



Activist Guide

Progressive Action for Human Rights, Peace & Reconciliation in Israel and Palestine

Prepared as part of TTN's Boston & New England Initiative for
Progressive Academic Engagement with Israel and Palestine

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Introduction

If you are pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli and would like to help promote two states, human rights and social justice in Palestine and Israel, this guide is for you. It is meant primarily for North American progressives in colleges and universities, but we believe people in unions, religious organizations and other groups will also find it useful.

Currently, one question that is hotly debated on many campuses is whether or not to support the BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement targeting Israel. Often, this conversation diverts attention from a wide range of other political options aimed at ending the Israeli occupation, building a viable Palestinian state, protecting human rights and fostering reconciliation between Jews and Arabs. We have prepared this guide to describe and promote those options.

After discussing concrete tactics, we provide an “Activist Resources” list of initiatives and organizations in North America, Israel and the Palestinian territories. These resources can be used to support either short-term or long-term engagement, enabling you to choose actions and causes that suit your particular interests and community dynamics. Broadly speaking, we provide information on organizations and initiatives that:

- Mobilize support against the occupation and for human rights in Israel and the Palestinian territories.
- Foster and promote constructive Arab-Jewish dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and reconciliation.
- Build the infrastructure of a Palestinian state and address problems in the health, environmental and municipal spheres.
- Press for creative, evenhanded American diplomacy and encourage peace negotiations aimed at achieving a two-state solution that works for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Disclaimer: The organizations in “Activist Resources” contribute significantly to the achievement of human rights, peace and a better future for Israelis and Palestinians; however, The Third Narrative does not endorse every action, policy or statement of every organization.

In the appendix, we outline organizations that provide opportunities for educational travel in the region, helping those who want firsthand exposure to what is happening on the ground.

Please note: This guide is a living document that we intend to build further as we discover more activist organizations and tactics.

Menu of Activists Tactics

Advocacy & Political Action in the U.S.

There are a number of ways to advocate for productive, progressive actions by the U.S. government.

- Mobilize support in Congress for H.R. 1489, the “International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Authorization Act of 2015” (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1489/text>). This bill, introduced by Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), supports vital grassroots civil society initiatives in Israel and Palestine. It will fund cooperation, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and other important goals.
 - I. Contact the **Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)**, an umbrella organization for the kinds of civil society groups that would benefit from the International Fund. ALLMEP can provide concrete suggestions for how you can help, as well as updates on the bill. Contact ALLMEP by e-mail at info@allmep.org or by phone at 202-618-4600.
 - II. If your representative in Congress has not co-sponsored H.R. 1489, contact them and ask them to do so. A list of co-sponsors can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1489/cosponsors>.
- Lobby the White House and Congress for evenhanded American diplomacy aimed at achieving two states, ending settlement expansion, and preventing violence and incitement by Jews and Arabs.
 - I. Investigate and lend your support to one or more of the DC-focused domestic groups working on these goals. They include The American Task Force on Palestine, Ameinu, Americans for Peace Now, ALLMEP, J Street and Churches for Middle East Peace.

Direct Action / Volunteering in Israel and Palestine

If you can find a way to get to the region, you can get directly involved in vitally important work being done on the ground.

- Work directly with grassroots activist organizations in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Many groups in our “Activist Resources” list welcome the participation of volunteers from North America. It’s worth exploring whether a group that interests you has a program for interns and other volunteers from abroad.
- Participate and support nonviolent protest or acts of civil disobedience against the occupation. The Center for Jewish Nonviolence, a partner of T’ruah, is one group that offers this opportunity to volunteers from abroad.
- Participate in West Bank community, agricultural and health restoration projects.

Investment in a Palestinian State

Raising funds to support the development of a Palestinian state is another way to build a positive future for both Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. A broad range of groups in the Palestinian economic, social, medical and cultural sector need financial help.

- Call upon philanthropic institutions and private donors to support organizations that invest in the development of the West Bank economy and municipal sector. See [Palestine Investment Fund](#), [Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy](#) and others in “Activist Resources.”
- Request grants from universities, philanthropic foundations and other sources to raise money for projects that are improving the health, environment and welfare of the Palestinian people. See, for example, [Project Rozana](#) and the [Water Resources Action Project](#) (WRAP).
- Request university grant money to support lecture series, seminars and workshops led jointly by Arabs and Jews who are engaged in cooperative initiatives that support Palestinians in the occupied territories. While they’re in the U.S, feature them at public events and donate the proceeds to their organizations.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Education

To build support in the U.S. for the organizations and causes noted in this guide, it is also vitally important to influence public and on-campus discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This issue creates a great deal of passion and acrimony from people with very different perspectives on the past and present. Many brave Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs, like [Combatants for Peace](#), [OneVoice](#) and the [Parents Circle – Families Forum](#) (PCFF), have engaged in painful dialogues, shared their narratives, and found ways to work together towards a shared future despite disagreements on many issues. But too often, U.S. activists who are opposed to “normalization” openly disdain this spirit of cooperation. You can change this atmosphere through education.

