its core is Daher's Vineyard, a family-run organic farm near Bethlehem, where volunteers come to support the farm's owners.

For three decades the Israeli state has challenged the family's fully-documented legal ownership of the land, with family members unable to leave the farm unattended lest it is seized by the IDF. Their



peaceful resistance hasn't always prevented ruthless IDF destruction of crops and orchards – 1,500 young fruit trees were once wiped out in a single assault. However, so far, the owners have managed to stay put and repair Israeli destruction, continuing to live by and share their motto 'We Refuse to be Enemies'.

BSST gave part of the outstanding sum it had collected in memory of Jeremy Hardy – comedian and friend of BSST and of the Palestinian cause – to enable HIRN and ToN to plant grape vines. BSST also provided its Post Box service, as it has for many years.

—tentofnations.com



Cactus Mural, 2022, by Sobhiya Hassan Qais. From the show: "خشين" ("Rough"), curated by Farid Abu Shakra, Balqis Gallery, Nazareth

—tohumagazine.com

TOHU MAGAZINE is a young arts organisation with an international editorial board of Palestinians and Jews. It organises film screenings, workshops, and talks, but its core project is a free online magazine. Produced in Arabic, Hebrew and English, it focuses on work from Israel-Palestine while situating itself within the wider Middle East.

Though it encounters many obstacles in recruiting Palestinian contributors, TOHU continues to encourage a wide range of young writers and showcases visual content created by Palestinian, Israeli and international artists. BSST provided core funding to further develop the Arabic section of the magazine.

“ There is lack of supporting budgets, networking, encouragement of art in the local Palestinian educational environment, and the overall cultural disenfranchising atmosphere inside the Green Line. ”

— TOHU on the difficulty of recruiting Palestinian contributors

VILLAGES GROUP is a small Jewish-Palestinian group long supported by BSST. It works in the South Hebron Hills and near Nablus, and is deeply involved in the Palestinian villagers' struggles to educate their children, prevent their land being seized and stop their homes being destroyed.

This year, BSST provided its Post Box service, plus two small grants for the VILLAGES GROUP to manage. One helped cover salary costs for Huda's Kindergarten, in Khashem al-Daraj, an isolated south Hebron Bedouin village. Immensely popular, it serves some fifty children – from the village and surrounding hills – ensuring they enter primary school with a flying start



The other grant was emergency funding to enable a family whose home had been destroyed in the Massafer Yatta area – where Israel is trying to expel all Palestinian residents – to stay put by relocating into a local cave. BSST's grant meant the cave could be made both habitable and comfortable.

—villagesgroup.wordpress.com



VISION ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (VACA) is a school in the East Jerusalem suburbs whose education methods are designed to support marginalised children who are ‘caught in the crosshairs of the Israeli occupation’.

The school’s ‘trauma-informed’ approach recognises how traumatic childhood events, such as war, occupation and poverty can wreak havoc on children’s mental and physical health. It therefore emphasises compassion, non-violence and holistic learning. Pupils learn coping skills, using art and music expression, therapeutic body movement, and other activities which build their self-esteem.

BSST helped fund a three-day cross-cultural and cross-border intensive teacher training course, introducing trauma-informed teaching methods to learner teachers both from Palestine and from Israel.



—houseofhope.vision



Resting under a tree while escorting Palestinian shepherds

WOMEN’S FUND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – MACHSOM (CHECKPOINT) WATCH is an Israeli all-volunteer women’s organisation. Set up in 2001, the group publicises how the Israeli state uses checkpoints, military courts and blacklists to prevent Palestinians in the West Bank having freedom of movement and any kind of normal life. In recent years, the group has increasingly focused on Palestinian shepherding communities in the Jordan Valley: 20,000 of the poorest people in Israel-Palestine are constantly subject to shocking threats and actual violence from Israeli settlers and the IDF, aiming to expel them from their land and homes.

MACHSOM WATCH volunteers regularly travel to the Jordan Valley to escort shepherds as they take their flocks to graze. Often, they spend nights with the mothers and children and, when needed, they drive families to get medical care. To offer respite, the group also takes women and children to the sea or to nearby springs. BSST paid for transport costs.

