



# British Shalom-Salaam Trust

Crossing Borders for Peace

## Annual Report & Accounts

March 2024 – February 2025

## From Our Chair

### Tragedy – and determination - in Gaza

I write this to you, heartbroken at the constant stream of news from Gaza, each tragedy seeming to compete for the worst ever.

Despite repeated displacements of the population of Gaza, we have managed to maintain contact with our grantees there. We are pleased with our success. We have learned that a couple of projects could not go on, but more have continued doing what they do best, providing for local people's needs and being central to their communities' *sumud* – *steadfastness* – and survival.

*Kotof*, whom we have supported over the years, asked for money for their delightfully named project, 'Smiles in the Time of Crisis', the money being used for entertainment by their irrepressible clowns and actors within shelters and displacement centres, and for the increasingly needed psychological support. *The Haifa Association for children with Diabetes* somehow were able to buy insulin for however many children with Type 1 Diabetes they could still find. A BSST grant enabled them to buy glucose testing strips, a vital aid in managing their condition.

That 'Day After' which I wrote about last year is still tantalisingly and horrendously out of reach, but we have ringfenced funding specifically to support the people of Gaza in reestablishing their lives.

### Misery – and resilience - in the West Bank

Meanwhile, since October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, the West Bank has suffered from increasing attacks by settlers and the IDF on residents, their homes, their flocks, their olive trees. Families have been forced to flee and whole villages have been emptied.

We have made several grants to our partners in the West Bank. The small group of Israeli volunteers, who are the Villages Group, for years have befriended communities in the Masaffer Yatta region who are resisting expulsion. They have increased their visits from once a week to 3 or 4 per week. They sit and listen to the residents' terrible stories and their acts of resistance; they try to comfort them; they photograph the results of settler attacks, sometimes even witnessing them during their visits. We have sent funding for the Villages Group team to use for vital supplies to the traumatised villagers and for replacement of essential household items wantonly destroyed in the attacks. The courage of this group, some quite elderly, is wonderful.

*Al Tafawk* is the sole supplementary school and kindergarten in Jenin Refugee Camp. We have helped it as it rebuilds itself and its services over and over after destructive IDF assaults.

### Passion for a just future – in Palestine and Israel

In Israel, where even families of hostages are abused and attacked, our grantees retain all their campaigning passion to work for equality and human rights.

The courage of all our partners, whom we celebrate in our report, helps and inspires us, in the safety of our homes, to continue what we do. And that, of course, is thanks to you, our many supporters, who generously donate to us. **THANK YOU** all of you. **WE WILL NOT GIVE UP.**



Dr Gill Yudkin  
Chair, BSST

June 2025





## 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 additional 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 the many groups tackling contentious issues and those often overlooked by major funders.

We don't seek out beneficiaries: they find us, mostly by word of mouth, occasionally via internet searches. The result is our very eclectic portfolio: around 750 grants have gone to some 200 organisations since BSST began its work in 2004.

Most grants go to Palestinian, Jewish and joint groups, but currently we also support East Jerusalem gypsies, Syrians in Golan and African asylum-seekers.



'Security' at Qalqilya, Photo N Wayne

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 all Palestinian refugees must be a key part of any just peace settlement. However, with our limited resources, BSST has to restrict its grant-giving to people and projects within Israel-Palestine-Golan.



## 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 that 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 is a virtual organisation, without employees or 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.



*The wall next door, Photo N Wayne*

**BSST grantee groups** are a great mix. Many employ paid staff and possess Israeli or Palestinian legal status analogous to that of British charities. However, we also work with informal, entirely volunteer groups with minimal infrastructure that are the most likely to struggle for mainstream funding.

Applicants do need internet access, but as we have been contacted successfully by tented desert communities with neither mains electricity, nor wifi, we are confident our online reliance is no obstacle, even to very deprived or isolated groups.

**Our application process** is simple: we, provide an online, user-friendly application form, take requests year-round and make decisions in weeks. BSST is also equally willing to provide core and project costs, which is greatly valued by grantees as core funds are often the most difficult kind of grant income to secure from donors.

**Due diligence** is especially important for BSST as our 'arms-length' consideration and approval of groups takes place at several thousand miles distance. We have therefore devised and operate careful and appropriate **evaluation policies and procedures**.

These include checking applications against our own policy criteria, and using external sources – newspaper and magazine articles, the groups' internet presence, and direct briefings from other organisations and individuals that we know in Israel-Palestine-Golan. We have also designed report-back procedures for the end of each funding period, using a short standard form adjusted individually for each project.

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 we support.