- Develop and / or participate in a moderated dialogue series on human rights and social justice in Israel and Palestine. This could be based on the model [Sustained Dialogue](#), which helps people explore their peers’ viewpoints on contemporary social and political conflicts.
- Develop educational programming on joint Jewish-Arab communities and organizations that are forging a future together, such as [Neve Shalom / Wahat al-Salam](#) [Neve Shalom](#) and [Givat Haviva](#).
- Share / screen Israeli and Palestinian films and art that deal with the conflict and prompt critical thinking and respectful conversation about both people’s narratives. See [Just Vision](#) for an array of relevant films.
- Develop interfaith learning seminars with the help of religious administrators on campus (e.g. 9 week series – 3 weeks on Judaism, 3 weeks on Islam and 3 weeks on Christianity).

- Develop or organize lecture focusing on American Jewish funding that goes beyond the Green Line and supports destabilizing Israeli settlements. Contact [J Street](#) to learn more about American Jewish funding over the Green Line.

Cultural & Academic Exchange

Through university or community connections, activists can establish strong relationships with academic, professional and communal counterparts in Israel and the West Bank. Student groups can affiliate with NGOs that conduct advocacy work on the ground in Israel and the West Bank and develop working relationships with these organizations. Faculty members at American, Canadian, Israeli and Palestinian institutions can create online forums for dialogue and debate.

- Establish research relationships with faculty from Israel and Palestine, invite them to be resident scholars on your campus, apply to be resident scholars in Israel and Palestine, and participate in joint research symposia. See "[Revolutions, Religion, and the Politics of Negotiating Space](#)," an academic symposium hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Mosse / Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies in collaboration with Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, for a good example of this type of partnership.
- Develop interdisciplinary conflict resolution curriculum (humanities, sciences, economics, etc.) to be enhanced by faculty visits to international universities and institutes. Link with conflict resolution programs abroad: [Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College Dublin](#), [The International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation at Tel Aviv University](#), [Institute for Peace and Justice Education at Lebanese American University](#), [The Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg, South Africa](#).

Activist Resources

Please note:

- Many of these organizations fit into more than one category.
- Some organizational descriptions have been copied from their web sites.
- Organizations with an *(asterisk) are ALLMEP members, affiliates or endorsers.

Anti-Occupation Activists: Israel and Palestine

- **Breaking the Silence (Shovrim Shtika)** is an organization of former Israeli soldiers who collect the testimonies of soldiers who have served in the occupied territories since the start of the Second Intifada. Breaking the Silence seeks to raise awareness in Israel and abroad about the practices of the military and the effects of these practices on Palestinians and on the soldiers themselves. It also provides educational tours - see Appendix I.
- **The Center for Jewish Nonviolence**, a partner of T'ruah, the Rabbinic Campaign for Human Rights, cultivates a practice of Jewish nonviolence in support of Palestinian nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. "We engage in creative, nonviolent activism in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel and Jewish communities around the world with the aim of bringing an end to the occupation. We strive for a future that honors the full equality and shared humanity of both Palestinians and Israelis."
- The **Combatants for Peace*** movement was started jointly by Palestinians and Israelis who have taken an active part in the cycle of violence. After brandishing weapons for many years, they now seek to "raise consciousness in both publics regarding the hopes and suffering of the other side, and to create partners in dialogue; to educate toward reconciliation and non-violent struggle in both Israeli and Palestinian societies; and to create political pressure on both governments to stop the cycle of violence, end the occupation and resume a constructive dialogue." The organization also organizes guided tours, primarily in East Jerusalem, house meetings, lectures and opportunities to help with the olive harvest in the Palestinian territories.
- **Ir Amim** works on issues that impact Israeli-Palestinian relations within Jerusalem. Their aim is to make Jerusalem a more viable and equitable city with a more politically sustainable future. Ir Amim also provides tours of East Jerusalem – see Appendix I.