“As older women, we have gained access to these communities through connections built over years. With a continuous presence we can help deter some settler violence. By escorting the shepherds, we help the Palestinians maintain their livelihood and access to grazing.”

We also raise awareness about the tragic situation in the Jordan Valley on social media and by sending reports to government, press and diplomats.

—machsomwatch.org/en



YOUTH OF SUMUD (YoS) is a grassroots group in the South Hebron Hills, a community at the forefront of settler aggression. Along with Palestinians, Jewish and international activists, YoS seeks to protect villages from settler attacks through strategic peaceful resistance, 'direct action', planting, creating beauty, rebuilding.

BSST gave YoS funding for such 'direct action' – creating a "*Mothers of Sumud Garden*" in Tuwani village to protect the land from confiscation, give children somewhere safe to play, and provide a space for village women to spend time together. YoS proudly presented BSST with photos of their precious new communal garden. However, with the very idea of 'peaceful resistance' being entirely alien to the settlers and their IDF protectors, it was desperately sad, but not surprising, to receive this message a few months later:



"Last night, extremist Israeli settlers sneaked in the Freedom Garden, destroyed and uprooted about 146 trees of different kinds (olives, grapes, figs, almonds, cacti) and some vegetables, thyme and sage.

This is the fifth attack during the past two years".

“ We are still struggling with the extremist settlers, they destroyed the trees and demolished part of the stone wall, and attacked my dad in the garden while we were planting trees. My Dad was lucky to survive – they broke both his arms. Then he was put in jail for one week. ”

Such destruction is all too normal for the West Bank, but 'Sumud' means 'steadfastness' and YoS said:

“ We are starting again and again to rebuild our garden and we will keep going. ”

—facebook.com/youthofsumud

+972 MAGAZINE is a free online publication owned by Israeli and Palestinian journalists committed to ending the Occupation, advancing human rights, and challenging the Israel- Palestine discourse,



including reporting those voices overlooked by mainstream media.

It has around a million annual readers and an international impact: the New York Times, CNN, the Guardian, BBC, and Le Monde Diplomatique pick up its carefully researched stories and regularly interview its writers, while embassies often request briefings. BSST provided its Post Box service.

—972mag.com

A view of the Tunnels Road in the occupied West Bank, built to connect Gush Etzion with Jerusalem. (Oren Ziv). From +972 article 'How to establish a new settlement without the world noticing'.



Children from the West Bank on a seaside trip organised by Israeli women's group Min El Bahar

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 30th November 2023 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 2023.

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 Hendrick FCA
14 Park Crescent
London N3 2NJ

30th November 2023



Accounts for the Year Ending 28 February 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		2022-23			2021-22		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income							
Donations received		115,794	69,907	185,701	158,540	72,800	231,340
Gift Aid on donations		1,716	345	2,061	2,061	770	2,831
Bank interest		65	-	65	2	-	2
Total income		117,575	70,252	187,827	160,603	73,570	234,173
Expenditure							
Charitable Activities	2	114,855	76,417	191,272	145,160	68,657	213,817
Publicity/Fundraising	3	772	-	772	1,019	-	1,019
Administration	4	134	-	134	270	-	270
Total Expenditure		115,761	76,417	192,178	146,449	68,657	215,106
Net income / (expenditure)		1,814	(6,165)	(4,351)	14,154	4,913	19,067
Reconciliation of funds							
Funds brought forward		73,067	16,651	89,718	58,913	11,738	70,651
Funds carried forward		74,881	10,486	85,367	73,067	16,651	89,718

BALANCE SHEET

		As at 28 February 2023	
	Note	28/2/2023 £	28/2/2022 £
Assets			
Cash at bank		80,888	84,011
HMRC Gift Aid		4,479	2,418
Debtors	5	-	3,289
Total Assets		85,367	89,718
Reconciliation of funds			
Unrestricted funds		74,881	73,067
Restricted funds		10,486	16,651
Total Charity Funds		85,367	89,718



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 2019 and applicable accounting standards.