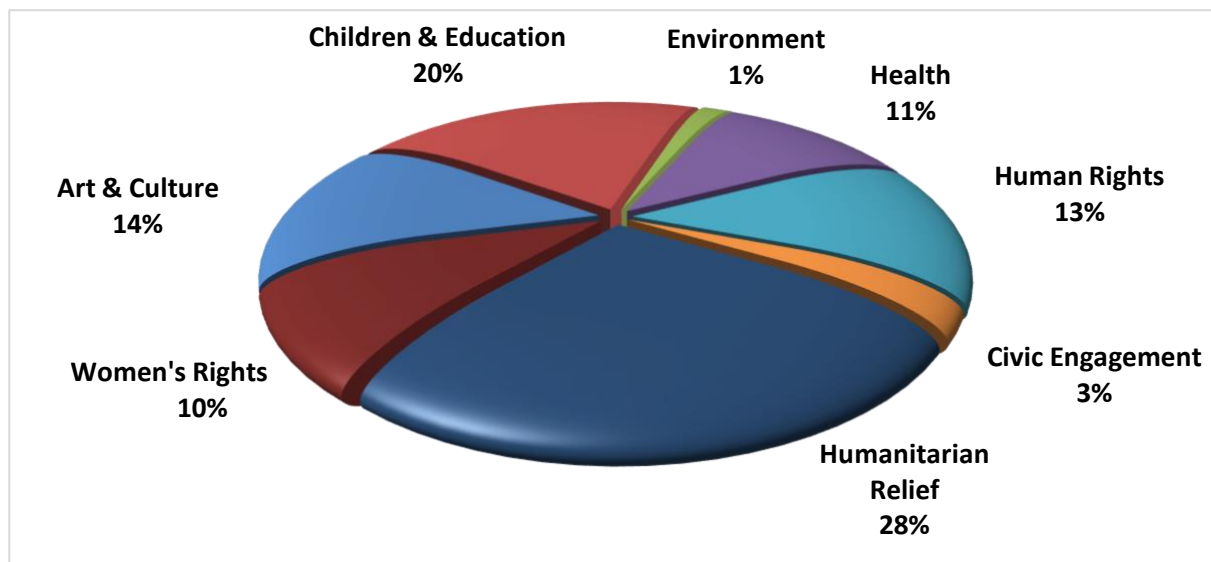


## What we give

In 2024-25 successful applicant groups normally received a maximum grant of 30,000 shekels per year (its sterling equivalent ranging from £5,700 to £6,700, depending on very volatile exchange rates), while our current limit on donations we make to general appeals is about 5,000 shekels. BSST's own emergency appeals are not limited in any way.

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 eventually enables them to become independent of our assistance.

Our pie chart below gives a broad picture of the way our grant-giving divided up this year. BSST generally seeks to support projects which try to create new hope for the lives of their participants and beneficiaries rather than tackle sudden lack of food for humans or animals, or immediate homelessness. However, in 2024 we were forced to act differently, especially in the West Bank, where we felt we had to respond to ever-increasing house demolitions and pogrom-like settler vandalism and violence, all of which destroyed the essentials of life. This meant that the category 'humanitarian relief' - where the aim is to repair damage and address immediate wants – accounted for the largest total amount we donated.



BSST Expenditure 2024-25

## 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 assist those local organisations seeking in many ways to build 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, CB&HH Taylor 1984 Trust, Eleanor Rathbone Trust, Funderbirds, John & Susan Bowers Fund, Leri Charitable Trust and two trusts that asked not to be publicly identified.





## Why we matter



BSST does not promote any specific 'solution' to current, indeed, escalating injustices and oppression; we believe that is for the parties involved to negotiate. BSST sees its own role as helping people on the ground 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 in Israel-Palestine-Golan 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.



Children in Gaza in happier times: a summer camp run by Future Association for Development & the Environment



## Projects BSST supported in 2024-25



**AROUS ELBAHAR (Bride of the Sea)** is a Jaffa-based Palestinian women's group. It tackles the huge social problems – domestic violence, unemployment, low educational achievement, crime, slum housing, drugs, single-parenthood and lack of women's economic independence – hidden behind the touristy glitz of the city's re-developed port area. Nearly 60% of Palestinian families in Jaffa live in severe poverty, with women suffering double discrimination.

This year AROUS ELBAHAR maintained its successful sewing and shop businesses enabling their women workers both to earn and to promote the organisation. Its busy free legal aid clinic continued handling problems specifically relating to Jaffa women's lives, especially employment and family problems, gender-based violence and sexual abuse. And it continued its courses for women and girls in financial literacy, coding and computing. It also launched a new Women's Business Development Programme, 'Women to Women,' where up to 100 aspiring, new and established local Palestinian businesswomen will support and mentor each other. BSST contributed to the cost of the new programme.