- **Machsom Watch** - A group of Israeli peace activist women who work against the occupation of the Palestinian territories. They used to monitor internal checkpoints, but because of the changing face of the occupation have moved their focus to the permit system, border checkpoints, settlement expansion and other ways in which the occupation hurts Palestinian mobility and society. They allow visitors to accompany them to checkpoints – see Appendix I.
- **OneVoice Movement*** amplifies the voice of the overwhelming but heretofore silent majority of moderate Israelis and Palestinians to stand together against violence and extremism. With branches in Israel, Palestine, Europe and the US, OneVoice promotes grassroots public negotiations processes and instructs ordinary citizens in the art of negotiation and the importance of crafting public consensus around issues at the heart of the conflict. Through technology, electronic democracy, a cadre of experts, dignitaries, celebrities and spiritual leaders, OneVoice empowers citizens to exercise their civic responsibility and be the driving force for change within their societies.
- **Peace Now (Shalom Achshav)** is a movement of Israeli citizens who believe peace, compromise, and reconciliation with the Palestinians and the Arab states are necessary for the future, security, and character of Israel. The movement advocates and mobilizes for peace with public education, rallies and other grassroots activities. It offers extensive maps and reports information about the history and development of Israeli settlements via its Settlement Watch program, as well as open forums and occasional study tours. Learn how to volunteer from your hometown [HERE](#). Settlement Watch sometimes offers tours for visitors. Contact Peace Now at info@peacenow.org.il.
- **The Parents Circle Families Forum*** is made up of 250 Israeli and 250 Palestinian families that have lost loved ones in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They work together to promote dialogue, reconciliation, and mutual understanding through media campaigns, educational projects, cross-border seminars and cultural events. The forum's "Hello, Peace!" project provides a toll-free phone exchange which has hosted more than 530,000 phone calls between Israelis and Palestinians to create a human infrastructure for peace.
- **Ta'ayush**: "We — Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians — live surrounded by walls and barbed wire: the walls of segregation, racism, and discrimination between Jews and Arabs within Israel; the walls of Apartheid, closure and siege encircling the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip; and the wall of war surrounding all inhabitants of Israel, so long as Israel remains an armed fortress in the heart of the Middle East. In the fall of 2000 we joined together to form 'Ta'ayush' (Arabic for 'living together'), a grassroots movement of Arabs and Jews working to break down the walls of racism and segregation by constructing a true Arab-Jewish partnership. Together we strive for a future of equality, justice and peace through concrete, daily, non-violent actions of solidarity to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and to achieve full civil equality for all."

- **Women Wage Peace*** works to bring about a viable peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. The movement operates to enlarge the peace-seeking public interested in long-term understanding between Israel, the Palestinians and other states in the region. Simultaneously, it engages decision makers and demands a change in priorities, giving a negotiated agreement preference over military and security-based approaches. Women Wage Peace seeks to bring together all the women's initiatives in order to create as broad a base of influence as possible.

Anti-Occupation Activists: North America

- **The American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP)** seeks to articulate and educate about the United States national interest in helping to create a Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace, security and dignity. ATFP is committed to strengthening Palestinian-American relations at every level. The Task Force supports Palestinian institution-building, good governance, anti-corruption measures, economic development, and improved living standards. ATFP holds that these same values are relevant to the broader Arab world, and that the question of Palestine is inextricably linked to regional realities and developments.
- **Ameinu**, Hebrew for “Our People,” is a national, multi-generational grassroots community of progressive Jews in North America. “Recognizing the eternal bond between the Jewish people and Israel, as well as the Jewish commitment to make our own society better, we mobilize progressive Jews to foster social and economic justice in Israel, North America and around the world. As Zionists, we understand that a secure peace between Israel and its neighbors is essential to the survival of a democratic Jewish state. With this in mind, we work to build grassroots support within the North American Jewish community and broader progressive constituencies for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and an Israel that fulfills its fundamental values of justice, peace, equality and democracy.”
- **Americans for Peace Now (APN)** is the sister organization of Shalom Achshav, Israel's preeminent peace movement. APN's mission is to educate and persuade the American public and its leadership to support and adopt policies that will lead to comprehensive, durable, Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab peace, based on a two-state solution, guaranteeing both peoples security, and consistent with U.S. national interests. “We also work to ensure Israel's future and the viability of Israel's democracy and Jewish character through education, activism and advocacy in the United States, and by mobilizing American support for Shalom Achshav.”
- **The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)*** is a network of organizations that conduct civil society work in conflict transformation, development, coexistence and cooperative activities on the ground in the Middle East among Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs, and Jews. “Our mission is to support our members by ensuring more attention and resources are dedicated to their groundbreaking work. To accomplish this, the Alliance works internationally to educate key audiences,

including opinion makers, elected representatives, government officials, American and international funders, and the international community about the critical opportunities and needs of people-to-people efforts. In the region, the Alliance works to build a community within its membership, enhance better communication among them, build their organizations' capacities, develop best practices and serve as a platform for partnership and cooperation."