	2022-23			2021-22		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2 Charitable activities						
Grants made	114,150	76,417	190,567	144,210	68,657	212,867
Direct bank charges	705	-	705	950	-	950
	114,855	76,417	191,272	145,160	68,657	213,817
3 Publicity / Fundraising						
Fundraising	55	-	55	93	-	93
Printing postage stationery	320	-	320	590	-	590
Publicity & Website	397	-	397	336	-	336
	772	-	772	1,019	-	1,019
4 Administration						
Bank charges	134	-	134	78	-	78
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	192	-	192
	134	-	134	270	-	270

- 5 Debtors**
One payment could not be processed by a foreign intermediary bank. It was returned in 2022/23.

- 6 Trustee expenses**
There were no expenses paid to trustees in either 2022/23 or 2021/22.

7 Restricted Funds (including Post Boxes)	1/3/22	Income	Expenditure	28/2/23
Children's Fund	19	25,225	23,603	1,641
Gaza Fund	0	137	0	137
Olive Grove Fund	3,289	0	3,289	0
+972 Magazine	192	5,357	4,400	1,149
Christian Peacemaker Teams - CPT	725	0	0	725
Good Shepherd Collective	1,112	3,882	2,370	2,624
Hebron International Resource Network - HIRN	0	320	320	0
Jahalin Solidarity	562	2,712	2,060	1,214
Al Marsad – Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights	0	7,500	7,500	0
New Profile	0	15,000	15,000	0
Physicians for Human Rights, PHR-I	0	125	0	125
Sadaka Reut	0	7,000	7,000	0
St. John's Eye Hospital	375	375	0	750
Tent Of Nations	9,002	970	9,000	972
Tent Of Nations UK Friends - FOTON	1,000	0	1,000	0
Villages Group	375	1,650	875	1,150
Total	16,651	70,253	76,417	10,487



Notes to the Accounts (continued)

8 Grants and Post Box Transfers Made

Organisation	£000s	Organisation	£000s
Afaq Jadeeda Association	5	New Profile	15
African Refugee Development Center	5	Al Nour Association for Community Development	5
Arteam Garden Library	6	Palestine Ethar Association for Community Development	5
Al Bustan Community Centre	5	Palestine Al Ghad School	5
Domari Society	4	Rabbis for Human Rights	2
Freddie Krivine Initiative	6	Rural Women's Association	5
Good Shepherd Collective	2	Sadaka Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership	7
Haifa Association for Children With Diabetes	5	Solidarity Arts, Activism & Human Rights Association	5
Hebron International Resources Network - HIRN	5	Sunbula Fair Trade Organisation	5
Humans without Borders	5	Al Tafawk Centre	5
Isha L'Isha	5	Tent of Nations	10
Israel Social TV	6	Tohu Magazine	6
Jahalin Solidarity	2	Villages Group	6
Kotof El Khair Associaion	5	Vision Association for Culture and Arts	2
Lada'at	5	Women's Fund for Human Rights - Machsom Watch	5
Al Marsad – Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights	13	Youth of Sumud	5
Na'am Arab Women in the Centre	5	+972 Magazine	4
Negev Coexistence Forum	5		



Family separation – a Syrian woman uses a megaphone to speak to her relatives across the fence that separates occupied Syrian Golan from the rest of Syria (Al Marsad)

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	28 Huddleston Road, London N7 0AG
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

- ✿ **Dr David Sperlinger** retired Clinical Psychologist (Trustee for Income Generation)
- ✿ **Annabelle Sreberny** Emeritus Professor of Media and Communication (died December 2022)
- ✿ **Colin Wainwright** IT specialist (Treasurer)
- ✿ **Clare Ungerson** Emeritus Professor of Social Policy (resigned December 2022)
- ✿ **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 | ✿ Professor Avi Shlaim |
| ✿ Rabbi Jeffrey Newman | ✿ Dame Janet Suzman |
| ✿ Professor Susie Orbach | ✿ Zoë Wanamaker CBE |
| ✿ Rabbi Danny Rich | |

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.

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NOT
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