—facebook.com/arous.elbahar.jaffa

**ARTEAM GARDEN LIBRARY** is a welcoming community centre in south Tel Aviv, where most of the city's African asylum-seekers and migrant workers live. Amongst great 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 multi-lingual library and homework area plus many after-school and holiday activities.



ARTEAM is at the heart of a major asylum-seeker parents' campaign against their children being sent – illegally – to hugely inferior segregated schools and kindergartens rather than mainstream services. BSST again supported ARTEAM's 'Educational Rights Project' - demonstrations, legal challenges, media coverage - against 'separate but equal' educational provision – a form of discrimination outlawed in the US seventy years ago.

—thegardenlibrary.com





**FRAGMENTS THEATRE** connects artists with each other, the local community, other art scenes in Palestine and with the outside world. Based in Jenin City, it provides a relatively safe space for children, women and young people to learn to express themselves via art and culture. It encourages artistic skills development and even enables some users to launch creative careers. In a city frequently targeted by Israel's army, FRAGMENTS gives hope to vulnerable groups and helps with stress and trauma management.

Despite its tiny budget, FRAGMENTS always has several projects on the go: children's storytelling; photography for young people; improving mental health through the arts; an ambitious schools' scheme involving 700 children and specialist trainers; a play created from community stories; and a women's fabric recycling course. BSST helped with core funding.

—[fragmentstheatrepa.wixsite.com/fragmentstheatre](https://fragmentstheatrepa.wixsite.com/fragmentstheatre)

Drama at Fragments Theatre



**FREDDIE KRIVINE INTIATIVE (FKI)** was created by Israeli Jewish tennis enthusiasts who use their sporting passion to address Israel's ethnically divided and discriminatory society. The group works with parents, schools and local government, offering tennis to Palestinian child citizens of Israel. It sees the sport not only as healthy physical activity, but as a vehicle for raising the children's self-esteem, improving their job chances, and for crossing the vast socio-economic, educational and political gulf which separates them from Jewish children.

This year BSST supported the FKI 'After-school Tennis and Homework Club' which serves children from the small coastal towns Jisr az-Zarka and Fureidis. These suffer from extreme poverty, terrifying gun crime on the streets (with many parents keeping their children indoors after school) and a struggling education system (only about a quarter of secondary pupils finish their schooling). Twice weekly FKI's Afterschool Club buses 120 children aged 6-16 to a safe location where their tennis training is followed by Hebrew and English study.

'...with the ongoing war since October 7th, tensions and fears have escalated, making the need for safe, structured environments for these children more critical than ever...FKI's after school club is a lifeline...ensuring these children do not drop out of school is one of our top priorities...'



Children, staff and volunteers at the FKI Afterschool Club

—[fkf-tennis.org](https://fkf-tennis.org)





**FADE** is a community group in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp whose popular annual children and mothers' summer camp was supported by BSST. Sadly, summer 2023 proved to be the last experience of such communal joy for both children and mothers. Since October 7<sup>th</sup> their lives have been dominated by bombing, home displacement and terror.

Even so, via email and the occasional successful WhatsApp call, BSST has kept in contact and has learned that, against all the odds, the group continues to function. Though its Centre has been damaged, enough still stands for it to be crucial to the survival of the camp's community spirit and services; it's somewhere local people can seek advice, get practical and emotional help, charge their phones, do some photocopying, just hang-out, and, of course, take shelter.

This year, BSST funded FADE's project 'Bringing hope to Gaza's Children Amidst Conflict'. Instead of full days of activity which the summer camps provided, this delivered 24 two-hour sessions of dance, clowns, games, painting and drama for all children who turned up. FADE has told us that once the fun starts, the children – over five thousand in total – have temporarily forgotten their fear and sadness and become totally involved.

—facebook.com/the.futuer.gaza

Message from Ali Al-Derawi, director of FADE

I hope you are in good health. Unfortunately, the building next to the FADE headquarters was destroyed by Israeli occupation aircraft. Also, one of our employees – Raneen aged 23 - was killed, in addition to 5 children, and there were many injuries, including my child who was slightly injured and is currently recovering. Despite the killing, displacement, and shortages of food and medicine, we will work to defy all difficulties to stand by our people against this crazy aggression.

**HAIFA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES (HACD)**

is a Gaza-based project, supporting children with Type 1 (insulin dependent) diabetes. It serves those children who live outside the refugee camps, for whom the Palestinian Ministry of Health, not UNWRA, is responsible. As the Ministry's support has been nowhere near sufficient, volunteer-run HACD has helped to fill the gap in the availability of insulin injection pens (held by the boy in the photo), testing strips and glucometers. It has also provided psychological and diabetes-management support.