- **J Street** supports the people and state of Israel, their right to defend themselves and to live in peace and enduring security. It seeks a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people living in peace and security alongside the state of Palestine as the national homeland of the Palestinian people. "Ending the occupation and achieving two states is essential to Israeli and American national interests and security as well as to Jewish and democratic values. As supporters of Israel, we have not only the right but the obligation to speak out when we think the policies or actions of the American or Israeli governments damage those interests or run counter to our values."
- **J Street U** is the student organizing arm of J Street. It is a nationwide movement of campus chapters advocating and educating on colleges and universities, in communities and on Capitol Hill for vigorous and sustained American leadership in facilitating a negotiated, two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. J Street U knows that the fates of both peoples are intertwined. Advocating for Israel necessitates advocating for Palestinian statehood, and J Street U defends and supports the right of both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples to sovereignty and security in democratic, self-governing states. "We recognize that the ongoing occupation and settlement of the Palestinian territories is politically unsustainable and morally untenable. We envision an Israel that respects and guarantees human and civil rights to all its inhabitants, an Israel that lives at peace with its neighbors along internationally recognized borders."
- **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)**, a coalition of 22 national Church denominations and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions, works to encourage US policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all the people of the region. CMEP helps church organizations, leaders and individuals nationwide advocate in a knowledgeable, timely, balanced, and effective way to express their concerns about justice and peace for all peoples in the region.

Coexistence & Dialogue

- **A New Way*** brings together Arabs and Jews in Israel through joint activities for schoolchildren involving music, art, drama, science, and environmental studies. By teaching the children, and as a result their teachers, parents, and communities, about each other's cultures, A New Way reduces prejudice and stereotypes while promoting mutual respect, trust, and enrichment.

- **The Abrahamic Reunion** is a team of religious & spiritual leaders – men, women, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, & Druze – dedicated to uplifting human consciousness and building peace in the Holy Land by opening hearts to the love and wisdom of all spiritual traditions. “The Abrahamic Reunion seeks to be a living example of our values and beliefs; to find and support other spiritual peace makers and organizations; to provide training for those interested in spiritual peacemaking; and to create and implement interfaith programs, celebrations, youth activities and other educational initiatives.”
- **Adam Institute for Democracy & Peace*** creates and runs educational programs to promote tolerance and respect, teach conflict resolution skills and strengthen democratic principles in Israel and the region. The Institute reaches out to Jews (religious and secular), Arabs, schoolchildren of all ages, teachers, new immigrants, veteran Israelis, women’s groups and community activists. Cross-border programs include dialogue seminars for Palestinian and Israeli educators, journalists and young leaders.
- **Artsbridge, Inc.*** utilizes collaborative art making and reflective dialogue to build lasting relationships between youth caught on either side of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. “We provide a safe environment, which cultivates creativity, voice, respectful listening and dialogue, empowering today’s youth to become leaders in the quest for peace in and between their own communities.”
- **The Compassionate Listening Project (TCLP)*** teaches conflict resolution and reconciliation skills for resolving conflict at all levels – from personal to global. The project has ushered nearly 500 American citizens and leaders to Israel and Palestine “to listen to the grievances, hopes and dreams of people on all sides of the conflict, and brings them together for trainings and events to re-humanize the other.” You can read the testimonies of program participants [HERE](#). This year, TCLP will be leading its trip *Listening to the Peacemakers* between November 2-13.
- **Creativity for Peace*** prepares the next generation of female leaders in Palestine and Israel. Since 2003, 207 young women have participated in the program, beginning with a three-week summer program in Santa Fe, New Mexico where dialogue and art-making are the primary means of sharing experiences of life in the conflict, developing compassion, and learning to work together towards a common goal. The program continues year-round in Israel and the West Bank with many types of gatherings and trainings. Forty young leaders receive intensive emotional and practical leadership skills. Creativity for Peace’s distinguishing characteristics include its focus on women, cross-border work, and on leading in partnership as well as the depth and longevity of participation by its alumnae.
- **Givat Haviva Educational Foundation***: Each year, over 50,000 people from Israel and abroad participate in Givat Haviva’s courses, conferences, and projects addressing coexistence and reconciliation. These programs educate Jews and Arabs about each other’s cultures, creating dialogue among students and teachers. Its flagship program, “Shared Communities,” “builds structured, mutually beneficial

cooperation between neighboring Jewish and Arab communities divided by increasing tensions and mutual alienation.” The program creates “inter-community mechanisms and frameworks that facilitate joint action responding to common needs, goals and interests.”

