

ncjw's israel program at-a-glance



NCJW has been a leading organization in supporting Israel for more than 66 years, helping to lay the groundwork for important social change efforts in Israel. We are now witnessing the evolution of Israeli society as more and more

women demand their fair and equal rights amidst serious challenges to those rights. NCJW has long been committed to advancing women's status in Israel by helping women to develop a stronger voice at all levels of society.

Today, strategic efforts like the Israel Granting Program and NCJW's advocacy and coalition work continue in a spirit of education and empowerment — helping to advance the lives of women, children, and families and ensure Israel's future. To address the critical challenges still facing women in Israel today, and to promote further progressive action, NCJW emphasizes empowerment and leadership programs for women and girls as well as gender equality as the cornerstones of NCJW's Israel Granting Program. Grant recipients include organizations and programs designed to address Israeli women's rights and well-being in areas like economics, politics, education, domestic violence, and social justice.

Other components of NCJW's programs in Israel include Women to Women: NCJW's Empowerment Initiative and two of NCJW's most notable education programs in Israel, the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University and the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at Hebrew University.

NCJW urges all of our sections, members, and supporters to become active partners in the opportunities made possible through the Israel Granting Program. Supporting the Israel Granting Program is an ideal way to speak your mind on issues such as gender segregation in the public sphere, agunot rights, and other personal status issues that specifically affect women in Israel.

If you would like more information or are interested in supporting NCJW's Israel program, please contact Shari Eshet, director of the Israel office at ncjwisrael@gmail.com and follow NCJW in Israel on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ncjw.israel



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grant recipients 2014

NCJW's Israel Granting Program supports grassroots projects throughout Israel that work to improve the lives of women, children, and families through women's empowerment and progressive social change.

Israel Hofshit (Be Free Israel) is a national, unaligned Israeli grassroots movement whose mission is to promote freedom of religion and Jewish pluralism in Israel. Israel Hofshit impacts public perception by mobilizing all those who seek to keep Israeli society diverse, equal and free, based on our most broadly shared Jewish values. The NCJW grant will go toward a grassroots campaign to keep the issue of alternative options to religious marriage, and the current Knesset activity on this issue, at the center of the public discourse and high on the public and media agenda. The proposed alternative options to religious marriage aims to bring about and establish alternative options alongside of a religious marriage option, for all couples of all streams and beliefs, regardless of religion or sexual orientation.

Turning the Tables provides economic and professional empowerment to women who exit the destructive cycle of sex traffic and prostitution. Its mission is to provide vocational training, to develop self-worth, and to promote alternative livelihood opportunities. Further, it aims to mainstream the issues of personal damage caused to women in this cycle and the social damage caused to society by the very existence of sex traffic and prostitution.

WePower is a non-profit, non-partisan Israeli NGO promoting women's leadership, gender integration and equality at all levels of Israeli society. WePower focuses on advancing women to top influential positions at the highest levels of decision-making and elected positions, thus propelling social change leading to an equal civil society. WePower's main goal is to increase the number of women who run and are elected for public office on the national and municipal level. WePower provides potential leaders with specific trainings and tools to prepare them for leadership roles, especially in the municipal arena. NCJW's grant will go towards evaluation and capacity-building for the organization.

The Yerushalmit Movement is a non profit civic organization, founded by a group of young Jerusalemite activists and professionals, to build Jerusalem as a vibrant, pluralistic and inclusive city. The Yerushalmit Movement's initiatives include a campaign against religious extremism and gender segregation and promoting the status of young families in Jerusalem. NCJW's grant will support a poster and social media campaign — "Yerushalmiot, nice to meet you" — against the exclusion of women from the public sphere and to challenge the refusal of the national Israeli bus company, Egged, to advertise women images in Jerusalem.

emergency grants fund 2014

In Summer 2014, NCJW launched an Emergency Grants Fund to address the ongoing, unmet needs of our grantees that were impacted by the crisis in Israel.

AJEEC-NISPED (Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation – Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development): NCJW responded to an urgent need for safe spaces (bomb shelters) for the residents of the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages of the Negev. More than 210,000 Bedouin reside in the Negev and about half live in 34 unrecognized villages. The residents of these villages do not have access to bomb shelters or emergency services. NCJW made an emergency grant to AJEEC-NISPED to provide three mobile shelters — fortified concrete tubes that can protect up to 20 children and can be delivered to remote areas.



Woman to Woman Jerusalem Shelter for Battered Women: NCJW's emergency grant made possible a three-night "respite retreat" from dread and the blare of sirens for mothers and their children — all victims of domestic violence and residents of the shelter's halfway house in the south of Israel and in harm's way of missile attacks. In addition to full room and board at a guest house, the women attended two facilitated support group meetings to process the recent events and share their feelings. Each family also received an emergency allowance for grocery shopping to stock up on staples for their return home. This practical support was a welcome gift for the women, whose daily economic struggles have been compounded by fears for their security.



EDEN Village: In early July, the residents of EDEN, a residential educational program for at-risk girls that is just a mile and a half from the Gaza Strip, were ordered to evacuate immediately due to continuing attacks from Gaza, including an infiltration of five terrorists into Israel by sea just a few hundred yards from the girls' sleeping quarters. These girls come from homes where they have suffered from violence, abuse and neglect, aims to promote educational and social projects in the northern Negev, Israel's southern region that suffers from a high percentage of unemployment and deprivation. Funds raised by NCJW helped to cover the cost of their evacuation for two weeks.