Since October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, BSST has kept in contact with HACD and provided funds to enable the group to overcome immense difficulties - extreme scarcity and rocketing prices as well as bombing and repeated displacement - to source and distribute diabetes clinical supplies.

—facebook.com/hacdhaifa





**HEBRON INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES NETWORK (HIRN)** is an audacious Palestinian group supported by BSST 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. Many HIRN projects promote education, especially for girls: science lab equipment for one girls' school and a new building for another. Other HIRN projects focus on emergency support for villagers in the besieged Massafer Yatta area - food, fuel, rebuilding homes destroyed by the IDF.

This year BSST paid for solar panels that HIRN was installing for a school in Hawara, a town a few miles south of Nablus which has frequently been prey to ferocious settler attacks. BSST also transferred Post Box funds to HIRN.

—friendsofhirn.wordpress.com

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**HUMANS WITHOUT BORDERS (HWB)** is a remarkable group of Israeli organisers and drivers who, even on a shoestring, provide extensive services to West Bank Palestinian families whose sick children need advanced medical treatment in Israel or in occupied East Jerusalem.

HWB drivers take these sick children between checkpoint and hospital, assist with language and cultural issues, visit those who become in-patients, and help with accompanying relatives' expenses - food, lodgings, etc. as well as covering their own petrol costs. Meanwhile, HWB often pays for essential medical costs - equipment, medicines, routine hospital charges - which, increasingly, the Palestinian Authority won't fund.



'FAMILY DAY' is an HWB tradition: every year the group organises an expedition to give all the families they support a break and lots of fun. This time, sick children, their parents and siblings went to a brilliant holiday resort near Bethlehem.

Normally HWB volunteers are there in force too. Sadly, this year it was felt to be too difficult and dangerous for them to go across to the West Bank.

After October 7<sup>th</sup>, Israel introduced innumerable checkpoints *within* the West Bank and reaching Israeli border pick-up points became a major challenge. Often children could only reach clinical appointments on time if HWB funded taxis from home to pick-up point and then to hospital.

So HWB built up a regular cohort of taxi drivers who, in 2024, carried out a quarter of journeys, while its volunteers did a third. The rest were journeys by children who had to make many repeat trips (e.g. for dialysis); these last were taken via minibus provided by HWB's sister organisation and supporter Project Rozana. Overall, though HWB volunteer numbers fell significantly this year, the group still increased its total trips, continuing to assist around 100 children and families annually.

—humans-without-borders.org

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**ISHA L'ISHA – HAIFA FEMINIST CENTRE** is the oldest grassroots feminist organisation in Israel. BSST assisted its 'Women Without Status' project for another year – helping victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, undocumented workers, and women whose legal or financial status is dependent on their relationship with an Israeli man. These women 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. The project runs a 24-hour helpline, ensures women know 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

**JAFFA THEATRE: APEIROGON, THE SHOW** will transform the novel 'Apeirogon', by Colum McCann, into a play in Hebrew to be performed in the Jaffa (Arab-Hebrew) Theatre in the remnants of Jaffa Old City. 'Apeirogon' is based on the real-life relationship between Israeli and Palestinian bereaved fathers Rami, mourning his teenage daughter, Smadar, who was killed by a Palestinian bomber, and Bassam, who lost ten-year-old Abir to an Israeli Border policeman's bullet. Together they overcame suspicions and animosity to become joint directors of the Israeli-Palestinian bereaved families organisation, the Parents Circle Families Forum.

The play is intended to contribute to peace education and cross-community communication and has been devised by leading playwright and expert in peace education, Avner Ben-Amos, and director, Sinai Peter (the latter having previously co-directed BSST-funded Hebrew/Arabic tragicomedy 'The Peacock of Silwan'). After each performance, there will be conversation circles - spaces for discussion and reflection about advancing the chances of peace.

"Once I thought we could never solve our conflict, we would continue hating each other forever, but it is not written anywhere that we have to go on killing each other. The hero makes a friend of his enemy. That's my duty. Don't thank me for doing it. That's all it is, my duty. When they killed my daughter, they killed my fear. I can do anything now."

"It struck him early on that people were afraid of the enemy because they were terrified that their lives might get diluted, that they might lose themselves in the tangle of knowing each other."

**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, so enabling new housing to be built for Israeli Jewish citizens. JS focuses especially on the Jahalin Bedouin, supporting their struggle against forced transfer from homes they have lived in for the last sixty years. BSST provided its Post Box service.

—jahalin.org





**JORDAN VALLEY ACTIVISTS (JVA)** is an Israeli group which provides a protective presence 24-7 for the Palestinian shepherd communities in the Jordan Valley. These tented communities live in extremely difficult conditions, very hot, dry and waterless, and to make their lives infinitely more challenging, they are tormented by ever increasing settler attacks.