- **Hand in Hand*** is a growing network of bilingual and multicultural accredited public schools for Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel, educating the next generation, from kindergarten through high school, who will create a more democratic, secure, and peaceful future. Its far-reaching impact extends to government leadership, communities, and educators across the country. Its award-winning schools in Jerusalem, the Galilee, and Wadi Ara focus on academic excellence, and its pioneering curriculum fosters mutual understanding as well as pride in one’s heritage.
- **Heartbeat*** uses music’s power to build trust between Israeli and Palestinian youth. Under a Fulbright-MTVu grant, Heartbeat first convened a group of outstanding teenage musicians for a weekly musical-dialogue. By listening, playing and writing music together, the students learn about each other’s communities, histories, political views, identities, and hopes and develop tools for self-expression and social change. Heartbeat is working to include many more musicians, open a music studio in Jerusalem, and organize a series of community-wide events for Israelis and Palestinians to share music, build understanding and increase mutual trust.
- **Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)*** promotes peace in the Middle East through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural study – making religion part of the solution to conflicts in the region and beyond. The most updated source of information about IEA activity is currently through its Google-group used as a listserv. Contact Yehuda Stolov, IEA executive director, at office@interfaith-encounter.org.
- **The Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization*** capitalizes on the universal nature of science to promote dialogue, openness, and mutual respect. It does so by funding high quality proposals submitted jointly by Israeli and Palestinian scientists and scholars who want to work together in the region. Projects are generally for three years and cost about \$100,000 per year. IPSO has received more than 100 proposals over the last three years. It has funded 10 projects to date and is now seeking the additional financial support for more than a dozen additional very worthy, peer-reviewed projects.
- **Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (MEET)*** is an innovative educational program in partnership with MIT, which is bringing together the next generation of Israeli and Palestinian young leaders through technology and entrepreneurship to take action towards creating positive social and political change in their communities. “In collaboration with MIT, we developed a three-year student program and an ongoing alumni network that cultivate critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills applied in real-world technology and entrepreneurship ventures.”

- **Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam**,* located in the center of Israel, is the “Oasis of Peace,” the only community where Jewish and Palestinian families, all with Israeli citizenship, have lived, worked and educated their children together for more than 25 years. The community operates the first ever bilingual, binational primary school in the region where children learn together in both Arabic and Hebrew. Over 35,000 young people and adults have studied conflict management at the community's School for Peace.
- **Open House*** is a center for Jewish-Arab peace education established in 1991 in Ramle, Israel. It sponsors a Center for the Development of the Arab Child, including an affirmative action nursery school for 2- and 3-year-olds, along with a Center for Jewish-Arab Coexistence and Reconciliation, which organizes various activities for youth and adults from both communities, including an annual Summer Peace Camp.
- **PeacePlayers International – Middle East*** brings together Israeli and Palestinian youth and young adults for year-round basketball programs that build positive dialogue, tolerance, and multiculturalism. The program involves both joint basketball activities and life skills sessions throughout the entire school year.
- **Search for Common Ground*** has conducted a multi-track program to promote peace, cooperation, and security in the Middle East since 1991. “Recently, our emphasis has been in the field of media where Search for Common Ground has distinctive strengths. We actively support the development of independent media in the West Bank and Gaza. We also sponsor activities among Israelis and Palestinians and promote regional cooperation.”
- **Seeds of Peace*** is an international youth organization, founded in 1993, that works to bring together youth from conflict regions to discuss coexistence and conflict resolution. The Seeds of Peace internationally recognized program model begins at the International Camp in Maine and continues through follow-up programming with international youth conferences, regional workshops, educational and professional opportunities, and an adult educator program.
- **Sulha Peace Project*** is a grassroots organization inspired by the indigenous process of mediation (*Sulha*). It “aims to rebuild trust, restore dignity and move beyond the political agenda. Sulha prepares people for peace on the grassroots level and complements peacemaking efforts. Sulha includes people from different religions and ethnic backgrounds, and offers experiential programs of peacemaking, integrating listening circles, multi-cultural workshops, sacred interfaith rituals, shared meals, the arts and celebration as means for transformation in our Arab-Jewish encounters.”
- **Together Beyond Words*** works to empower women, heal emotional wounds and traumas, and undermine prejudice relating to the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts. The organization runs workshops, training sessions, and courses for Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze, Arab and Israeli women educators, professionals and leaders using an innovative multi-disciplinary educational model. The sessions touch participants on physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual levels all at once.