Daily, JVA volunteers accompany shepherds to their grazing grounds, then at night they often sleep over in shepherd tents trying to prevent violent attacks or even deportation; this year the West Bank has seen eighteen communities forcibly displaced from their land. During 2024, JVA provided over 2000 escorts and night shift cover.

"After October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, the settlers were given the green light to attack and usurp grazing lands, steal sheep and cattle and do whatever they want...with the support of the army and the police". JVA Volunteer

"A 7-years-old settler-kid invades, hangs Israeli flags on the premises of a Palestinian family and covers vandalised road signs in the north Jordan Valley. The authorities won't stop him even though he puts himself at risk. Social welfare? police? council? parents? anyone?! No. Its training time." JVA Volunteer

BSST, exceptionally gave two grants. One paid for a typical mix of needs; water (all of which must be bought in), hay for cattle, food parcels for one especially poor shepherd village, the large fines imposed on the shepherds when their animals or vehicles are seized, legal advice, and also for transport costs for JVA volunteers.

The second grant went towards 15 university students' tuition costs: shepherd families desperately want higher education for their children but often cannot pay the fees. JVA has established a special fund to help these families.



—facebook.com/JordanValleyActivists

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**KAFA ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE NEGEV** supports the people of Rahat, Israel's largest Bedouin city and home to over 70,000 Bedouin belonging to dozens of clans. Previously self-contained communities, the clans have been forced together into a crowded urban environment by the Israeli government. Despite unemployment, communal tensions and crime, KAFA has forged a vibrant community organisation to tackle Rahat's endemic poverty and hopelessness. BSST again helped pay for KAFA's Bedouin Rights Centre, a walk-in-clinic on Rahat's main commercial square, staffed by a qualified and paid coordinator and six trained volunteers. These provide residents with practical advice and representation over day-to-day issues such as social welfare, residency, inheritance, debt and travel permits.

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**KOTOF EL-KHAIR ASSOCIATION** is a community group in the central Gaza city of Deir el-Balah. It has long run an impressive range of services including cultural events, a kindergarten for a hundred children, women's rights workshops, disability training for families who support their relatives, medical days giving free healthcare, children's summer camps and humanitarian aid. Last year BSST upgraded KOTOF's kindergarten, installing broadband, smart screens, lap-tops and office equipment. Remarkably, this year, four months *after* October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, KOTOF sent us photos and a report to confirm they had been able to complete the project.



Children in the kindergarten enjoying their new laptops in January 2024

BSST has kept contact with KOTOF, which is still providing services to its local community, and now also to refugees from other parts of Gaza. This year we funded 'Smiles in Times of Crisis', a six-month psychological support and entertainment activities project targeting 10,000 children and their families in shelters and displacement centres.

—facebook.com/kotofAssociation

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

Until around six years ago, though notionally available to Palestinians, LADA'AT's services supported very few Palestinian users. With BSST seed corn funding and encouragement, this situation was transformed, with the establishment of a successful 'Arabic Department' providing a full portfolio of services.

Although most work had to be paused immediately after October 7<sup>th</sup>, the organisation restarted a few weeks later, coping with a huge increase in demand, especially in East Jerusalem where school requests for workshops quadrupled by comparison with the previous year. BSST was very pleased to contribute to the costs of the Arabic Department.

—ladaat.org.il/en

Image from LADA'AT's very popular Arab Instagram account







**AL MARSAD – ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS** is the only Syrian human rights group in occupied Golan. When Israel captured Golan from Syria in 1967, 90% of residents fled; those 28,000 Syrians left now live on 5% of Golan’s territory, while 25,000 Israeli settlers live in the other 95%.



AL-MARSAD’s campaign – to get Israel to remove its abandoned landmines, which are mostly unmarked or poorly fenced off. Children playing are at huge risk of injury.

Israel’s 1981 annexation of Golan forced AL MARSAD to register as an Israeli NGO. This means it cannot access EU financial support available to Palestinian groups.

Despite this, it still manages to provide an impressive portfolio of services: advocacy, legal support, international and local lobbying and campaigning, education and cultural enrichment to help preserve Syrian Arab identity and remind us of Israel’s forgotten occupation. BSST approved a core grant.

—golan-marsad.org

**NEGEV COEXISTENCE FORUM (NCF)** is the only grassroots Jewish/Palestinian organisation campaigning for Bedouin communities’ human and civil rights in the Negev/Naqab. Over half the desert’s 250,000 Bedouin have been forced into government-built towns, freeing their land for Jewish farming and residency.

Yet many still resist compulsory urbanisation and even without basic infrastructure – water, electricity, roads, schools, healthcare – tens of thousands inhabit traditional herding communities, most in ‘unrecognised’ villages. NCF opposes the Israeli state’s constant destruction of these villages, and helps residents rebuild repeatedly.



There have been immense additional pressures on the already persecuted Bedouin communities in the Negev/Naqab since October 7<sup>th</sup> – including many more home demolitions, lack of security such as safe rooms and Iron Dome cover and worsening poverty. BSST was happy to renew its core funding.

—dukium.org





**NEW PROFILE** is a feminist group opposed to the state's glorification of military service. It is claimed that the IDF is Israel's 'great leveller'. NEW PROFILE says rather that widespread sexual harassment in the IDF reinforces gender inequality, while soldiers from poor families often get the worst postings, ensuring continuing disadvantage when their service ends. NEW PROFILE assists those who refuse conscription, either for health reasons or conscientious objection, providing free counselling, legal help, and anti-militarism training. It also cooperates with refusenik and other anti-military groups. BSST provided core funding.

—[newprofile.org](http://newprofile.org)

**PARENTS AGAINST CHILD DETENTION (PACD)** is an Israeli parents group campaigning to end the violation of Palestinian children's rights when they are arrested and detained. While Jewish settler children suspected of crime receive the protection of Israel's civil courts and international law, their Palestinian counterparts, living maybe yards away, are tried in military courts where child protection laws don't apply. Often held for weeks, interviewed repeatedly without basic safeguards, these children nearly always plead guilty simply to end their misery.



PACD supporters protesting with empty food pots against Israel using starvation as a military tactic.

PACD's support network of Israeli women lawyers, academics, activists and therapists, has extensive experience in legal advocacy, media work and grassroots mobilisation. The group organises conferences, street rallies, online campaigns, exhibitions, media articles, readings, testimony, and other publicity, seeking to get the story of Palestinian child detention out to the Israeli public, to change attitudes and the law. This year, it plans to increase its professional experts' network and expand its interventions in international diplomacy. BSST gave core funding.

—[pacd.org.il](http://pacd.org.il)

**RAHAT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (RWA)** was set up by Bedouin women from Rahat City, aiming to eradicate violence in their Negev communities, especially by improving women's status. Many Bedouin girls are persuaded or forced to leave school very young, to marry or help with household chores. This severely limits their life/job prospects and perpetuates their economic dependence, risk of domestic violence and the poverty cycle. Through education and employment projects, RWA wants to go from individual empowerment to community-wide progress: educated, economically independent women are more likely to invest in their children's learning and well-being, enhancing the overall development of Bedouin society.

BSST contributed to the costs of RWA's training programme 'Driving Change - Empowering Bedouin Women through Vocational Training and Violence Prevention.' This one-year initiative includes a vocational course for thirty women aged 18-30 in kindergarten assistant training. Participants acquire key practical skills - child development, communication, safety and hygiene, plus basic business training. This last enables women to create their own home-based childcare services, or to get jobs in childcare.

—[rwa.co.il/en](http://rwa.co.il/en)



**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. The RWA also runs projects aimed at providing job opportunities for the village women, as well as education and leisure activities for the children.

This year BSST made two grants. The first was for humanitarian relief - emergency food packages - in a time of major IDF activity, and the second for summer camps providing fun activities and healthy lunches for around a hundred and thirty children spread across three Bedouin villages.

—[theruralwomenassociation.wordpress.com](https://theruralwomenassociation.wordpress.com)

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**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 Palestinian /Jewish 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 gave pump priming finance. Now we continue to provide our Post Box service.

—[facebook.com/sadakareut](https://facebook.com/sadakareut)

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**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. Bread is often their only food, while their homes fail to provide even basic shelter, so that pupils mostly live on the streets. Though the children attend UN schools, the education provided is poor and the Centre compensates for its deficiencies, supporting pupils up to 16 in English, maths, Arabic, science, art, music and sport, while 3 to 6-year-olds enjoy the Refugee Camp's only kindergarten. As well as education, the Centre offers warmth, love and safety and ensures each child receives a daily hot meal and is properly clothed.



As last year, the IDF repeatedly invaded the Camp, vandalising the Centre, knocking holes in the building, destroying educational materials, toys, clothes supplies and medications. As well as its own grant, BSST ran a Ramadan appeal so, yet again, AL TAFAWK's Centre could be repaired and its stocks replenished.

—[instagram.com/altafawkcenter](https://instagram.com/altafawkcenter)

Instead of a wrecked building we choose to show some of the children for whom Al Tafawk is a lifeline – for education, food, clothing and loving care.

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**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 destruction, continuing to live by and share their motto 'We Refuse to be Enemies'. BSST provided its Post Box service, as it has for many years.