Environmental

- At the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies***, Jewish and Arab university and graduate students cross political boundaries to conduct joint research on environmental and natural resource matters. Living and studying together, they also explore and learn about their respective cultures, building peace and a sustainable environment.
- The **Arava Valley of Peace*** initiative, through the **United World Colleges (UWC)**, brings together youth from Israel, Palestine, the Middle East and Europe for a course focused on the desert, bridging between societies and cultures in the Middle East. Students and teachers explore the desert and Middle East from various perspectives - history, archeology, culture, geography, zoology, botany - and participate in environmental and sustainability projects.
- **Comet-ME** is an Israeli-Palestinian organization providing green energy and clean water services to off-grid communities using environmentally and socially sustainable methods. “We facilitate social and economic empowerment of some of the poorest and most marginalized communities in the occupied Palestinian territories through the construction of renewable energy systems (wind and solar), clean potable water solutions, capacity building and reliable maintenance.”
- **EcoPeace Middle East*** (formerly Friends of the Earth Middle East) is at the forefront of the environmental peacemaking movement. As a regional organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists, its primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect the region's shared environmental heritage. In so doing, it seeks to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace. EcoPeace Middle East has offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv and is a member of Friends of the Earth International, the largest grassroots environmental organization in the world.
- **Water Resources Action Project, Inc. (WRAP)*** is a volunteer non-profit organization that seeks to improve the public health of underserved communities in the Middle East through greater water stewardship. WRAP actively sponsors, designs and constructs rainwater-harvesting systems in schools suffering from dire water shortages, complemented by a strong environmental educational program. The environmental education program is a people-to-people initiative that seeks to connect Arab, Jewish and Christian students from several different communities in Israel, Palestine, the USA and Jordan in an Internet forum focused on water harvesting and community gardens. To date, WRAP has projects successfully underway in two East Jerusalem schools, one school in the West Bank, and two schools in Northern Israel.

Human Rights

- **Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)** is Israel's oldest and largest human rights organization and the only one dealing with the entire spectrum of rights and civil liberties issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories. An independent and non-partisan organization, ACRI's mandate is to ensure Israel's accountability and respect for human rights, by addressing violations committed by the Israeli authorities in Israel, the Occupied Territories, or elsewhere. Their work includes legal and strategic international advocacy, human rights education, and extensive public outreach. You can contact ACRI to organize civil rights lectures and training workshops by filling out [THIS FORM](#).
- **B'tselem** - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories was established in February 1989 by a group of prominent academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members. It endeavors to document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories, combat the phenomenon of denial prevalent among the Israeli public, and help create a human rights culture in Israel. They organize lectures and group tours. Contact them at mail@btselem.org or call 972-2-6735599.
- **Just Vision** highlights the power and reach of Palestinians and Israelis working to end the occupation and build a future of freedom, dignity and equality for all. It drives attention to compelling role models in unarmed movement-building and demonstrates to journalists, community leaders, public intellectuals and students – in the US, Israel, Palestine and beyond – what is possible when leaders at the grassroots choose to act. Just Vision tells their under-documented stories through award-winning films, digital media and targeted public education campaigns that undermine stereotypes, inspire commitment and galvanize action. Based in East Jerusalem, New York and Washington DC, “our team reaches tens of thousands of people in direct programs and screenings, moving fluidly from refugee camps and villages to high-level talks with the world's top decision-makers.”
- **Rabbis for Human Rights**: Rabbis for Human Rights is the only rabbinic voice in Israel that is explicitly dedicated to human rights. Representing over 100 Israeli rabbis and rabbinical students from different streams of Judaism, “we derive our authority from our Jewish tradition and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our mission is to inform the Israeli public about human rights violations, and to pressure the State institutions to redress these injustices. Rabbis for Human Rights conducts human rights work in the occupied territories, challenges land confiscation in the occupied territories, conducts socioeconomic justice work in Israel and promotes human rights education in Israel.” To volunteer, contact info@rhr.israel.net. You can also [subscribe to e-mail updates and periodic calls for volunteers](#).

Israeli Arab Empowerment and Equality

- **The Abraham Fund Initiatives*** serves as both a private funder of coexistence and reconciliation programs, as well as a direct provider of programs aimed at strengthening coexistence, equality, and cooperation among Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens.
- **Al-Manarah*** empowers Arab persons with disabilities to set their own agenda of self-actualization, realize their full potential, and contribute within a vibrant community of capable and determined peers. Al-Manarah's rights-based approach engenders self-awareness and personal agency among Arab persons with disabilities and their families, while engaging a wider community of non-disabled stakeholders to engender equality, inclusivity and solidarity in Israel and throughout the Arab world.
- **Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation-Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (AJEEC-NISPED)***, an affiliate of the Negev College, focuses on promoting peace and development through a number of civil society programs. "Our activities include cross-border projects with Palestinians, Jewish-Arab partnerships, economic development and community empowerment of Arab Bedouin, training and education to promote entrepreneurship, small and medium enterprises, cooperatives and people-centered enterprises." AJEEC-NISPED staff travel each year to locations in the US, Canada and Europe. To bring an AJEEC-NISPED speaker to your community, contact them [HERE](#).
- **Citizen's Accord Forum*** was established to build a just, equal and stable relationship among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. Supporting citizen activists and government leaders, CAF bridges the gaps between these communities and strives to improve the status of Israel's Arab citizens through advocacy, education, local & community development, media and networking.
- **Tsofen*** is an Arab-Jewish organization whose mission is to promote the integration of Israel's Arab citizens into the hi-tech industry as a means of promoting economic development, reducing poverty, creating high-value jobs in Arab urban centers and integrating Arab citizens into Israel's civil society.