—tentofnations.com

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**VILLAGES GROUP** is a small Jewish-Palestinian group long supported by BSST. It works in Masaffer Yatta in the South Hebron Hills, an area where Israel is seeking to expel all the residents. The group is deeply involved in the Palestinian villagers' struggles to educate their children, prevent their land being seized and stop the destruction of their homes, indeed, their entire villages. BSST provided its Post Box service, plus three grants.

The first grant was for emergency supplies to help villagers whose homes and possessions have been repeatedly destroyed.

The second helped cover salary costs for Huda's Kindergarten, in the village of Khashem al-Daraj. Immensely popular, serving some fifty children and ensuring they enter school with a flying start.

The third was to rehabilitate the home of eight people in Khalet a-Dabe, a village whose residents are determined to stay put, but which is regularly destroyed.

Erella of the Villages Group with children in Masaffer Yatta



—villagesgroup.wordpress.com

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**+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 and, increasingly, collaborate on its carefully researched stories, while embassies often request briefings. BSST provided its Post Box service.

—972mag.com

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## Voices of Resistance

### A Zoom Liberation Seder for Gaza

Since Covid, BSST, in cooperation with Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) and Jews for Justice for Palestinians (JJP) has held a Zoom Liberation Seder, an adaptation of the traditional Jewish service which takes place in the home around the dinner table at the start of the festival of Pesach (Passover). Liberation Sederim have a long tradition in the Jewish Diaspora; a way we can draw on the Jewish festival of achieving freedom from slavery to express solidarity with others experiencing war, trauma, discrimination and misery now.

In BSST we remember the ongoing oppression by Israel of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and their second-class status in Israel itself. We also remind ourselves of those unjustly held; hostages seized by Hamas and other groups on October 7<sup>th</sup> and thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Though the Seder is normally a family service, we have been fortunate that each year a rabbi has been happy to preside for us. This time we were delighted to be joined by Rabbi Lev Taylor who ensured our Seder both helped us reflect on our own role in liberation struggles and was, again, great fun for the participants.



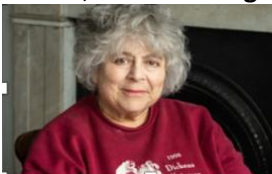
A modern take on the Seder Plate – vegetarian, perhaps vegan.

BSST's Liberation Seder is a combination of readings from the 'regular' Haggadah, twists on the traditional, and additional reflections specifically on the situation in Israel-Palestine-Golan. This year it included:

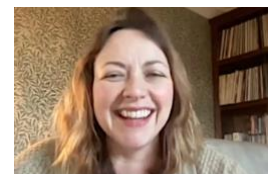


- a film made by artists collective **Led by Donkeys**, showing clothing items laid on a beach, one for each dead child in Gaza.
- **Mustafa Mustasha**, a journalist who spoke to us from Gaza
- a film made by the **Palestine Trauma Centre**, child therapy experts, showing us their amazing work in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup>
- a 'Marxist' adaptation of the Afikomen search devised by our BSST trustee **Stephen Fox**

- a fundraising appeal from our Patron, **Miriam Margolyes**



- **Rabbi Lev** who helped us finish the Seder with the traditional end-of-service songs!!!!



- singer **Charlotte Church**, who led us in 'We Shall Overcome'

BSST is very grateful to Mike Cushman of JVL for his enthusiastic personal support and technical expertise provided for this, as for our preceding sederim, to JVL and JJP for encouraging their members to participate, to Stephen Fox and Naomi Wayne, BSST trustees, for producing our Haggadah and recruiting guest participants – to all we say thank you. And, once again, gratitude to Rabbi Lev for officiating so warmly and inclusively.



## Financial Reserves

BSST's policy is to hold in reserve the equivalent of 12 months administrative costs and an additional amount sufficient for two high priority grants of up to £6,000 each. Administrative costs are approximately £1,000/year, requiring total reserves of £13,000. At the end of FY25, unrestricted funds (including reserves) totalled £180,291. The difference between the target level of reserves and actual funds held is due to the requirement to raise funds before approving grants; the gap in timing between receiving donations and making grants; and the fact that much spending in Gaza has been delayed.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

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Dr Gill Yudkin, Chair

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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 2025.

### **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

1<sup>st</sup> July 2025





# Accounts for the Year Ending 28 February 2025

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		2024-25			2023-24		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Income</b>							
Donations received		154,247	55,353	209,600	192,169	127,863	320,032
Gift Aid on donations		1,427	670	2,097	1,932	923	2,854
Bank interest		2,913	-	2,913	467	-	467
<b>Total income</b>		<b>158,587</b>	<b>56,023</b>	<b>214,610</b>	<b>194,568</b>	<b>128,786</b>	<b>323,353</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Charitable Activities	2	119,204	71,599	190,803	127,558	75,881	203,439
Publicity/Fundraising	3	418	-	418	279	-	279
Administration	4	150	-	150	136	-	136
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>119,772</b>	<b>71,599</b>	<b>191,371</b>	<b>127,973</b>	<b>75,881</b>	<b>203,854</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>38,815</b>	<b>(15,576)</b>	<b>23,239</b>	<b>66,595</b>	<b>52,904</b>	<b>119,499</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Funds brought forward		141,476	63,390	204,866	74,881	10,486	85,367
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>180,291</b>	<b>47,814</b>	<b>228,105</b>	<b>141,476</b>	<b>63,390</b>	<b>204,866</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

		As at 28 February 2025	
	Note	28/2/2025 £	28/2/2024 £
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash at bank		218,675	197,533
HMRC Gift Aid		9,430	7,333
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>228,105</b>	<b>204,866</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		180,291	141,476
Restricted funds		47,814	63,390
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>		<b>228,105</b>	<b>204,866</b>

## Notes to the Accounts

- 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.



	2024-25			2023-24		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>2 Charitable activities</b>						
Grants made	118,506	71,599	190,105	126,844	75,881	202,725
Direct bank charges	698	-	698	714	-	714
	<b>119,204</b>	<b>71,599</b>	<b>190,803</b>	<b>127,558</b>	<b>75,881</b>	<b>203,439</b>
<b>3 Publicity / Fundraising</b>						
Publicity & Website	418	-	418	279	-	279
	<b>418</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>4 Administration</b>						
Bank charges	150	-	150	136	-	136
	<b>150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>136</b>

**5 Trustee expenses**

There were no expenses paid to trustees in either 2024/25 or 2023/24.

**6 Restricted Funds (including Post Boxes)**

	1/3/24	Income	Expenditure	28/2/25
Children's Fund	187	225	0	412
Jenin Fund	7,480	240	7,480	240
Gaza and West Bank Fund (previously Trauma Fund)	41,788	3,290	20,210	24,868
+972 Magazine	3,086	22,421	15,300	10,207
Hebron International Resource Network	0	1,000	1,000	0
Jahalin Solidarity	1,392	4,439	5,709	122
Jenin Freedom Theatre	2,520	3,370	0	5,890
Sadaka Reut	0	7,000	7,000	0
Solidarity in Aid	0	18	0	18
Tent Of Nations	3,062	2,396	3,000	2,458
Villages Group	3,876	11,625	11,900	3,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,391</b>	<b>56,024</b>	<b>71,599</b>	<b>47,816</b>

**7 Grants and Post Box Transfers Made**

Organisation	£000s	Organisation	£000s
Arous Elbahar	7	Kotof El-Khair Association	6
Arteam Garden Library	5	Lada'at Choose Well	6
Fragments Theatre	5	Al Marsad	7
Freddie Krivine Initiative	6	Negev Coexistence Forum	5
Future Assoc for Development and Environment	5	New Profile	7
Haifa Association	5	Parents Against Child Detention	6
Hebron International Resource Network	4	Rahat Women's Association	5
Humans without Borders	6	Rural Women's Association	8
Isha L'Isha	7	Sadaka Reut Youth Partnership	7
Jaffa Theatre	7	Al Tafawk Centre	13
Jahalin Solidarity	6	Tent of Nations	3
Jordan Valley Activists	11	Villages Group	27
Kafa Association for Social Change in the Negev	5	+972 Magazine	15



## BSST Governance

### Personnel

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

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	British Shalom-Salaam Trust
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1103211
<b>Registered Address</b>	28 Huddleston Road, London N7 0AG
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC, 85 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 6BE
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Ruth Hendrick FCA, 14 Park Crescent, London N3 2NJ
<b>E-mail</b>	bsst@bsst.org.uk
<b>Website</b>	bsst.org.uk

### BSST Trustees

- ✿ **Stephen Fox** former academic leader and probation officer, now retired
- ✿ **Professor Gene Feder** Professor of primary care at Bristol Medical School and a GP in Bristol, resigned 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- ✿ **Dr David Sperlinger** retired Clinical Psychologist (Trustee for Income Generation)
- ✿ **Colin Wainwright** IT specialist (Treasurer)
- ✿ **Naomi Wayne** retired charity chief executive (Secretary)
- ✿ **Dr Gillian Yudkin** retired GP (Chair)

### BSST Patrons

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

### BSST Advisory Group

- ✿ **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.
- ✿ **Hadas Ziv**, former Director of Public Outreach in Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and previously Executive Director. Winner of the 2009 Oak Fellowship for Human Rights.