Economic Development

- **Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy** "was founded on the simple premise that Positive Investment in Palestine breeds hope for a better future for Palestinians through tangible economic opportunity. Hope breeds change for the betterment of Palestinian society, and a better relationship with the rest of the world. Our nonprofit organization encourages lasting economic partnerships between Americans and Palestinians. When impediments on the ground are lifted, these lasting business partnerships will support a vibrant Palestinian economy and, in the meantime, every business transaction and job created plants another seed of hope

that keeps Palestinians constructively engaged towards a future of freedom and economic independence.”

- **Israel-Palestinian Cooperative for Economic Expansion (IPCEE)*** fosters co-existence through pragmatic cross-border activities between Israel and Palestinians living in the West Bank. IPCEE believes its activities can help transform existing Israeli-Palestinian attitudes of conflict and mutual distrust, into attitudes of constructive engagement, through activities that promote social and economic development. “IPCEE believes that improved healthcare protects our core assets - the family and the communities in which we live. IPCEE has developed an initial model Healthcare Initiative whose aim is to increase healthcare capacity and delivery to world-class standards within the West Bank, while improving healthcare for the underserved and reducing the reliance on Israeli medical facilities.”
- **Palestine Investment Fund (PIF)**, through its ambitious investment program, contributes to economic development and growth in Palestine. By launching large-scale projects in vital and strategic economic sectors, PIF aims to strengthen the Palestinian economy and to create tens of thousands of new job opportunities for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. PIF’s efforts compliment the efforts of the Palestinian leadership that aims to create a free and independent Palestinian state.

Health

- Through **Healing Across the Divides***, American medical professionals bring together and assist their Israeli and Palestinian counterparts in creating bridge-building programs that improve the health of both Israelis and Palestinians. The organization supports health initiatives in Israel and the West Bank that promote the health of Israelis and Palestinians while helping to forge inter-agency cooperation and mutual understanding. This support comes in the form of extensive financial, technical and organizational assistance. Such assistance (provided for a period of 1-3 years) is contingent upon the documented success of organizations to improve the health of the population they serve. In all its initiatives, Healing Across the Divides examines the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict as a paradigm for other areas of conflict around the world.
- **Project Rozana** is a multi-faith initiative that raises funds to enable Palestinian doctors, nurses and therapists to receive medical training at Hadassah Hospital, enabling them to build health capacity in their own communities. It also raises funds for the treatment at Hadassah Hospital of critically ill Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza. Ameinu supports Project Rozana as part of its efforts to promote peace and democracy in Israel and Palestine.

Think Tanks – Public Policy

- **Blue White Future (BWF)** is a non-partisan political movement founded by Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon, the former Director of the Israel Security Agency, Colonel (res.) Gilead Sher, a prominent advocate and former senior peace negotiator, and Orni Petruschka, a hi-tech entrepreneur and former IAF fighter pilot. BWF is “committed to securing the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state through facilitation of an inclusive discourse to promote a two state solution. BWF believes we must work to facilitate a reality of two states with or without a bilateral agreement. In the framework of its policy plan, Blue White Future suggests constructive, unilateral gestures to promote a reality of two states, based upon the 1967 green line, with agreed upon corrections and territorial swaps.”
- The **Geneva Initiative (GI)*** promotes negotiations for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement through an educational, public and diplomatic campaign. GI works to strengthen the voices calling for peace on each side of the conflict and presents a detailed model proving that an Israeli-Palestinian endgame agreement is possible. This organization’s work is based on a detailed blueprint for Israeli-Palestinian peace based on previous official negotiations, international resolutions, and proposals. GI can assist you in arranging an activity in the region or abroad. “Our offices in Tel Aviv and Ramallah can help you contact senior Israeli and Palestinian figures behind the Initiative, organize group activities such as tours to areas of the security barrier or lectures, and suggest speakers or materials for conferences abroad.” Contact +972 3 693 8781 or andrea@heskem.org.il.
- **Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)*** is the only joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think-tank in the world. Devoted to developing practical solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, IPCRI promotes dialogue at various levels between the Israeli and Palestinian civil societies. It deals with the cardinal issues in the Israeli-Arab conflict — issues where the two sides find themselves at loggerheads, and where cooperation is necessary. IPCRI offers news, reports and analysis, and organizes frequent conferences and lectures.
- **The Peres Center for Peace***, founded by Israeli President Shimon Peres, builds an infrastructure of peace and reconciliation by and for the people of the Middle East that promotes socio-economic development, while advancing cooperation and mutual understanding. Cross-border peace building activities are implemented through the Peres Center's eight departments: Agriculture, Business & Economics, Civil Society Dialogue & Cooperation, IT Peace Projects, Medicine & Healthcare, Mediterranean 2020, Peace Education & Culture, and Sport.

Appendix: Educational Travel in Israel and Palestine

- **Breaking the Silence (Shovrim Shtika)**: See “Anti-Occupation Activists: Israel and Palestine” for a description of this organization. They run English and Hebrew tours in the South Hebron Hills and in Hebron, “allowing an unmediated encounter with the reality of military occupation. The tour guides, all former combatants who served in these areas, share from their experiences to help illustrate the Israeli government's policies enacted by the IDF.” Contact info@breakingthesilence.org.il for inquiries regarding Breaking the Silence lectures, exhibits and tours.
- **Encounter** provides the only opportunity for mainstream American Jewish leaders to visit Palestinian territories in the West Bank. Through Encounter’s Middle East program, a pluralistic group of Jewish leaders meets Palestinian civilians and leaders in Bethlehem, Hebron, or East Jerusalem and engages in thoughtful conversation about the complexities of Israel and the conflict. A diverse array of Jewish leaders—rabbis, Federation Executives, lay leaders and Jewish educators from every denomination—sleep in Palestinian homes, play with Palestinian schoolchildren and gain unique, multifaceted insight into Palestinian life. Encounter offers 1-2 day programs. You can find the program dates on their event calendar.
- **Emek Shaveh** (Archaeology in the Shadow of Conflict) is an organization of archaeologists and community activists focusing on the role of archaeology in Israeli society and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “We view archaeology as a resource for building bridges and strengthening bonds between different peoples and cultures, and we see it as an important factor impacting the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” Emek Shaveh is dedicated to changing the view according to which the ruins of the past are used as tools in the service of a national struggle. They run day tours in Silwan and the City of David and in the national parks of East Jerusalem.
- **Ir Amim**: See “Anti-Occupation Activists: Israel and Palestine” for a description of this organization. Ir Amim runs weekly study tours of Jerusalem to introduce participants to the social, economic and political issues impacting life in the city for its multiple religious, cultural and national groups as well as Jerusalem’s role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participants touring East Jerusalem and North Jerusalem visit Arab neighborhoods, Jewish neighborhoods and settlements and the separation barrier. The tours are free. You can RSVP HERE or contact studytours@ir-amim.org.il to coordinate a tour.
- **Machsom Watch**: See “Anti-Occupation Activists: Israel and Palestine” for a description of this organization. Machsom Watch runs tours in the West Bank and in the Jerusalem area to introduce Israelis and foreign guests to the reality of life under the occupation. Most notably, participants visit checkpoints between the West Bank and Israel proper. You can register for tours HERE or contact toursmw@gmail.com for more information.

- **MEJDI Tours** offers customized tours in Israel and the West Bank, drawing praise from National Geographic, the United Nations, and CNN. Founded in 2008 as a Jewish-Arab partnership, MEJDI operates on the principle that tourism should be a vehicle for a more positive and interconnected world. Led by Israeli and Palestinian guides, MEJDI's dual narrative tour approaches peacebuilding innovatively by allowing participants to learn about the land through the narratives of Israelis and Palestinians from a variety of backgrounds while simultaneously supporting peacemakers and local small businesses. MEJDI tailors its tours to your group's interests dynamics, whether you are Jewish, Muslim, Christian or interfaith. They offer tours for students and youth groups, non-profits, corporate groups and individuals. Contact MEJDI's travel advisors at info@mejditours.com or call 703-349-1554.
- **Ta Shema** is J Street U's Israel program designed for American undergraduate students. Ta Shema programs delve into the challenges and opportunities facing Israelis and Palestinians working on behalf of peace, democracy, social justice and a two-state solution. Students hear from leading figures across the political spectrum and deepen their understanding of the major issues around a resolution to the conflict. The core of the Ta Shema program consists of trips in Israel and the Palestinian territory. Each trip focuses on some of the most important issues facing Israelis and Palestinians working on behalf of peace, and provides opportunities to engage with Israeli and Palestinian security officials, politicians and civil society leaders. Ta Shema offers one-day trips that are open to American university and gap year students without application.

 About The Third Narrative

The Third Narrative is an educational initiative that supports Israelis and Palestinians who are working to end the occupation, create a two-state solution and stop discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel. We believe that the truth about Israel and Palestine is rarely black and white; it resides in a gray area to which advocates on either side rarely venture. That is where we try to go, with original materials that address the common claims of both the anti-Israel far left and the pro-settlement far right. The Third Narrative is an initiative of Ameinu, a North American progressive Zionist organization that supports social justice in Israel, the Palestinian territories, the US and Canada.